

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Orange
24031 El Toro Rd
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

From: (Public Agency): City of Mission Viejo
200 Civic Center
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

(Address)

Project Title: Mission Viejo Fuel Reduction Project

Project Applicant: City of Mission Viejo

Project Location - Specific:

16 parcels located throughout the City of Mission Viejo

Project Location - City: Mission Viejo Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of Mission Viejo (City) proposes to perform fuel reduction at various parcels throughout the City (Project). The City obtained a grant to perform the Fuel Reduction.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Mission Viejo

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Mission Viejo

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4 (Section 15304)
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

CAL FIRE and the Orange County Fire Authority, the public agencies having fire protection responsibilities, have determined that due to hazardous fire conditions within the very high and high fire hazard severity zones, fuel management is required within 100 feet of structures. The proposed Project consists of minor alteration of vegetation and does not include the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The Class 4 Categorical Exemption subsection (i) permits fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation. The fuel reduction activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species. Furthermore, the fuel reduction activities would not result in erosion or sediment of surface waters. Fuel reduction activities would occur within 100-feet of habitable structures. No sensitive or listed habitat would be impacted with the implementation of the Project. A majority of the landscape within the parcel consists of ornamental vegetation and ruderal/non-native species that does not support sensitive or endangered species. Several parcels are adjacent to sensitive habitat, such as riparian, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, which do have the potential to support the state and federally sensitive and listed species. A Project Design Feature includes restrictions on the timing of construction to avoid nesting bird season. The fuel reduction activities would occur between September 1 and February 15, unless biological surveys are conducted to confirm no nesting birds are present within 500 feet of the active fuel reduction areas. The Project would not increase traffic generation. The Project would not cause significant Air Quality impacts, Greenhouse Gas impacts. The proposed parcels are located in urbanized and open spaces areas, generally within Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The proposed Project would not create new impervious surface that requires water quality treatment or stormwater detention.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Larry Longnecker Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-470-3053

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/16/2024 Title: Director of Community Development

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: