Notice of Exemption

To: ☒ Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Bernardino
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA. 92415-0130

From: City of Redlands
Planning Division
P.O. Box 3005
Redlands, CA. 92373

☒ Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse (https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/)
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA. 95812-3044

Subject: ***Filing of Notice of Exemption in Compliance with Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061 & 15062.***

Project Title: City of Redlands Wildfire Fuels Mitigation Projects
Project Applicant: City of Redlands Fire Department
Project Location - Address: Citywide
Project Location - City: Redlands, California
Project Location - County: San Bernardino County

Project Description: The City Council of the City of Redlands intends to enter into a Cooperative Agreement/License with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection ("CAL FIRE") for the use of California Conservation Corps and California Military Department handcrews to perform conservation, fuels management, and wildfire hazard reduction projects within the City. The City Council also granted authorization for the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief's designee to execute subsequent individual project request documentation packets as required by the CAL FIRE Unit Chief or Vegetation Management Plan Coordinator. Fuels management, wildfire hazard reduction, and/or conservation activities and work projects would involve the modification, removal, or other alteration to various forms of vegetation, shrubs, trees, and other potential sources of fuel for the purpose of reducing risks/hazards resulting from wildfires within and around City of Redlands. Multiple tasks, assignments, activities, and projects will occur at different times annually as conditions or circumstances warrant (such as seasonal changes, weather conditions, wildfire activity or frequency, funding availability, personnel or equipment availability, necessity for any agreements or memoranda of understanding, or other known/unknown conditions), collectively referred to as the "Project." These projects are critical components of the City's ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts and help reduce vegetation hazards, protect public infrastructure, and improve community safety.

Project documentation packets include technical details of the specific project worksite utilizing supplemental CAL FIRE Cooperative License Agreements (Form 719), parcel maps, and work area maps. Potential project areas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis consistent with the City of Redlands' adopted Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Private property owners may request conservation, fuels management, and hazard reduction projects directly through the CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Plan Coordinator. Any projects on private parcels would be actioned directly with property owner and CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Plan Coordinator including their own respective CAL FIRE Cooperative License Agreement (Form 719), permissions and right of entry documentation, liability documentation, as well as any associated costs paid by the property owner directly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Redlands

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Redlands Fire Department

This is to advise that on October 20, 2026, the City Council of the City of Redlands granted approval to enter into a Cooperative Agreement/License with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection regarding the above-referenced project(s), and made the following determination:

Exemption status:
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☒ Categorical Exemption. Section number(s):
15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15321 (Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies)
☒ Statutory Exemptions. Section number(s):
15269 (Emergency Projects)

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project(s) meets all criteria, as may be applicable, for exemption in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section(s) 15269, 15301, 15321, and/or Public Resources Code section 20180.49 (see attached pages for additional information).

Lead Agency: City of Redlands, Fire Department
Contact Person: Vincent Anderson, Fire Marshal Telephone: (909) 798 – 7603

This is to certify that the project documents and record of project approval are available to the general public and may be examined at the City of Redlands Fire Department, Community Risk Reduction office, located at 35 Cajon Street, Suite 12, Redlands, CA 92373. The custodian of records is the Fire Marshal and may be contacted during regular business hours at (909) 798-7603

_____
Vincent Anderson
Fire Marshal
October 26, 2026

☒ Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Enclosures:

1. Regional Location Map
2. Planning Area Map
3. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map (Cal Fire)
4. Exemption Justification

