Exhibit F

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RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF MONTEREY COUNTY
744 La Guardia Street, Building A, Salinas, CA 93905 (831) 975-7775

Fee Waiver Justification

Environmental Enhancement Streamlining Program (PLN220358-DEP)

Purpose.of.the.Fee.Waiver.Request

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCD) requests a waiver of County planning, administrative, and ministerial permit fees for projects implemented under the Environmental Enhancement Streamlining Program (EESP). As a master land use and coastal development permit, the EESP planning fee waiver will directly support voluntary, environmentally beneficial projects that provide public benefits, reduce long-term County costs to infrastructure, and improve permitting efficiency. Additionally, a fee waiver for the associated ministerial permits will advance County environmental goals, reduce administrative workload, and encourage participation by land managers for whom permitting fees are a hindrance to project implementation. These streamlined actions are parallel to broader statewide Cutting the Green Tape efforts and support the intent of the County of Monterey General Plan Open Space element OS-5.15, to establish a county fee waiver program for environmental restoration projects.

Program.Overview.and.Benefits.

The EESP is administered by the RCD in coordination with the County of Monterey. Each year, the program provides County permit coverage for up to five small-scale, environmentally beneficial projects on private parcels throughout the unincorporated area of the County. Eligible projects include but are not limited to streambank protection and gully stabilization, culvert repair and replacement, erosion control, invasive vegetation removal, fire breaks associated with restoration-focused prescribed burns, and fish and aquatic habitat enhancement.

Each project is designed to proactively address environmental degradation that—if left unaddressed—often results in downstream impacts such as flooding of County roads, sediment damage to infrastructure, invasive plant species expansion, and loss of wildlife habitat.

The EESP creates a streamlined permitting pathway that reduces costs to landowners, encourages voluntary environmental stewardship, and accelerates the pace and scale in implementing projects that serve the public benefit. The reduction in County staff times and fees is in line with the streamlined nature of the program.

There are numerous benefits of the EESP, including that the program will reduce County staff time compared to individual, project-by-project permit processing, through the following approaches:

- The EESP serves as a Master land use and coastal development permit, reducing administrative burden on County planning staff and minimizing staff time associated with application intake, coordination, and plan review.
- Most of the County planning department review and coordination already occurred during development of the Master Permit.
- All future projects will be pre-vetted, reviewed, and administered by the RCD, with County oversight, increasing accountability and long-term benefits.
- The RCD will serve as the permittee and applicant, acting as the single point of contact for County staff to avoid redundancies.
- Private landowners or partner environmental organizations will not independently apply at the permit counter saving County staff time.

Given this structure, ongoing County staff time and administrative costs for individual projects would be minimal and primarily limited to project-specific ministerial permit review. The fee waiver requests for planning, administrative and ministerial permits are further described below.

Planning and Administrative Permit fee waiver

During the development of the EESP, Planning Director stated the intention that all planning fees would be waived. The RCD requests that all planning and administrative fees be waived for the EESP program, including any costs associated with County staff time for review of program materials or project-specific applications (pre-construction notifications).

Specifically, we request that the following fees be waived:

1) All planning fees associated with Coastal Development Permits and land use permits ($11,000)
2) All administrative permits from the Planning Department including tree removal

Ministerial.Permit.fee.waiver

The ministerial permit fee waiver reflects the streamlined nature of the program and recognizes the reduced County role once the program framework is established. The goal of the EESP is that ongoing County staff time and administrative costs for individual projects would be minimal. Past project grading permit costs have included the following review times for grading permits:

- RMA - Development Services – 1 hour
- RMA - Environmental Services – 3-4 hours
- RMA - Planning - 2 hours

We anticipate a reduction in the County staff time required for individual permit application review. For most of the projects we permit, the ministerial permits under the Program will typically fall under construction permits and encroachment permits. in reviewing past permit fees (see Appendix A), we are requesting that the following specific fees associated with ministerial permits be waived:

Table 1. Ministerial permit Review Fee (requesting waiver)

Fee Description	Estimated Fees
Development Services - $186 Hourly	$186.00
EHB Type 2-Minor Plan Check/Report Review	$313.00
Technology Fee	$128.69
Document Storage/Scanning	$35.28
General Plan Implementation	$182.80
Planning - $175 Hourly	$175.00
Plan Review-Not Otherwise Classified	$195.00
CASp Fee	$4.00
California Bldg Standards Commission Surcharge	$36.00
Strong Motion - Commercial	$249.58
Environmental Services - Plan Review	$492 to $646
Encroachment Permit	$390
Permit Extension (includes Permit Card Replacement for Simple Permits)	$195

Under the EESP, the RCD does not request that the following fees be waived:

- County inspection fee ($585)
- Fire Protection District Fee ($120+)

Summary

The Environmental Enhancement Streamlining Program provides an efficient and accountable framework for permitting and implementing projects that advance County environmental goals and protect public infrastructure. Approval of a permit fee waiver supports program effectiveness, reduces administrative burden, and encourages conservation project implementation with effective oversight.

