



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	San Diego Unit headquarters upgrades and repairs 2023		
PROJECT LOCATION	2249 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon, Ca 92019; SW 1/4, Section 30, T16S, R1E, SBBM	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Andrew Domingos CAL FIRE – San Diego Unit (MVU) Headquarters		
ADDRESS	Pre-Fire/Resource Management 2249 Jamacha Road El Cajon, CA 92019	PHONE	(619) 302-4097

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE proposes to upgrade infrastructure to include electrical, communications, water lines, drainage, equipment access, and serviceable areas at the San Diego Unit's (SDU) headquarters. This project is on CAL FIRE owned property located in the unincorporated area of San Diego County just south of the city of El Cajon. This area is composed of single-family housing, condominiums, apartment complexes, and retail stores. The SDU headquarters houses staff office buildings, training classrooms, automotive shop, service center, emergency communication facility, and vehicle and support equipment storage. All proposed work will take place on previously disturbed ground within the existing compound. Project activities include:

- Installation of a cinderblock retaining wall (approximately 28-feet long with a height of 24 to 35 inches and a foundation depth of 18-inches).
- Relocation of existing prefabricated office building to a new location as indicated on project plans.
- Installation of concrete including: parking, driveways, drive over curbs, curbs, building slab, walkways, and stairs (approximately 44,737 square feet of area and 2,117 linear feet of curb requiring 1,145 cubic yards of concrete).
- Permeable parking and storage requiring placement of crushed rock (approximately 21,948 square feet of area requiring placement of 271.5 cubic yards of crushed rock).
- 1,460 linear feet of trenching for new utility conduits (approximately 1,260 feet of trenching 5-feet deep by 5-feet wide and 200-feet of trench 3-feet deep by 3 feet wide). After the conduit is laid in the trenches, the trenches will be backfilled with the spoils and compacted to original grade.
- Installation of 4 electrical junction vaults, 6-foot by 6-foot by 6-foot-deep, requiring excavations 12 feet wide by 6 feet deep and 6 feet long to accommodate two vaults placed side by side within utility trench at six locations.
- Replacement of existing emergency electrical generators.
- Replacement of corroded water line (approximately 1,095 feet with the trenching 24-inches wide by 36-inches deep) trench to be backfilled with spoils and compacted to original grade.
- Re-grading and enhancement of preexisting sediment basins to collect storm water runoff.
- Disposal of all removed materials by contract waste hauler to appropriate recycle or disposal sites.

CAL FIRE employees and hand crew will perform all underground and rough grade work using a combination of department owned and rented equipment. The Contractor under CAL FIRE oversight will be responsible for all concrete work including setting form boards, placement of reinforcing bar, concrete finishing and all finish grade work. Work will take approximately 75 working days.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 and 3 15301, Existing Facilities
15303, New Construction
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

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This project fits within the descriptions of two Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines. These are Class 1 pertaining to maintenance and repairs to existing public structures and facilities, and Class 3 pertaining to minor new construction. After completing an environmental impact analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, CNDDB search, greenhouse gas emissions calculations, and an archaeological survey and report completed by a CAL FIRE Archaeological staff.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire following approval and implementation of this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE SDU Headquarters in El Cajon.

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John Melvin
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8/7/2023

John Melvin Date
Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection &
Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection