

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of ORANGE

From: Caltrans District 12
1750 E. Fourth St. Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Project Title: Encroachment Permit 1225-NMC-0994

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: Interstate 5 Postmiles 34.59

Project Location - City: Orange

Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

This applicant, Orange County Public Works (OCPW), on behalf of Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD), is proposing to construct grouted rip rap levee underneath Interstate 5 (I-5) by adding fill and grouting the existing rock berm along the western channel bank to correct height deficiency to contain flows within the Santa Ana River in the city of Orange, County of Orange. The purpose of the project is to correct the height deficiency by adding fill and grout to the existing rock berm. The need of the project is due to the existing western levee of the Santa Ana River from approximately 200 feet upstream of Chapman Avenue to downstream of State Route 22 (SR-22) not meeting the required elevation set by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) as per the Santa Ana River Mainstem General Design Memorandum. The total Disturbed Soil Area is unknown. The work proposed by the applicant will occur within Caltrans Right of way. No new right of way is required.. The public benefits.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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: 15300 Class 1(c)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Project is exempt under CEQA 15300 Class 1(c)

Lead Agency Contact Person: Bahar Heydari

Phone number: 949-358-4691

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: 

Date: 4/16/26

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.