State of California
Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA 95655

PROJECT TITLE: Seismic Monitoring Station: Station name: Searles Valley, CI.SEV **COUNTY**: San Bernardino

PROJECT APPLICANT: USGS Earthquake Science Center, Pasadena, CA

PROJECT LOCATION: Coordinates: (35.58926, -117.28686)

DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE AND NATURE OF THE PROJECT:
This new station will contribute to the CA Earthquake Early Warning System (CEEWS) designed protect against the loss of life and property during a large earthquake, prevent critical infrastructure damage, and expedite recovery following a large earthquake. The network to which this sensor is connected will contribute real-time data to accurately record and warn people of strong shaking due to earthquakes in the region, and help provide records of ground motion that would be of immense scientific, engineering, and public safety value.
Under a renewable site access permit with a private landowner, USGS plans to install and operate an outdoor seismic monitoring station at the Lat/Long location noted above. Three-day installation will take place in a roughly 20 ft x 20 ft. area, to install two small structures located within an approximately 10 ft by 30 ft area: Structure 1 would be a cabinet that houses the solar array, battery backup power, satellite tracking receiver/antenna and a cell antenna for real-time data transfer. Structure 2 would be a vault for the earthquake sensors covered by a concrete pull box. Construction of the site would include digging two post holes, each approximately 3 feet deep by 1 foot wide. One post hole would be for the cabinet and mast for the antenna and solar panel and the second post hole for the earthquake sensor. A short trench would be dug between the two holes and a liquid-tight conduit would run between the vault and the cabinet and then buried. Concrete would be poured in the first hole with a metal pole that would act as the mast for the antennas and solar panel. A small concrete pad would be poured at surface level, on which the cabinet that houses the electronics would sit. The second post hole would include an 8-inch diameter PVC pipe in the hole that would be secured with grout/concrete. A concrete pull box would be placed around the pipe and secured with grout/concrete. The box would be buried almost flush with ground surface, leaving the top few inches above grade. Access to site is entirely by existing roads and trails. There are no hazardous substances involved. If needed, a small generator (~8 KW) will be used to power a hand-loaded concrete mixer and any other tools needed for the work. All spoils would be removed from the site and disposed in an environmentally acceptable manner.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
DIVISION OR UNIT CARRYING OUT PROJECT: CA Earthquake Early Warning Program

EXEMPT STATUS:
☒ **Categorical Exemption.** Class 3, CEQA Guidelines Section15303 (New Construction), Class 4 Section15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and Class 6 Section 15306 (Information Collection).

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:
This project is exempt in accordance with Class 3 as described above; construction of new small weatherproof enclosures to operate seismic sensor equipment for the purpose of data collection (Class 6). In accordance with Class 4, the project described above consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. None of the exceptions to a notice of exemption apply.

APPLICANT CONTACT: Marcos Alvarez **TELEPHONE:** 626-372-1844
TITLE: Supervisory Geophysicist **EMAIL:** malvarez@usgs.gov

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT: José Lara **TELEPHONE:** 916-845-8883
TITLE: Program Manager **EMAIL:** Jose.Lara@caloes.gov

SIGNED BY LEAD AGENCY:
Signature: Jose Lara Date: 4/23/23
Title: Branch Chief