Figure 1:
Regional Location Map

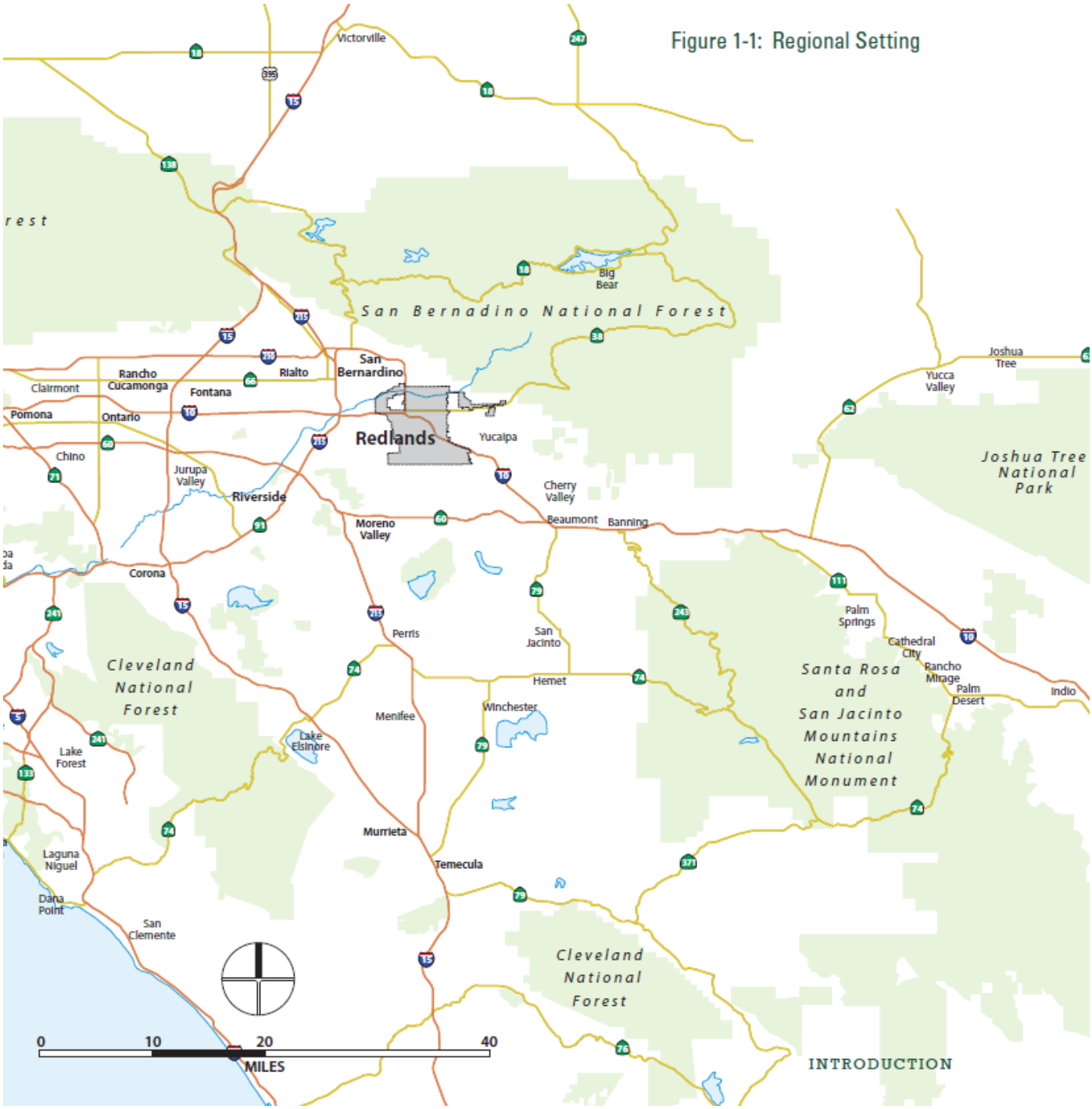


Figure 2:
Planning Area Map

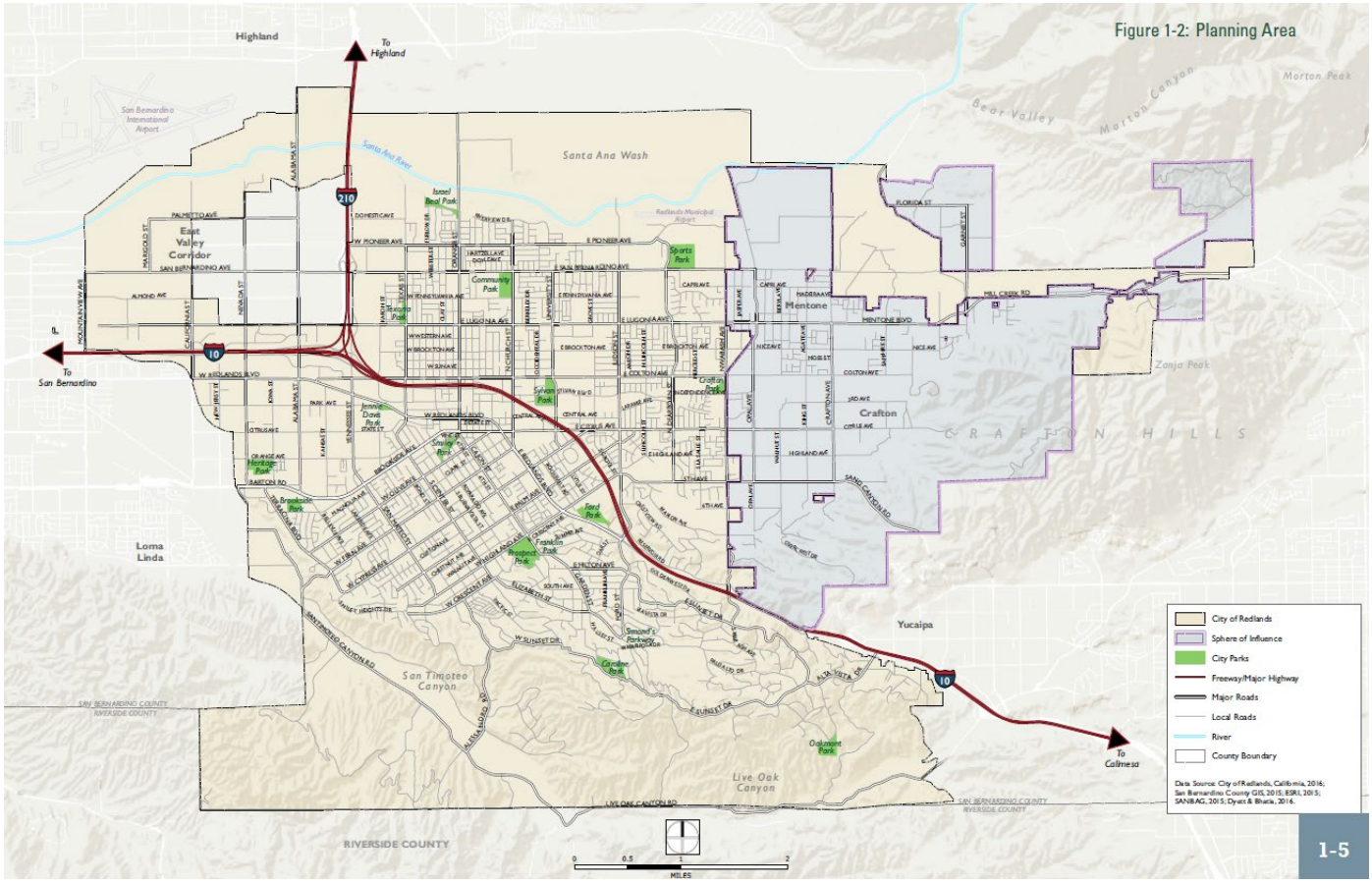
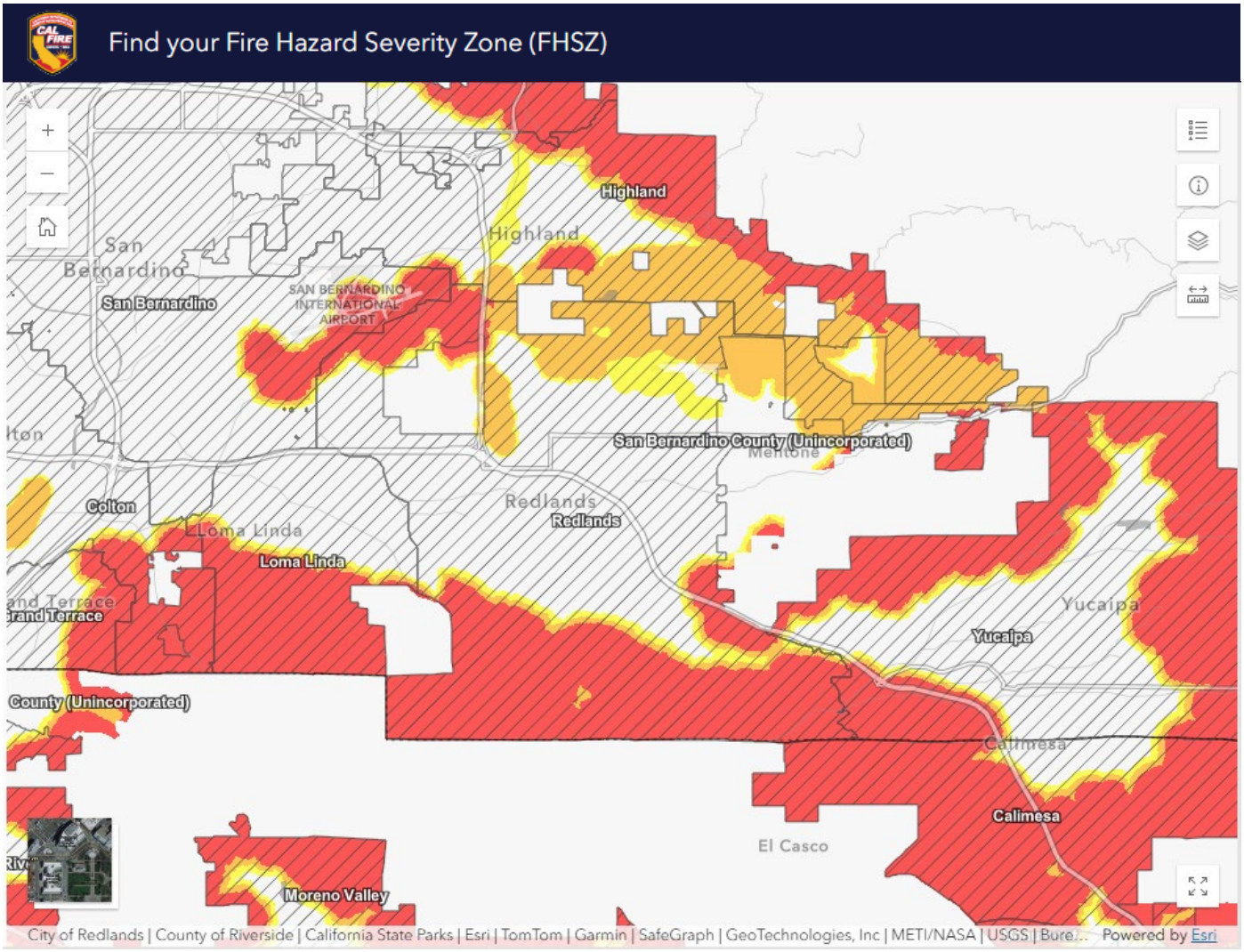


Figure 3:
Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map (Cal Fire)



Exemption Justification

I. Notice of Exemption – Purpose

State law and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) includes lists of the types of projects that have been determined not to have any significant effect on the environment. This document demonstrates that the proposed Project(s) qualifies for exemption from environmental review under one or more Exemption(s) listed in current State law: Public Resources Code Section 21080.49; CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities); CEQA Guidelines Section 15321 (Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies); and/or CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 (Emergency Projects).

II. Public Resources Code Section 21080.49

Future activities and projects will meet the criteria for exemption listed in Section 21080.49, subsections (b), (c), and/or (d) as provided below. Fire Department activities to maintain public roadways and surrounding areas (e.g., vegetation or trees, other fuel sources, etc.) up to 100 feet from roadway centerlines are specifically identified in subsection (b) as exempt activities.

21080.49. This division does not apply to any of the following wildfire risk reduction projects, if the project is in compliance with all other applicable laws, ordinances, and zoning requirements:
(a) A project consisting of a prescribed fire or fuel reduction to reduce wildfire risk by reestablishing the fire return interval appropriate to the ecosystem for biodiversity or other benefits, excluding projects located on coastal sage scrub habitat or any other sensitive habitat. In order to qualify for the exemption established pursuant to this subdivision, all of the following requirements shall be met:
(1) The project shall not exceed 50 contiguous acres and shall be located within one-half mile of a subdivision of 30 or more dwelling units.
(2) The lead agency shall consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that, to the extent feasible, the project is designed to avoid or minimize impacts to (A) candidate, rare, threatened, endangered plants and wildlife; and (B) wildlife nursery sites, including nesting rookeries, spawning areas, fawning areas, and maternal roosts.
(3) The lead agency shall, to the extent feasible, design the project to avoid impacts to riparian areas and water quality through use of sediment and erosion control measures where there is ground disturbance for control lines.
(4) The lead agency shall identify and, to the extent feasible, protect tribal cultural resources that may be impacted by project. This paragraph may be met by reviewing existing records, including the California Historical Resources Information System and Sacred Lands Inventory, or by engaging in consultation with relevant California Native American tribes on identification of tribal cultural resources and appropriate mitigation measures while maintaining confidentiality of sensitive records.
(b) A project consisting of "defensible space" fire clearance of up to 100 feet, as measured from the center line of the roadway, for a public roadway identified as an egress and evacuation route for a subdivision or community of 30 or more dwelling units, to remove flammable vegetation or trees of less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height.
(c) A project consisting of the establishment or enhancement of residential home hardening or defensible space for wildfire risk reduction within 200 feet of a legal structure located in a high or very high wildfire hazard zone.
(d) A project consisting of a fuel break that extends up to 200 feet from structures, including the clearance of flammable vegetation and trees less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height.
(Added by Stats. 2025, Ch. 24, Sec. 11. (SB 131) Effective June 30, 2025.)

III. Section 15301 Exemption Requirements

The Project will meet all applicable exemption criteria of Section 15301 “Existing Facilities” (Class 1), as summarized below. Future activities and projects may be conducted that will meet the applicable criteria for exemption listed in Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines, as provided in part below.

