

2019048508

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth St. Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Resource Conservation District of
the Santa Monica Mountains
540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd.,
Topanga, CA 90290

PROJECT TITLE: Post-Fire Pool Restoration

Project Location County: Los Angeles

Project Location - Specific: Restoration will take place within the following reaches (Table 1), depending on conditions in summer 2019 and potential for supporting surface flow and pooling. See attached map (Figure 1) for overview of all locations within the Woolsey Fire (2018) and small Topanga Fire (2017) footprints being considered for restoration.

Table 1. Locations of potential pool restoration stream reaches

Stream	GPS start	GPS end	Reach length
Arroyo Sequit - lower	34.057981, -118.932822	34.056359, -118.934267	210
Arroyo Sequit - upper	34.067752, -118.931021	34.063625, -118.933125	530
Las Virgenes Creek	34.181001, -118.708343	34.126523, -118.706488	8300 m
Malibu Creek – Bulldog Motorway	34.095485, -118.754721	34.093983, -118.754695	186 m
Ramirez Creek - lower	34.045888, -118.795389	34.039573, -118.794386	770 m
Ramirez Creek - upper	34.058592, -118.797092	34.053284, -118.796588	620 m
Solstice Creek	34.051481, -118.756287	34.046173, -118.753795	860 m
Topanga Creek	34.050316, -118.581091	34.053845, -118.581729	460 m
Trancas Creek	34.086449, -118.853702	34.084452, -118.857184	400 m
Zuma Creek	34.07484, -118.819687	34.070906, -118.82139	500 m

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will manually remove sediment from accessible critical refugia pools having some groundwater or seep input identified by local experts in creeks throughout the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (including potentially Arroyo Sequit, Las Virgenes, Malibu, Solstice, Topanga, Trancas, and Zuma). Sediments will be carefully spread on the adjacent banks without impacting any vegetation. Appropriate Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent downstream impacts to water

quality. A supervising biologist will ensure that no animals or native plants are impacted during excavation. Right of entry permits from CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority and National Park Service will be obtained. Consultations with US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife will assist in selecting sites for restoration assistance. All required permits (1601, 404, 401) will be obtained and post project reporting completed to document pre- and post- pool conditions. A crew from the CA Conservation Corp, supervised by local biologists and assisted by trained volunteers will conduct the actual excavation work. Decontamination protocols for gear, shoes, etc. will be implemented.

We anticipate doing this work after the flows have subsided in July – August 2019 in order to provide temporary over summer-fall pool habitat for a variety of sensitive species found in and near these reaches. We recognize that this is a temporary effort but anticipate that California Red-legged frogs, California Newts, Two stripe garter snakes, Pacific tree frogs and California tree frogs at least will benefit.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, funded by Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption CDPR Class 4 Section 15304 Minor Alteration to Land
State CEQA Class 7 Section 15307. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The specified activities will not result in damage to aquatic resources and will provide temporary relief for aquatic species suffering from loss of habitat due to sedimentation of the creek which destroyed pool habitats.

The action falls under CDPR List of Exempt Activities because it is a discrete, non-recurring activity designed to resolve a natural resource problem.

CONTACT: Rosi Dagit, Sr. Conservation Biologist
RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains
540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Topanga, CA 90290

PHONE: 818.597.8627
EMAIL: rdagit@rcdsmm.org



Clark Stevens, Executive Officer
RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
4/25/2019

Date APR 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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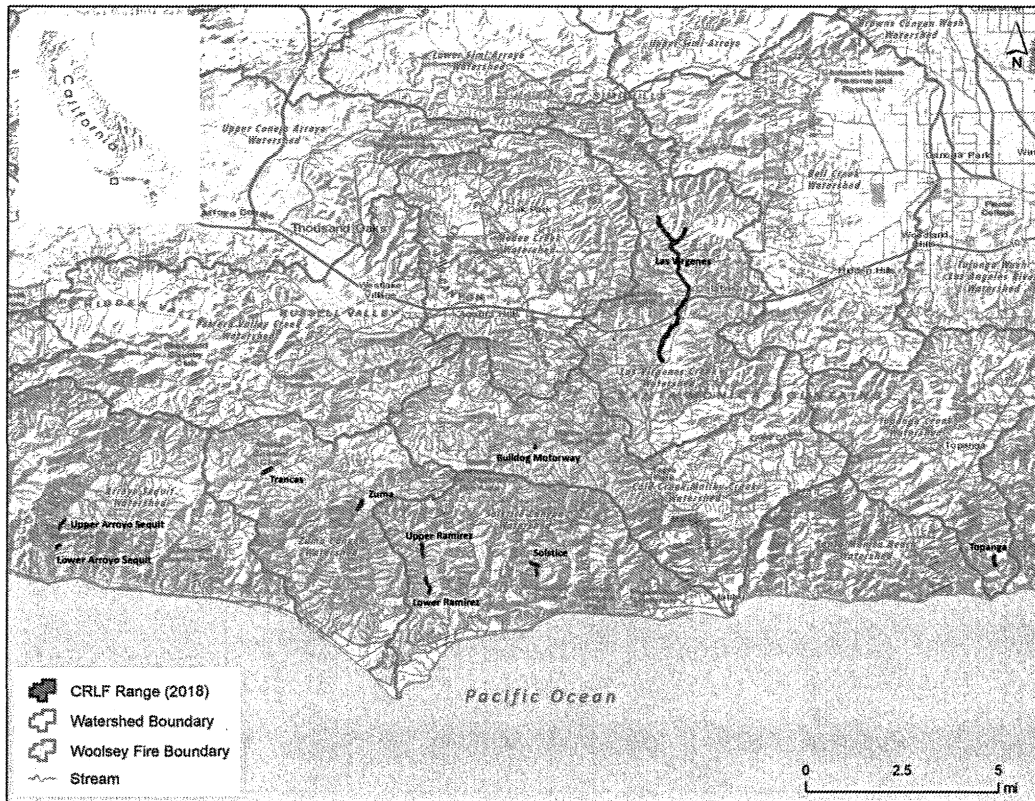


Figure 1. Locations of potential pool restoration reaches.

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