

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
CEQASubmit.opr.ca.gov

County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk
Attn: Fish and Wildlife Notices
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260, MS A-33
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: County of San Diego, Department of Public Works
Environmental Services Unit
Attn: Anissa Busch
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, MS O-332
San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: RAMONA AIRPORT – COUNTY APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION: FIRE SUPPRESSANT LOADING SYSTEM PROJECT (DISTRICT: 2)

Project Location: Ramona Airport, unincorporated San Diego County

Project Applicant: County of San Diego, Department of Public Works, Airports
1960 Joe Crosson Drive, MS S-119, El Cajon, CA 92020

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) has an existing aviation ground lease with the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works, Airports Division (County Airports). As the lessee and CEQA Lead Agency, CalFire proposes to replace the existing fire suppressant loading system and associated appurtenances. The project received the necessary approvals from the applicable federal and local agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration. As the underlying property owner and CEQA Responsible Agency, County Airports reviewed and approved the project engineering design plans. Work would occur within previously developed or disturbed areas.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

County Contact Person: Jamie Abbott, Airports Director Telephone: (619) 956-4800

Date Form Completed: May 23, 2025

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Department of Public Works has approved the above-described project on 5/20/25 and found the project to be exempt from CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- Categorical Exemption: Sec. G 15301 - Existing Facilities
- Declared Emergency: Sec. C 21080(b)(3); Sec. G 15269(a)
- Emergency Project: Sec. C 21080(b)(4); Sec. G 15269(b)(c)
- General: Sec. C.
- Ministerial: Sec. C 21080(b)(1); G 15268
- Preliminary Review: Sec. G 15061 (b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment & the activity is not subject to CEQA.
- Statutory Exemption: Sec. G

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: Section 15301 of CEQA Guidelines exempts from CEQA review actions consisting of the "operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the lead agency's determination." The key consideration in applying this exemption is whether the proposed action involves expansion of an existing use. The proposed action involves County Airports' approval of design plans that would allow for the replacement of an existing fire suppression loading system, with no proposed changes in use from what currently exists and involves no or negligible expansion of use. Accordingly, the action is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The following is to be completed only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature:  Telephone: (858) 288-5740

Name (Print): Jeff Kashak Title: Environmental Planning Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego. This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than nine months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.