



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Power Reliability Upgrades at Coalinga, Piedra, Sand Creek, and Shaver Lake Fire Stations		
PROJECT LOCATION	Coalinga FS – 25600 West Jayne Avenue, Coalinga, CA Piedra FS – 6185 Elwood Road, Sanger, CA Sand Creek FS – 41510 Sand Creek Road, Yokuts Valley, CA Shaver Lake FS – 41640 Dinkey Creek Road, Shaver Lake, CA	COUNTY	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Christina Snow, Senior Environmental Planner		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of power reliability and energy resilience improvements at four existing CAL FIRE stations in Fresno County, California (Coalinga, Piedra, Sand Creek, and Shaver Lake fire stations). The project will install electrical and energy support infrastructure, such as solar photovoltaic panels, battery energy storage systems, inverters, transfer switches, generator quick-connects, and associated wiring and conduits, to improve the reliability of electrical service and emergency power capabilities in support of ongoing fire protection and emergency response operations. All improvements would be located within previously developed areas of the existing fire station sites, would integrate with existing electrical systems, and would not expand station boundaries, introduce new land uses, or increase operational capacity. Project design and construction would comply with applicable provisions of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and all other applicable federal, state, and local requirements. Installation of solar and battery systems would require minor ground-disturbing activities, including trenching for electrical conduits, excavation for support footings, and construction of concrete equipment pads to support PV panels, battery storage units, and associated electrical equipment. Trenches would be approximately 18" deep and one foot wide and will be backfilled upon completion, and disturbed areas would be restored as appropriate. Concrete solar equipment pads will vary in size from 20' x 40' depending upon location solar requirements with excavation approximately one foot deep.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 1 (15301)
Class 3 (15303)
- 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 portions of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 and the Class 3 Categorical Exemption (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303.

Field review by CAL FIRE 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 wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
 John Melvin
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5/18/2026

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
Environmental Protection and Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection