

**Notice of Exemption**

- 1 -

**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 5  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA 92123



*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Title:** Fish Passage Improvement at Crossing 8, Quiota Creek (Request No. 1652-2019-029-001-R5)  
**Project Applicant:** Timothy H. Robinson, Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board

**Project Location (include county):** The Project is located where Quiota Creek crosses under South Refugio Road within the town of Santa Ynez, Santa Barbara County. The Project is located approximately 3.0 miles upstream of the confluence of Quiota Creek and the Santa Ynez River at approximately 34.55858000 degrees latitude, - 120.08358000 degrees longitude.

**Project Description:** Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1652, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the Fish Passage Improvement at Crossing 8, Quiota Creek, submitted by Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board represented by Timothy H. Robinson.

The Project includes the following components: removing a deteriorated wooden bridge and the associated concrete apron and concrete sack bridge abutments; installing a new 54-foot pre-fabricated bottomless-arched culvert (bridge); grading the streambed upstream and downstream to improve fish passage and in-stream conditions for both juvenile and adult salmonids; placing vegetated rock slope protection to limit scour, maintain streambank stability, and add hydraulic roughness; placing two rock weir grade-control structures to maintain currently existing pool habitat and to act as stream profile control; installing a salvaged rootwad and constructing an associated scour pool near the downstream end of the project; and placing engineered streambed material (ESM) within the stream to roughen the streambed and help maintain configuration during high-flow events. All areas disturbed by construction activities will be revegetated using locally native plant cuttings and hydro-seed. Specifically, the Project will provide a net benefit to southern California steelhead by re-opening access to 3.03 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for all size classes and eliminating delays in spawning. Additionally, the Project will improve riparian cover and stream functionality improving habitat for California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and two-striped garter snake. Due to the presence of cattle grazing in neighboring properties and the need to prevent cattle from crossing underneath the bridge, the Project will also include installing cattle exclusion fencing that allows high flow and debris to pass under the fencing while deterring cattle from crossing.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

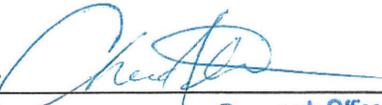
**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board represented by Timothy H. Robinson

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 33 California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15333

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Class 33 consists of small projects not to exceed 5 acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Sarah Rains, Environmental Scientist, (805) 498-2385

*Signature:*   
Chad Dibble, Deputy Director **Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

*Date:* July 17, 2019

Date received for filing at OPR: **JUL 18 2019**  
**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**