

DRAFT



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF VENTURA

FROM: VCPWA-WATERSHED PROTECTION
DIRECTOR

Project Title: Santa Paula Creek Spur Dike and Bank Repair and Replacement Project
Project Location: Santa Paula Creek from Mupu School to 2,850 feet downstream, Ventura County, California
Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of the Project: With federal assistance and funding from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, the Ventura County Public Works Agency-Watershed Protection (VCPWA-WP) is proposing to replace 10 spur dikes along Santa Paula Creek. The early 2023 storms produced heavy rainfall and caused major damage, flooding, and erosion along Santa Paula Creek. These storms damaged ten of the existing 24 spur dikes (originally installed in 2007 to provide erosion protection up to a 10-year flood event) were damaged or destroyed. Additionally, the banks of the creek were eroded, endangering the agricultural land on the east bank and the residential homes on the west bank. The west bank was eroded as much as 130 feet, resulting in one residential structure being red-tagged. Between October-December 2023, limited emergency work to relocate the low flow channel toward the approximate center of the floodplain, away from vulnerable eroded banks, and to move accumulated sediments from the center of the floodplain to the most substantially eroded portion of the west bank was completed under USACE Regional General Permit 63. The 2024 storms further altered the stream channel. The goal of the project is to rebuild the ten spur dikes in their original footprint along approximately 4,000 linear feet of Santa Paula Creek. Work in the channel will require stream crossings with culverts and redirecting two sections of the creek toward the center of the channel. Sediment will be excavated and graded as needed to install the spur dikes. The work will occur in three phases, depending on permitting, timing, and funding constraints. All structures comprise ungrouted large rock placed both above and below ground to retard further erosion expected with high frequency, low-volume storm events. Project structures will not be maintained long-term as capital facilities.
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: David Fleisch, VCPWA Assistant Director

Exempt Status: (Check One)

☐ Categorical Exemption

☒ Statutory Exemption – Section 15269 (a) and (c), Emergency Projects

Reasons why project is exempt: Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency on January 4 and again June 16, 2023. President Biden declared a Major Disaster on January 15 and April 3, 2023, and State of Emergency on March 10, 2023. This project consists of specific emergency actions that would repair flood control structures “damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor” (Sec. 15269[a]), and would “mitigate an emergency” along the highly eroded areas damaged by flooding and erosion (Sec. 15269[c]). The proposed emergency actions are necessary to maintain public safety and protect developed properties and infrastructure. Additionally, the proposed project is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for a situation requiring immediate action under its emergency Watershed Protection Program (7 CFR part 624).

Contact Person:	Area Code	Telephone
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Date Received for Filing

Assistant Director

Date