

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Recorder/County Clerk
Attn: Karen Hernandez
1600 Pacific Highway, M.S. A33
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: County of San Diego
Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. 0650
Attn: Regulatory Planning Division Section Secretary

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Restoration of Riparian/Wetland Habitat in the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit

Project Location: Lagoons and stream corridors in the Carlsbad Hydrological Unit which encompasses portions of the cities of Solana Beach, Oceanside, San Marcos, Vista, Encinitas, Escondido, and portions of the unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego.

Project Applicant: County of San Diego and the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Doug Gibson)
(include address and phone number) P.O. Box 230634
Encinitas, CA 92023

Project Description: Control of invasive non-native plants, primarily, *Arundo donax*, *Tamarsk* spp., and *Cortaderia* sp., in the riparian and adjacent upland habitat within the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit to increase the native habitat function and value as well as potentially improve water quality. Foliar spraying and cut stump treatments of herbicides will be used by a licensed applicator and no native materials will be destroyed nor soil disturbed. Breeding season avoidance will be complied with during all activities.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

County Contact Person: Maeve Hanley, Environmental Resource Manager Telephone: (858) 694-2968

Date Form Completed: 09/02/2004

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above described project on September 2, 2004 and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
- Statutory Exemption, C Section:
- Categorical Exemption, G Section: 15304 (d) Minor Alterations to Land
- G 15182 - Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
- G 15061(b)(1) - Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
- G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project is exempt because it will result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife species, such as eight endangered bird species, and potentially improve water quality in existing preserve areas, without causing soil disturbance or other negative environmental impacts.

The following is to be filed only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Maeve Hanley Telephone: (858) 694-2968

Name (Print): MAEVE HANLEY Title: ENV. RES. MGR.

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than nine months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.