

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
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: (Public Agency): Orange County Transportation Authority
550 S Main Street
Orange, CA 92868
(Address)

Project Title: North Beach and Area 1 Initial Sand Placement

Project Applicant: Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)

Project Location - Specific:

LOSSAN Rail Corridor (Mile Post 203.50 and Mile Post 203.83)

Project Location - City: San Clemente Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The railroad embankment in the North Beach area has faced dry beach due to past storms and continuing erosional processes. On July 1, 2025, OCTA approved a project that would place up to 30,000 cubic yards of sand to protect the rail line. The sand placement could be phased over several storm seasons, subject to change as design develops. Sand would come from inland and off shore dredge sites. The sand would be brought in via trucks and by an off shore dredge hopper. A project location map is attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: OCTA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: OCTA

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));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15269(b) and (c) Emergency Projects

Reasons why project is exempt:

The specific activities proposed for this project are covered under CEQA Statutory Exemption 15269(b) and (c). This exemption from CEQA applies to the proposed emergency actions to publicly owned service facilities necessary to maintain essential transportation services to the general public. This exemption allows for emergency repairs that "include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address and anticipated emergency" and further applies to "specific actions necessary to or mitigate an emergency." The purpose of the emergency action is to reinforce the railroad failing embankment by providing sand to help buffer the rail line from wave actions on the seaward side, which will avoid rail service disruptions and infrastructure damage that would lead to unsafe conditions for rail passengers and freight alike.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Jim Beil Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 714-560-5646

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: 7/28/2025 Title: Exec. Director, Cap. Prog.
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:

