Print Form

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 Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, California 92602
(Address)

Project Title: Santiago Canyon Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) Project

Project Applicant: Orange County Fire Authority

Project Location - Specific:
Santiago Canyon

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) proposes the installation of a Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) and chain link fence in Santiago Canyon, Orange County, California to track real-time weather data to inform fire modeling and prevention efforts. The site consists of primarily black mustard, which will be cut utilizing hand tools. The RAWS will be secured to the ground with three (3) nails. Three (3) foot deep holes will be dug to secure the fence posts. Annual maintenance will consist of mowing or weed whipping of vegetation. Existing roads will be utilized to access the site. The total site footprint is approximately 800 square feet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Fire Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Orange County Fire Authority

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: 15061(b)(3), 15304, 15306, 15307, 15308
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

None of the exceptions specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. Field reviews have confirmed that no impacts will occur, which would justify the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Scott Hatch Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (717) 573-6178

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: Scott Hatch Date: 9/24/2025 Title: Wildland Resource Planner

▪ 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: _____