

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

NAPA COUNTY PLANNING, BUILDING, & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
1195 THIRD STREET, SUITE 210, NAPA, CA 94559

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 0334
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Napa County Clerk
900 Coombs St
Napa, CA 94559

PROJECT TITLE: Cal-Fire & City of Vallejo Night Vision Goggles and Water Drop Training at Lake Curry

PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC: The proposed project area is largely undeveloped and rural, with limited rural residential on neighboring properties, in the southeastern portion of Napa County. The project area includes mostly Lake Curry and the surrounding parcels (APNs: 033-080-003 -033-080-004, 033-100-001, 033-100-004, 033-080-008, 033-030-011)

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY (NEAREST): Napa

PROJECT LOCATION - COUNTY: Napa

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: – Cal Fire and the City of Vallejo propose to utilize Lake Curry as a training location for practicing use of Night Vision Goggles for water drops to simulate fighting fires at night. The training would occur Monday and Friday evening every other week and is anticipated to run through 2026-2031. Training would commence a half hour after sunset and would last for 1-2 hours. Trainees would grab water from the lake with their aircraft and conduct water drops on the properties surrounding the lake (parcels which are owned by the City of Vallejo and within the jurisdiction of Napa County). The training will also involve conducting landings in open areas adjacent to the lake to practice landings in unfamiliar areas at night. The proposed training will not remove any trees and does not propose to alter the existing land or topography in any way. Additionally, water taken from the lake will be dropped within the same watershed allowing the water to return and not result in a reduction in water resources. During the preparation of this Notice of Exemption, the California Natural Diversity Database was checked for both State and Federally listed species. Although listed species may be present within Project area, impacts to these plants and animals will be limited as vegetation treatments will not be conducted, no impacts to raptors or other avian species are anticipated. Vegetation on the parcels surround lake consists primarily of grassland and oak woodlands. No actual groundwork or disturbance is proposed that would impact the vegetation, other than temporary impacts that might occur when the night landings are practiced; however, these will occur in the open grassland areas and no trees will be impacted. No impacts to water resources are anticipated, as any water pulled from the lake will be dropped on the surrounding parcels which will allow the water to naturally return to the lake through the local watershed.

LEAD AGENCY: Napa County Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department

ADDRESS: 1195 Third Street Suite 210, Napa Ca, 94559

PHONE: (707) 253-4437

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Vallejo, City Council

ADDRESS: 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, Ca, 94590

PHONE: (707) 648-5251

APPLICANT OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Robert Ljuba, City of Vallejo, Water Dept.

ADDRESS: 202 Fleming Hill Road, Vallejo, Ca, 94589

PHONE: (707) 342-2214

EXEMPT STATUS (CHECK ONE):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15268(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQAG) section number: **Section 15304 Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Pursuant to CEQA Section 15300, the proposed project would be considered Categorically Exempt based on at least one Exemption Class. The project site is not recognized as an important wildlife corridor by any regional or state agency or jurisdiction and, is not considered critical to the ecological functioning of adjoining open space areas. However, the project site likely supports local movement patterns of terrestrial wildlife species and provides food and cover resources for common avian and amphibian species. Temporary effects due to noise and increased human activity during project construction would not interfere with these local movement patterns over time or affect the ability of these species to forage or reproduce. The project site is not listed on any hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5. As a result, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

The project meets the requirements of Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Minor alterations to land) Section 15304. Project implementation will result in alterations to the land that are best described as minor in scope, that will not significantly impact the aesthetic of the property, or biological and/or cultural resources, and that do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees for any purpose. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a "Notice of Exemption" for this project. There is no reasonable possibility that this project will have a significant effect on the environment, or damage scenic resources because there will be no ground disturbance or tree removal.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Dana Morrison, Supervising Planner

PHONE: (707) 253-4437

PBES, 1195 Third Street Napa, Suite 210, Napa, Ca

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: 

Title: Supervising Planner

Date: 7/10/2026

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency
- ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: 7/10/2026



Planning, Building & Environmental Services

1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559
www.countyofnapa.org

Brian D. Bordona
Director

To: Cesar Orozco and Robert Ljuba City of Vallejo	From: Dana Morrison, Supervisor Conservation Division
Date: January 7, 2025 Updated June 26, 2026	Re: Cal-Fire & City of Vallejo Night Vision Goggles and Water Drop Training at Lake Curry

This memo is in response to your request for a determination of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines for Night Vision Goggle and Water Drop Training to be conducted by Cal-Fire and the City of Vallejo at Lake Curry in Napa County.

