



COLUSA COUNTY

Resource Conservation District

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILED

MAR 05 2025

CRISTY JAYNE EDWARDS
COLUSA COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

To: Colusa County Clerk & Recorder
546 Jay Street
Colusa, California 95932

From: Colusa County Resource Conservation District
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite A3
Colusa, California 95932

Project Title: Vann Brothers Hedgerow Planting

Project Location (Specific): Vann Brothers Family Orchard, 39°08'42.2"N 122°07'31.5"W, 39°08'42.0"N 122°07'55.9"W

Project Location (City and County): 6141 Abel Rd, Williams, CA 95987

Description of Project: Implementing multiple pollinator hedgerows along agriculture fields and a roadway. Hedgerows will include low-profile native plants, shrubs, forbs, and grasses to support pollinators and birds. The project will be 0.95 acres of hedgerows established in unfarmed roadside alongside an irrigation waterway and conventionally farmed fields. All native and beneficial species that exist in the enhancement site will be preserved and integrated into the new hedgerow. The irrigation system will be installed in the proposed project area. Site preparation will include, managing invasive weeds before planting, and discing the soil. Hedgerow planting will include species native to California and maintained for a minimum of 10 years. The maintenance plan includes invasive weed removal, mowing native grasses, and pruning plants to maintain farming operations.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Colusa County Resource Conservation District

Name of Agency Carrying Out Project: Colusa County Resource Conservation District in partnership with Vann Brothers, 365 Ruggieri Way, Williams, CA 95987

Exempt Status (Class and Guidelines Section):

Categorical Exemption:

Class 4, CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15304: Allows for "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."

Class 33, CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15333: Allows for small habitat restoration "projects that do not exceed 5 acres in size and are constructed for the purpose of maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that:

- a. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to Section 15065.
- b. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed.
- c. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects."

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Class 4: This project will restore and enhance natural habitat within a working agriculture landscape. Any native plant and tree within the project area will be integrated into the newly established hedgerow. This project will take place on private agricultural land where a farm road once was, and farm field edges were conventionally

treated for weeds. The project will not be inside a waterway.

Class 33: The project involves the establishment of hedgerows to provide habitat for pollinators in multiple areas in and around the orchard. All plots will be less than 5 acres in size. This project will harm no endangered, rare, or threatened species, instead will create beneficial habitat. This project will enhance habitat throughout the working landscape by connecting existing hedgerows creating a more robust and diverse plant ecosystem. No hazardous materials will be disturbed and/or removed. This project will not negatively affect future projects but has the potential to encourage other landowners in the area to adopt conservation practices within working lands.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Elizabeth Harper

Phone: (530) 473-9346

Signature:



Date:

