

### Notice of Exemption

**To:**  Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 [IMS: A-08]  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**County Clerk (County of):** N/A

**Attention:** Adam Ballard

**Project Title:** Santa Rita Ranch Acquisition and Flow Enhancement

**Project Applicant:** Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

**Project Location - Specific:** 1,715± acres of land located at 3520 Old Creek Rd, Templeton, CA 93465

**Project Location - City:** Templeton

**Project Location - County:** San Luis Obispo

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Land Conservancy) will acquire 1,715± acres of land and associated water rights in the headwaters of Santa Rita Creek, tributary to the upper Salinas River watershed. The Land Conservancy will permanently protect this land as a publicly accessible open space preserve, file a California Water Code section 1707 petition with the State Water Resources Control Board for a permissive instream dedication on the entirety of the water rights (234 acre-feet), and execute a 20-year forbearance agreement with an appropriate third party that defines the terms and conditions of the instream dedication.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** John P. Donnelly, Executive Director, WCB

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemptions:

Section 15313, Class 13, Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife Conservation Purposes, consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat.

Section 15325, Class 25, Transfers of Ownership in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions, consists of the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space and habitat.

Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, consists of minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, consists of operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use.

Statutory Exemptions, State code Number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Project involves the acquisition of land for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and the transfer of ownership interest in land to preserve open space and habitat; minor alterations in the condition of land and water; and operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use for maintenance of stream flows to protect fish and wildlife resources.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** John P. Donnelly

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (916) 445-0137

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes (by this notice)  No

**Signature:** John Donnelly **Date:** 4/2/2020 **Title:** Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

**Date received for Filing:**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

cc: WCB Binder  
WCB Surname  
Chron

**APR 03 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**