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

(a) Interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances;
(b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services;
(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety, and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes).
(d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood;
(f) Addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices;
g) New copy on existing on and off-premise signs;
(h) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753, Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code);
(i) Maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources;
(j) Fish stocking by the California Department of Fish and Game;
(k) Division of existing multiple family or single-family residences into common-interest ownership and subdivision of existing commercial or industrial buildings, where no physical changes occur which are not otherwise exempt;
(l) Demolition and removal of individual small structures listed in this subdivision;
(4) Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.

NOTE: Complete section and citation available at: https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/

IV. Section 15321 Exemption Requirements

The Project will meet all applicable exemption criteria of Section 15321 "Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies" (Class 21), as summarized below. Future activities, projects, and/or enforcement actions may be conducted by the City of Redlands that constitute enforcement actions by a regulatory agency (e.g., City of Redlands Fire Department, Code Enforcement Division, Building & Safety Division, Facilities & Community Services Department, and/or City Attorney, among others). The City of Redlands Fire Department will operate in conjunction with a valid agreement/license from the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, and may include subsequent permits or authorizations for wildfire mitigation and hazard reduction activities or projects. Any such activities, projects, or enforcement actions will meet the applicable criteria for exemption listed in Section 15321 of the CEQA Guidelines, as provided below.

> Class 21 consists of:
> (a) Actions by regulatory agencies to enforce or revoke a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use issued, adopted, or prescribed by the regulatory agency or enforcement of a law, general rule, standard, or objective, administered or adopted by the regulatory agency. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following:
> (1) The direct referral of a violation of lease, permit, license, certificate, or entitlement for use or of a general rule, standard, or objective to the Attorney General, District Attorney, or City Attorney as appropriate, for judicial enforcement.
> (2) The adoption of an administrative decision or order enforcing or revoking the lease, permit, license, certificate, or entitlement for use or enforcing the general rule, standard, or objective.
> (b) Law enforcement activities by peace officers acting under any law that provides a criminal sanction.
> (c) Construction activities undertaken by the public agency taking the enforcement or revocation action are not included in this exemption.
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> *NOTE:* Source citation available at: https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/

V. Section 15269 Exemption Requirements

The Project will meet all applicable exemption criteria of Section 15269 "Emergency Projects" as summarized below. Future activities, projects, and/or urgent mitigation actions may be conducted by the City of Redlands that constitute emergency projects. The City of Redlands Fire Department will operate in conjunction with a valid agreement/license from the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, and may include subsequent actions or authorizations for wildfire mitigation and hazard reduction activities or projects on an emergency basis (i.e., unknown and unforeseen circumstances that require immediate preventive responses or action). Any such activities, projects, or emergency actions will meet the applicable criteria for exemption listed in Section 15269 of the CEQA Guidelines, as provided below. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area.
- Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain

service essential to the public health, safety, or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.

- Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, including activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) that are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

- Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is within the existing right of way of that highway and is initiated within one year of the damage occurring.

Section 15269 consists of:

The following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

(a) Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code. This includes projects that will remove, destroy, or significantly alter an historical resource when that resource represents an imminent threat to the public of bodily harm or of damage to adjacent property or when the project has received a determination by the State Office of Historic Preservation pursuant to Section 5028(b) of Public Resources Code.
(b) Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.
(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.
(d) Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is within the existing right of way of that highway and is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. This exemption does not apply to highways designated as official state scenic highways, nor any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.
(e) Seismic work on highways and bridges pursuant to Section 180.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, Section 180 et seq.

NOTE: Source citation available at: https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/

VI. Conclusion

The analysis above provides justification and substantial evidence that the proposed Project properly qualifies for one or more exemptions under State law and the State CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, the City of Redlands has determined the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The proposal qualifies for all Exemptions as described herein, and a Notice of Exemption may be filed and posted in accordance with Sections 15061 and 15062 of the CEQA Guidelines.

References

1. City of Redlands, *Community Wildfire Reduction Plan* (March 4, 2025). https://www.redlands.gov/community-risk-reduction/

2. City of Redlands, *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* (November 2021), as amended. https://www.redlands.gov/local-hazard-mitigation-plan/

3. City of Redlands, City Council staff report of October 20,2026 (agenda item I-9). https://www.redlands.gov/city-council-planning-commission-agendas-video/

4. City of Redlands, *General Plan 2035* (December 5, 2017), as amended. https://www.cityofredlands.org/post/planning-division-general-plan.

5. State of California (2026), Cal Fire. *Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map Viewer*, as amended. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6a9cb66bb1824cd98756812af41292a0

6. State of California, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (2026). *CEQA Guidelines*, as amended. https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/guidelines/