Examples of past projects permit fees incurred by the RCD or our partners are included in Appendix A.

Appendix A:

Past Permit Fees for RCD and Partners

1. Santa Rita Creek Enhancements Project

A creek channel enhancement project along a 3,970-ft reach of the impaired creek in the Lower Salinas River Watershed

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Fee Description	Account #	Invoice #	Current Paid
Development Services - $186 Hourly	001-3000-8196-5505	193369	$186.00
Technology Fee	001-3100-8543-4230-TECH	193369	$128.69
Document Storage/Scanning	001-3100-8543-4230-DOCU	193369	$35.28
General Plan Implementation	001-3100-8543-4260-GPUI	193369	$182.80
Planning - $175 Hourly	001-3000-8172-4260	193369	$175.00
Plan Review-Not Otherwise Classified	001-3100-8543-4230	193369	$195.00
CASp Fee	541-2345-CASP	193369	$4.00
California Bldg Standards Commission Surcharge	541-2345-BSTR	193369	$36.00
Strong Motion - Commercial	541-2343-SMOT	193369	$249.58
Environmental Services - Plan Review	001-3100-8543-4230	193369	$492.00
			$1,684.35

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2. Curtis Ranch Stormwater Detention Basin

An 2.69-acre stormwater detention basin to capture ag runoff

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Fee Description	Account #	Invoice #	Current Paid
EHB Type 2-Minor Plan Check/Report Review	001-4000-8115-5505-ENHR	183914	$313.00
Development Services - $186 Hourly	001-3100-8543-5505	183914	$186.00
Technology Fee	001-3100-8543-4230-TECH	183914	$101.24
Document Storage/Scanning	001-3100-8543-4230-DOCU	183914	$27.75
General Plan Implementation	001-3100-8543-4260-GPUI	183914	$143.80
Planning - $175 Hourly	001-3100-8543-4260	183914	$175.00

CASp Fee	541-2345-CASP	183914	$4.00
California Bldg Standards Commission Surcharge	541-2345-BSTR	183914	$23.00
Strong Motion - Commercial	541-2343-SMOT	183914	$158.47
Environmental Services - Plan Review	001-3100-8543-4230	183914	$492.00
			$1,624.26
Fee Description	**Account #**	**Invoice #**	**Current Paid**
South Monterey County Fire Protection District	583-2530	191820	$120.00
Inspection-Not Otherwise Classified	001-3100-8543-4230	191820	$585.00
			$705.00

Fee Description	**Account #**	**Invoice #**	**Current Paid**
Extension-Permit	001-3100-8543-4230	207166	$195.00

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Date	**Invoice Number**	**Amount**
04/11/2023	186798	$390.00

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3. Packard Ranch Stormwater Improvement Project

Improvement of stormwater detention pond to capture runoff prior to it entering Elkhorn Slough. Project expanded existing pond into an area of 0.9 acres and a depth of 9.5 ft and includes installation of a water level control structure and outlet structure.

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- **Fee Description**	**Account #**	**Invoice #**	**Current Paid**
RMA - Development Services - $186 Hourly	001-3000-8196-5505	160968	$186.00
EHB Type 2-Minor Plan Check/Report Review	001-4000-8115-5505-ENHR	160968	$313.00
Technology Fee	001-3000-8528-4230-TECH	160968	$73.90
RMA - Environmental Services - $164 Hourly	001-3000-8444-4230	160968	$656.00
Document Storage/Scanning	001-3000-8529-4230-DOCU	160968	$20.26
General Plan Implementation	001-3000-8529-4260-GPUI	160968	$119.20
RMA - Planning - $175 Hourly	001-3000-8172-4260	160968	$350.00

CASp Fee	541-2345-CASP	160968	$4.00
California Bldg Standards Commission Surcharge	541-2345	160968	$5.00
Strong Motion - Commercial	541-2343	160968	$31.36
			$1,758.72

-	Fee Description	Account #	Invoice #	Current Paid
-	Inspection-Not Otherwise Classified	001-3100-8543-4230	202372	**$585.00**

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4. Tottino II Project

A 33-acre restored wetland completed by Central Coast Wetlands Group.

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Date	Invoice Number	Amount
06/22/2021	166187	$157.00
02/18/2020	153448	$186.00
02/18/2020	153448	$656.00
02/18/2020	153448	$350.00
02/18/2020	153448	$73.90
02/18/2020	153448	$20.26
02/18/2020	153448	$119.20
02/18/2020	153448	$4.00
02/18/2020	153448	$30.00
02/18/2020	153448	$210.00

Total.Pj7?❹6❷¦9❷

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Date	Invoice Number	Amount
03/22/2019	143257	$1,520.00

03/22/2019	143257	($525.60)
03/22/2019	143257	$4,204.80
03/22/2019	143257	$1,116.00
03/22/2019	143257	$795.00
03/22/2019	143257	$984.00
02/01/2019	141712	$525.60
02/01/2019	143257	$42.05
02/01/2019	143257	$258.59

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