Cal Fire and the City of Vallejo propose to utilize Lake Curry as a training location for practicing use of Night Vision Goggles for water drops to simulate fighting fires at night. The training would occur Monday and Friday evening every other week and is anticipated to run through 2026-2031. Training would commence a half hour after sunset and would last for 1-2 hours. Trainees would grab water from the lake with their aircraft and conduct water drops on the properties surrounding the lake (parcels which are owned by the City of Vallejo and within the jurisdiction of Napa County). The training will also involve conducting landings in open areas adjacent to the lake to practice landings in unfamiliar areas at night. The proposed training will not remove any trees and does not propose to alter the existing land or topography in any way. Additionally, water taken from the lake will be dropped within the same watershed allowing the water to return and not result in a reduction in water resources. During the preparation of this Notice of Exemption, the California Natural Diversity Database was checked for both State and Federally listed species. Although listed species may be present within Project area, impacts to these plants and animals will be limited as vegetation treatments will not be conducted, no impacts to raptors or other avian species are anticipated

The proposed project area is largely undeveloped and rural, with limited rural residential on neighboring properties, in the southeastern portion of Napa County. The project area includes mostly Lake Curry and the surrounding parcels (APNs: 033-080-003 -033-080-004, 033-100-001, 033-100-004, 033-080-008, 033-030-011) – vegetation on the parcels surround lake consists primarily of grassland and oak woodlands. No actual groundwork or disturbance is proposed that would impact the vegetation, other than temporary impacts that might occur when the night landings are practiced; however, these will occur in the open grassland areas and no trees will be impacted. No impacts to water resources are anticipated, as any water pulled from the lake will be dropped on the surrounding parcels which will allow the water to naturally return to the lake through the local watershed.

No Biological Resource Assessment Report not prepared for the project; however County staff did review the Napa County GIS database Biological layer. Based on the review there were no sensitive species noted in the project area, nor is the area located in Northern Spotted Owl Habitat. During the preparation of this Notice of Exemption, the California Natural Diversity Database was checked for both State and Federally listed species – species noted as having the potential to occur on site were the California giant salamander, foothill yellow-legged frog, golden eagle, Swainsons hawk, white-tailed kite, bald eagle, snowy egret, black-crowned night heron, loggerhead shrike, common yellowthroat, Suisun song sparrow, burrowing owl, rufus hummingbird, fairy shrimp, California linderiella, steelhead, crotchs bumble bee, western bumble bee, American bumble bee, elderberry longhorn beetle, monarch, Wilbur springs shorebug, American badger, northern California ringtail, Suisun shrew, Townsends big-eared bat, Yuma myotis, western red bat and northwestern pond turtle. Although listed species may be present within Project area, impacts to these plants and animals will be limited as vegetation treatments will not be conducted, no impacts to raptors or other avian species are anticipated. The project area is not recognized as an important wildlife corridor by any regional or state agency or jurisdiction and is not considered critical to the ecological functioning of adjoining open space areas. Temporary effects due to noise and increased human activity during project activities are not likely to interfere with these local movement patterns over time or affect the ability of these species to forage or reproduce. Given the scope of the project (occasional night trainings that include water drops and landings) any impacts to local flora and fauna would be temporary and not significant.

Pursuant to CEQA Section 15300, the proposed project would be considered Categorically Exempt based on at least one Exemption Class. The project site is not recognized as an important wildlife corridor by any regional or state agency or jurisdiction and, is not considered critical to the ecological functioning of adjoining open space areas. However, the project site likely supports local movement patterns of terrestrial wildlife species and provides food and cover resources for common avian and amphibian species. Temporary effects due to noise and increased human activity during project construction would not interfere with these local movement patterns over time or affect the ability of these species to forage or reproduce. The project site is not listed on any hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5. As a result, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

The project meets the requirements of Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Minor alterations to land) Section 15304. Project implementation will result in alterations to the land that are best described as minor in scope, that will not significantly impact the aesthetic of the property, or biological and/or cultural resources, and that do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees for any purpose. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a “Notice of Exemption” for this project. There is no reasonable possibility that this project will have a significant effect on the environment, or damage scenic resources because there will be no ground disturbance or tree removal.

This determination is solely based on information provided by Cesar Orozco and Robert Ljuba, City of Vallejo. Should the proposed project be modified, or new evidence be presented that environmental impacts have not been fully disclosed, this determination would not be valid.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dana Morrison at (707) 253-4437 or by email at dana.morrison@countyofnapa.org.