

RECEIVED WITH FEE
RECEIPT # 1551886

CEQA

1225-172

RECEIVED
KERN COUNTY

Transmittal Memorandum for 2025

DEC 16 2025

Attach **one** transmittal memorandum to the front of the original CEQA document. Clip copies in the back.

- 1) If notice requires F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 3 copies of the notice.
- 2) If notice does not require F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 2 copies of the notice.

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

LEAD AGENCY Kern County Fire Department

PROJECT TITLE Pala Ranches Fuel Break

FILED
KERN COUNTY

DEC 16 2025

PROJECT APPLICANT Kern County Fire

PHONE NUMBER (661) 391-7000

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS: 5642 Victor St

CITY Bakersfield STATE CA ZIP CODE 93308

WORK ORDER # _____ ☒ 30-Day Posting ☐ 35-Day Posting ☐ 45-Day Posting ☐ Other _____

CONTACT PERSON Ethan Kennedy PHONE NUMBER (661) 330-0140

CHECK DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- ☐ Notice of Availability.....No Fee
- ☐ Notice of Intent.....No Fee
- ☐ Notice of Preparation.....No Fee
- ☐ Notice of Public Hearing.....No Fee
- ☐ Other _____.....No Fee
- ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR).....\$4123.50
- ☐ Previously paid F&W (must attach F&W receipt) F&W Receipt Number# _____
- ☐ DFG No Effect Determination (F&W letter must be attached).....No Fee
- ☐ County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00
- ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration.....\$2968.75
- ☐ Previously paid F&W (must attach F&W receipt) F&W Receipt Number# _____
- ☐ DFG No Effect Determination (F&W letter must be attached).....No Fee
- ☐ County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00
- ☒ Notice of Exemption.....No Fee
- ☒ County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00

TOTAL \$ 50.00

*Additional copies to be returned to: Ethan Kennedy

*Method of return: ☒ Hold for pick-up/Call # 661-330-0140

☐ Interoffice Mail

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- ☒ JV - Ledger Account 6050 Cost Center 1686 CC Fund 1017 FD Spend Category 1155 SC
- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Check

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 12/16/2025
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

26203

RECEIVED WITH FEE
RECEIPT # 15151886

FILED
KERN COUNTY

DEC 16 2025



County of Kern
Fire and Emergency Services

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

PROJECT TITLE Pala Ranches Fuel Break

PROJECT LOCATION Section 36 T25S R32E; Section 31 T25S R33E

COUNTY Kern

LEAD AGENCY Kern County Fire Department

CONTACT Ethan Kennedy

ADDRESS 5642 Victor St
Bakersfield, CA 93308

PHONE (661) 330-0140

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed fuel reduction project is intended to mitigate wildfire fuels adjacent to residential structures along Evans Road and Old State Road, thereby reducing risks to human life, property, and the surrounding environment. The project site is situated off Shirley Creek Road in Wofford Heights, California, between the intersecting streets of Gold Mill Avenue and Evans Road, on the southern boundary of the Pala Ranches community. The fuel break shall commence at the western portion of the community and extend along an existing fire access road downslope for approximately two miles, terminating at its connection with Old State Road. Crews will use a wide range of manual/mechanical treatments to accomplish our fuel reduction goals. These will range from hand thinning, mowing, chipping, piling, pile burning, and mastication. Project activities shall include the removal of vegetative fuels along the fire access road to a width of approximately 25 feet on each side. A larger fuel reduction effort will take place at the west end of the project. Crews will use the above treatments to create a shaded fuel break immediately adjacent to the community of Pala Ranches. The entirety of the project area is classified within High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) and is situated on privately owned land bordered on all sides by federally administered property.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Categorical Exemption Type and Section:

Section 15301, (Class 1(C)) Existing Facilities
Section 15304, (Class 4) 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

This project fits under sections of California Environmental Quality Act guidelines: Section 15301 Class 1 and section 15304 Class 4. The area is under immediate threat from wildfire and due to the proximity to homes and fire history is a prime candidate for resource management/fuels reduction work. The Class 1 exemption is in place to work off the existing fire road and the Class 4 exemption due to "minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes."

Section 15061(b) (3) states "The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where 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."

Field review by Kern County Fire Department staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude 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, 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 wildlife.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

[Signature] 12/11/25
Aaron Duncan, Fire Chief Date
Kern County Fire Department

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 12/16/2025
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

26203

Pala Ranches Fuel Break



12/9/2025

Fuels Projects Polygon

2025

World Imagery

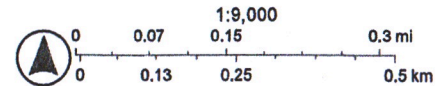
Low Resolution 15m Imagery

High Resolution 60cm Imagery

High Resolution 30cm Imagery

Citations

2.4m Resolution Metadata



Vantor, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
**2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT**
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print	StartOver	Save
-------	-----------	------

RECEIPT NUMBER.
15 — 12162025 — 15151886
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 12/16/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Kern	DOCUMENT NUMBER 26203	

PROJECT TITLE

PALA RANCHES FUEL BREAK

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME KERN COUNTY FIRE	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (661) 391-7000
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 5642 VICTOR ST	CITY BAKERSFIELD	STATE CA
	ZIP CODE 93308	

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	0.00

☐ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
☒ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ **50.00**

SIGNATURE

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

M. CEDENO, KERN COUNTY CLERK, FSS