



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Atwater Land Acquisition		
PROJECT LOCATION	4225 Hospital Avenue Atwater, CA 95301	COUNTY	Merced
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Christina Snow		
ADDRESS	1131 S Street Sacramento, CA 95811	PHONE	(916) 216-0553

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE is proposing to purchase property that is within the Merced-Castle Airport. The property consists of six acres of vacant land. CAL FIRE has not approved any other development or modifications on the site. Future actions will undergo a complete environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Common Sense Review for Exemption §15061 (b)(3)

☐ 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 acquisition activity is exempt under the common-sense exemption in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15061, subdivision (b)(3). This exemption states, a project is exempt from CEQA “[w]here it can be seen 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.” The land acquisition agreements that transfer ownership to the State do not have the potential to cause significant effects on the environment. Any future changes on the site will be subject to CEQA review and analysis. Documentation of the environmental review completed by CAL FIRE is kept on file at 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin

6/30/2025

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