

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	Rock Canyon Helibase		
PROJECT LOCATION	34345 Highway 79 Warner Springs, CA 92086	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Brice Smith, Environmental Scientist		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE – San Diego Unit (SDU) 2249 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon, CA 92019	PHONE	(760) 271-3454

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The property is owned by the Vista Irrigation District and leased by CAL FIRE. The property has been partially developed with three structures (two homes and one outbuilding). The project proposes to remove approximately eight trees, refurbish two existing residential structures, repair the existing septic system, construct two helipads (75 ft x 75 ft), dig 200 linear feet of new utility trenches (3 feet wide and 18 inches deep), underground electric overhead lines, grade and pave existing access road into property, and replace wooden fence posts around the perimeter of the facility.

CAL FIRE employees will perform all underground and rough grade work using department owned equipment including a mini excavator, a dozer, and a grader. Equipment will be staged in the property's driveway. Construction will take approximately 60 working days.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 1, 2, 4
- §15301 Existing Facilities
 §15302 Replacement or Reconstruction
 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- 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))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project is consistent with the following Categorical Exemptions as identified in the CEQA Guidelines: Class 1 pertaining to Existing Facilities, Class 2 pertaining to replacement or reconstruction, and Class 4 pertaining to Minor Alterations to the Land. CAL FIRE staff conducted an environmental review to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This determination is based on field assessments, CNDDDB search, greenhouse gas emissions calculations, and an archaeological survey and report completed by a CAL FIRE Archaeological staff. 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, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE SDU Headquarters.

DocuSigned by:

6/25/2025

Anale Burlew, Deputy Director
Operations

Date

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection