Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Transportation District 8, San Bernardino County
464 W. 4th St.
San Bernardino CA, 92401

Project Title: Southern California Ignition Reduction Project – Phase I

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation District 8, San Bernardino County

Project Location - Specific: Interstate 15 (I-15) Cajon Pass, State Route138 (SR-138), and State Route 18 (SR-18)

Project Location - City: Cajon Pass, Summit Valley, Crestline Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
Caltrans District 8 proposes to conduct vegetation fuel reduction treatments along Interstate-15 (I-15) through Cajon Pass, State Route 138 (SR-138), and State Route 18 (SR-18) within the Front Country and Mountaintop Ranger Districts of the San Bernardino Forest. The treatments would occur along the roadside shoulders on both sides of the travel lanes, as well as portions of the center median. Proposed activities would include clearing vegetation management strip, removal of invasive and flash fuels, and selectively thinning vegetation to reduce the potential for wildfire ignition and spread, improve roadside fuel conditions, and promote the resilience and conservation of native plant communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation District 8, San Bernardino County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation District 8, San Bernardino County

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: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: PRC 4799.05 (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 4799.05(d)(1), the proposed project is statutorily exempt from CEQA because it consists of fuel-reduction activities undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire. The proposed project has been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Caltrans' primary role is providing funding or staffing for the project. The project would implement vegetation and fuel-reduction treatments consistent with the activities evaluated in the applicable USFS NEPA environmental review and decision document. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under USFS NEPA Finding of Applicability and No Extraordinary Circumstance (05/06/2026).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Malisa Lieng Phone number: 909-261-3955

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: Malisa Lieng Date: 9-2-26 Title: Branch Chief

☒ 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.