



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Orange County Clerk-Recorder
County Administration South
Attn: Recorder Operations
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: Development Services Department
32400 Paseo Adelanto
San Juan Capistrano, California 92675
Contact: Laura Stokes
Title: Planning Manager
Phone: (949) 443-6313
Email: Lstokes@sanjuancapistrano.gov

PROJECT TITLE: Post Norte Fire Emergency Work

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of San Juan Capistrano, 32400 Paseo Adelanto, Joel Rojas, Development Services Director, Jrojas@sanjuancapistrano.gov 949-234-4410

ADDRESS: 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY: San Juan Capistrano

PROJECT LOCATION – COUNTY: Orange County

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:

Installation of sandbags, gravel bags, silt fencing, and straw wattles along City-maintained open space areas, slopes, and hillsides impacted by the Norte Fire, which occurred in San Juan Capistrano on October 16, 2026. Following a wildfire, burned hillsides are more susceptible to erosion, mudflows, and debris flows during rainfall events. In preparation for rain events, City crews will be implementing erosion and sediment control measures along City-maintained slopes and hillsides at the terminus of Avenida de Agua and Calle Delgado, as well as behind the homes along Calle Miramar is a benefit to public safety.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: City of San Juan Capistrano

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Joel Rojas, City of San Juan Capistrano

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(c));
☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15061(b)(3)

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

The recommended installation of sandbags, gravel bags, silt fencing, and straw wattles along City-maintained open space areas, slopes, and hillsides impacted by the Norte Fire is statutorily exempt from further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), (Public Resources Code, Section 21080(b)(4) and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) (Emergency Projects). These specific actions are necessary to prevent further emergency situations and potential damage to public and private property from imminent mud and debris flows which may occur given the upcoming forecasted rainfall in the area. The work is limited to the erosion and sediment control measures described above to address this immediate threat, it is not a long-term project addressing a situation with a low probability of occurrence in the short term.

LEAD AGENCY

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Stokes

TEL: (949) 443-6313

Laura Stokes, Environmental Administrator

October 22, 2026

Date