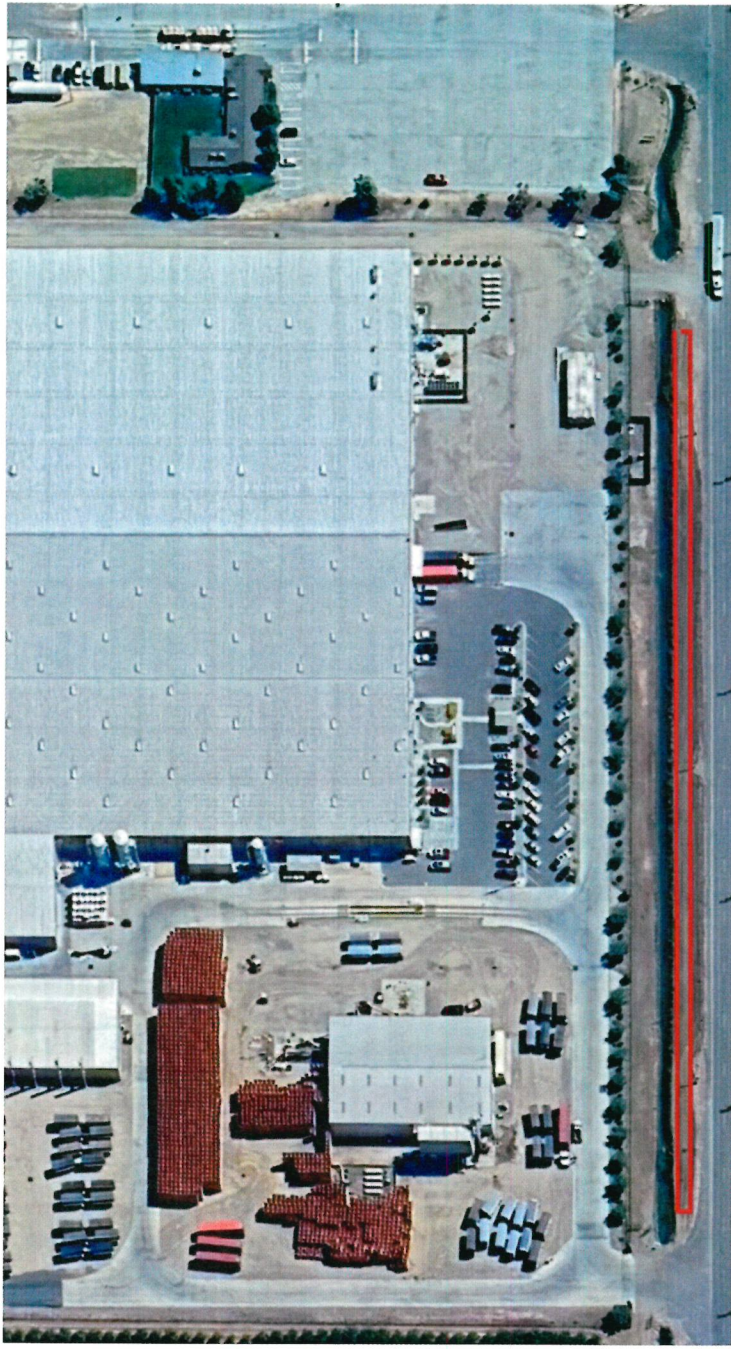
3/4/2025

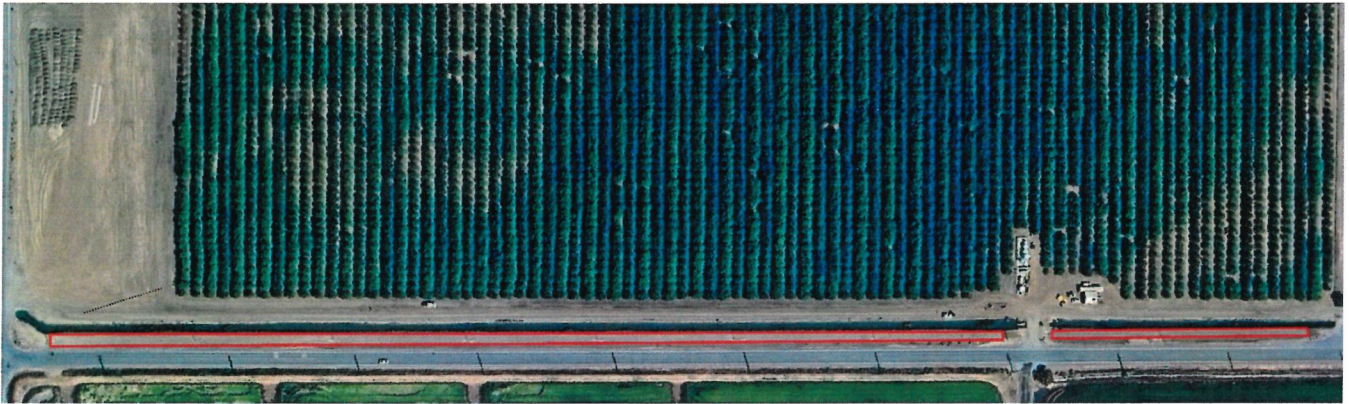
Title:

Colusa County RCD Executive Director

[☒] **Signed by Lead Agency** **Date Received or filing at OPR:** __

Project Map(s):





Description of Project:

Colusa County RCD will use funds to implement hedgerows on Vann Brothers property to enhance pollinator habitat within unusable farming grounds. The project funds will go toward the RCD providing an implementation design, and habitat restoration supplies (irrigation, plants, tree tubes, etc.) The plant species selected will focus on pollinator species.

The RCD will first work on project management. Putting together a written plan, species list, and implementation design. Species types and amounts will be selected from a local native nursery. Site preparation will include the addition of an irrigation system, invasive weed treatment, and discing in the ground. CCRCD will recommend tree tubes and other methods to increase plant survivability. During and after the implementation of the project, the RCD will conduct bimonthly site visits, take photos for documentation, and recommend best practices for maintaining hedgerows based on the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standards (CPS). Throughout the implementation process, the RCD will work with the farm and nursery to develop the project design, plant selection, and best management practices for the hedgerow.

