

## Notice of Exemption

44-08202025-128 Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Santa Cruz

701 Ocean St #310

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From: (Public Agency): Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency  
701 Ocean St, Room 410  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(Address)

109-25

Project Title: Pajaro River, Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks |2025 Debris, Vegetation and Fuel Reduction

Project Applicant: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA)

Project Location - Specific:

Pajaro River channel and levees from Murphy's Crossing to the Pacific Ocean, Corralit

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: Santa Cruz & Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is proposed to protect public safety and private property from hazards associated with illegal encampments and vegetation overgrowth (i.e., reduced river capacity), protect property from damage that is being caused by nuisance trees, and prevent the spread of invasive weeds and non-native trees within the river corridor. The project includes hand-pulling weeds, tree pruning, removal of hazardous and nuisance trees (invasives or that impact the normal function of levee system), and removal of temporary structures and associated debris associated with dispersed illegal encampments along the river corridor. The work would prevent the spread of invasive plants, minimize hazards from dropped limbs, trunk failure, and fire, prevent damage to private property, and promote effective maintenance & operation of the river corridor. Crews would use chain saws and hand tools to complete the work, leaving the stumps in place and chipping downed trunks and limbs. Abandoned encampment property will be properly collected and disposed of at land fill facilities in accordance with their respective policies. Laydown areas would be provided by the project applicant (Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency). Access roads would be provided by the local agencies public roads (City of Watsonville, County of Monterey, and County of Santa Cruz). Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been incorporated into the project design.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: §15304; Class 4, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Project would address the removal of vegetative overgrowth within the understory of the lower channel bank, upper channel bank, and inner channel bench along the Pajaro River, Salsipuedes Creek, and Corralitos Creek. Natural regrowth within the project area has occurred and promoted suitable areas for the establishment of illegal encampments near the waterway. The removal of illegal encampments and associated abandoned structures, debris, and other miscellaneous materials will promote a more environmentally sustainable and healthy landscape for the river system and wildlife. To reduce the likelihood of illegal encampments re-establishing along the river corridor, vegetation trimming shall be conducted within the understory to manage regrowth. Furthermore, the proposed project meets the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15306 and is eligible for a CE. "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes."

None of the conditions noted under the CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 will occur.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Forrest Revere, PRFMA

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-345-8128

If filed by applicant:

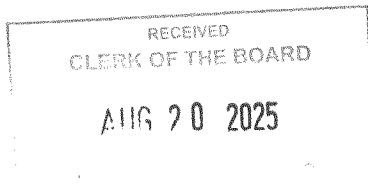
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Forrest Revere Date: 8/20/25 Title: Environmental Program Manager

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK  
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A  
PERIOD COMMENCING 8/20 20 25  
AND ENDING 9/25 20 25  
Revised 2011