



Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) Survey of Least Bell's Vireo: Stepping Stone Linkages for Range Expansion (Grant Agreement Q1950401).

Project Location (include county): Habitat mapping will occur over the entire range of the species. Field studies will be focused in the Santa Clara River, Santa Ynez River, Jalama Creek, Santa Maria River, and the Salina River watersheds. These watersheds are located in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey Counties.

Project Description: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code 1501.5(b), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been authorized to enter into Grant Agreement No. Q1950401 (Agreement) and to make an award to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The Project is needed to maintain momentum towards least Bell's vireo species recovery. This will be accomplished in three steps: (1) identify the status and needs of the species in the next focal watersheds for recovery; (2) outline the specific recovery and management actions for the species so that partners can efficiently engage in conservation that will yield demonstrable results; and (3) build on the growing body of sciences that informs riparian bird conservation and uses the least Bell's vireo as an indicator of healthy riparian ecosystems in southern and central California.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. State code number
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 6; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306

Reasons why project is exempt: This Project meets the criteria of section 15306 as it consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Project activities are strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

CDFW Contact Person: Steve Gibson, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), (562) 342-2106.

Signature:

Date: 2.7.2020

Erinn Wilson, Environmental Program Manager

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: **FEB 10 2020**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE