

# 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 St.

Santa Ana, California 92701

**From:** (Public Agency): Orange County Fire Authority

1 Fire Authority Road

Irvine, California 92602

(Address)

Project Title: Sea Pointe Community Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Roadside Protection Project

Project Applicant: Community Wildfire Readiness Collaborative in coordination with Sea Pointe Estates Homeowners Association

Project Location - Specific: 41.58 acres of HOA owned land, located within common areas that have been historically landscaped during development of the Sea Pointe Estates community. Landscaping management activities would occur within approximately 30 to 100 feet of residential structures and along established roadways. Specifically, fire fuel management would occur along Camino De Los Mares, a key evacuation and access route, and Calle Aqua, which provides direct access to Reservoir 10 a water supply facility serving multiple jurisdictions.

Project Location - City: San Clemente, CA

Project Location - County: County of Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project implements fire resiliency measures across HOA land within a high-risk Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) community, where approximately 95% of the single-family residential homes are located within "Very High," "High," or "Moderate" FHSZ as designated by CalFire. Specifically, the Project would utilize handheld landscaping equipment (e.g., chainsaws, weed whackers, hedge trimmers, etc.) to strategically trim overgrown shrubs and ladder fuels, and in certain instances remove dead or dying trees within approximately 30 to 100 feet of residential structures and established roadways. These activities would be conducted consistent with the Orange County Fire Authority Defensible Space Requirements and Recommendations for HOA Common Areas, and Fuel Modification Guidelines (Guidelines C-05). Activities would prioritize pruning, thinning, and spacing of vegetation rather than wholesale removal.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Fire Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Community Wildfire Readiness Collaborative

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: Section 15304(i) - Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project qualifies for a Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(i), as it consists of minor vegetation management and hazardous fuel reduction activities within approximately 30 to 100 feet of existing residential structures and along established roadways. Project activities would not involve grading, excavation, trenching, or other major ground disturbing activities. The Project would not significantly affect sensitive habitats or special-status species, and nesting bird surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to commencement of activities. A Cultural Resources Preliminary Study was prepared by a certified Archaeologist in which it was determined the Project area contains no recorded archaeological, historical, or tribal cultural resources and the Project would not impact cultural resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Scott Hatch

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 714-573-6178

**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: 3-31-2026

Title: Wildland Resource Planner

x 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: \_\_\_\_\_