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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: Portions of 081-100-005, 081-150-026, and 081-150-032 **Case No.:** N/A

Location: Baron Ranch (14550 Calle Real, Goleta, CA 93117) and Tajiguas Landfill (14470 Calle Real, Goleta CA 93117)

Project Title: Tajiguas Landfill and ReSource Center Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Conservation Easement

Project Applicant: Santa Barbara County Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management (RRWMD)

Project Description: Approval and recordation of a Conservation Easement on 109.75 acres encompassing portions of the County-owned Baron Ranch and Tajiguas Landfill properties. The Conservation Easement is compensatory mitigation associated with a HCP prepared for construction, operation and maintenance of the Tajiguas Landfill and ReSource Center in association with issuance of an Incidental Take Permit under Section 10 of the Federal Endangered Species Act for California red-legged frog (a threaten species) and Southwestern pond turtle (proposed for listing). The Conservation Easement permanently protects aquatic and upland habit, designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as California red-legged frog critical habit (Critical Habitat Unit STB-6). The Conservation Easement would be granted to the Santa Barbara Land Trust an approved conservation organization.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Public Works, RRWMD

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15313 (acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes) and 15317 (open space contracts or easements).

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Guidelines Section 15313 (Class 13 exemption) consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes including (a) preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, and (c) preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. CEQA Guidelines Section 15317 (Class 17 exemption) consists of the acceptance of easements or fee interests in order to maintain the open space character of the area.

Consistent with these exemptions, the proposed project involves the permanent protection and conservation of open space land for wildlife species (California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle) listed and proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The area proposed for conservation consists of areas vegetated with native riparian and upland plant communities containing both aquatic and upland habitat necessary for the survival of the California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle. The Conservation Easement Area is within the USFWS designated Critical Habitat Unit STB-6. The easement would restrict future development that is incompatible with habitat preservation and would preserve the land in its natural condition. Therefore, the project can be determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

The proposed project does not involve unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The project falls within a Class 13 and 17 exemption; therefore, this exclusion does not apply.

- (b) Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Approximately 32 acres of the Baron Ranch including the Arroyo Quemado riparian corridor and adjacent upland areas have been placed in a restrictive covenant to also protect existing native and restored habitat. Cumulatively, the additional protection

provided by the proposed Conservation Easement would be beneficial to wildlife and habitat conservation. Therefore, this exclusion does not apply.

- (c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.**

The purpose of the easement is to permanently protect areas on the Baron Ranch as habitat for California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle. Therefore, there is no possibility of significant effect due to unusual circumstances and the exclusion does not apply.

- (d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.**

The purpose of the easement is to permanently protect areas on the Baron Ranch as habitat for California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle. The project preserves native habitats and geologic features. Therefore, there would be no impact to scenic resources or historic building and the exclusion does not apply.

- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.**

Neither the Baron Ranch or the Tajiguas Landfill are listed as hazardous waste sites. The Tajiguas Landfill is a class III municipal solid waste facility, but the area proposed for inclusion in the conservation easement is outside of the waste footprint and operational area of the landfill. Therefore, this exemption does not apply.

- (f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.**

The purpose of the easement is to permanently protect areas on the Baron Ranch as habitat for California red-legged frog and southwestern pond turtle. The protection of the conservation easement area as open space would also protect any historical resources if present. Therefore, this exemption does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joddi Leipner

Phone #: 805-882-3614
Environmental Planner

Department/Division Representative:  Joddi Leipner, Sr. Eng.

Date: February 22, 2023

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____



2023 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report or Notice of Exemption.

You will need to submit one original for posting plus one copy for the Department of Fish & Wildlife. A scanned copy including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Contact Person Joddi Leipner		Phone (805) 882-3614 (Work) (805) 364-1056 (Mobile)	
Lead Agency Santa Barbara County Public Works RRWMD		Lead Agency Email jleipner@countyofsb.org	
Project Title Tajiguas Landfill and ReSource Center Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Conservation Easement			
Project Applicant SB County PW RRWMD	Email jleipner@countyofsb.org	Phone (805) 882-3614 (Work) (805) 364-1056 (Mobile)	
Project Applicant Address 130 E. Victoria St., Suite 101	City Santa Barbara	State CA	Zip 93101

DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - 2023 Filing Fee\$3,839.25
 - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
 - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00

- Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - 2023 Filing Fee\$2,764.00
 - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
 - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00

Notice of Exemption \$0.00

County Administrative Handling Fee (required for all filings, effective 7/19/18) \$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- Cash Credit Card Check # _____ Journal Entry # JE0245872
- (in person only)

Journal Entry

Document Number: JE - 0245872 Batch ID: 2754963 Created On: 3/2/2023 3:07:20 PM
 Document Description: Clerk of the Board NOE Fee Processed On: Kyle Houchens
 Post On: 3/2/2023 Processed By:

References

Audit Trail: Cash Type: I - Interfund

Accounting

Fund	Dept	GL Acct	LJ Acct	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Prog	OUnit	Proj	Act	Area	Equip	Depositor	Description
1930	054	2810	7460	50.00		1750		129921	PERM				SBCOB NOE Fee - TJ & ReSource Ctr Cons Easement
1930		0110			50.00								SBCOB NOE Fee - TJ & ReSource Ctr Cons Easement
0001		0110		50.00									SBCOB NOE Fee - TJ & ReSource Ctr Cons Easement
0001	012	2710	5746		50.00	4020							SBCOB NOE Fee - TJ & ReSource Ctr Cons Easement
Total				100.00	100.00								

Signatures

Signed By	Approval Level	Department/Agency-Fund Group	Signed On	Valid
Kyle Houchens		054-Public Works	3/2/2023 3:09:15 PM	Y
Uzait Shakoor		054-Resource Recovery	3/2/2023 3:32:19 PM	Y



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 42 — 04/06/2023 — 081
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Santa Barbara County Public Works RRWMD	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL jleipner@countyofsb.org	DATE 04/06/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Barbara	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE

Tajiguas Landfill and ReSource Center Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Conservation Easement

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SB County PW PRWMD	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL jleipner@countyofsb.org	PHONE NUMBER (805) 882-3614
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 130 E. Victoria St., Suite 101	CITY Santa Barbara	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93101

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency School District Other Special District State Agency Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR) | \$3,839.25 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) | \$2,764.00 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$1,305.25 | \$ | 0.00 |
|
 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy) | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee | | \$ | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | \$ | |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash Credit Check Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Brianda Negrete, Deputy Clerk
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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- Mail filing fees for CRP document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) (Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))

- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

Mail to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Accounting Services Branch
 P.O. Box 944209
 Sacramento, California 94244-2090