



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
South Coast Region  
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San Diego, CA 92123  
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[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**MEGHAN HERTEL, Director**



To:  
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
[CEQA Submit](#)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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**Project Title:** Maintenance of Temporary Sandbag Diversion Berm in Arroyo Trabuco Creek (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-ORA-61750-R5)

**Project Location (Orange County):** The Maintenance of Temporary Sandbag Diversion Berm in Arroyo Trabuco Creek (Project) is located at Arroyo Trabuco Creek, City of Rancho Santa Margarita, in the County of Orange, State of California; latitude 33.61153, longitude -117.62647; Assessor's Parcel Number #125-086-28.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-ORA-61750-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Arcis Golf OBA Tijeras Creek Golf Club.

The Project is limited to the maintenance of a water diversion berm within the Arroyo Trabuco Creek (Creek). The diversion berm is made of burlap sandbags and stacked approximately three feet tall by nine feet wide from the west bank of the Creek, no more than half the width of the Creek. The burlap sandbags are filled by hand tools and are deployed by hand within the channel of the Creek. When not in use, the berm will be taken down and the sandbags will be removed from the site. Equipment anticipated to be used includes hand tools such as shovels and rakes to fill and place the sandbags. Project activities are anticipated to occur fewer than six times a year.

**Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Rich Thompson, Executive Vice President  
Arcis Golf OBA Tijeras Creek Golf Club  
29082 Tijeras Creek Road  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, 92688  
[tijerascreek2025@gmail.com](mailto:tijerascreek2025@gmail.com)

**Exempt Status:**

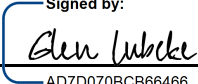
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
EPIMS-ORA-61750-R5  
March 19, 2026

Statutory Exemption.

Categorical Exemption. Type – [Class 1]; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project involves the maintenance of an existing of an existing structure involving no expansion of the current use. The operation and maintenance of the existing diversion berm will not change under this project.

**CDFW Contact Person:** Jennifer Blackbird (Environmental Scientist),  
[Jennifer.Blackbird@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Blackbird@wildlife.ca.gov), (858) 354-3285

Signed by:  
*Signature:*  *Date:* 3/19/2026  
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Glen M. Lubcke,  
Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: