NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research / State Clearinghouse
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From (Public Agency):
Orange County Transportation Authority
550 S. Main Street, Orange, CA 92868

Orange County Clerk-Recorder
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Project Title: Calafia State Beach Sand Stockpile Removal Project

Project Location - Specific: Orange Subdivision, Mile Post 206.1

Project Location - City: San Clemente **Project Location - County:** Orange

Description of Project:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) proposes to remove up to approximately 1,300 cubic yards of previously stockpiled sand near Los Angeles–San Diego–San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail milepost 206.1, along the base of a coastal bluff at Calafia State Beach in the City of San Clemente. The stockpiled material originated from previous railroad maintenance activities to remove accumulated sand from the tracks to maintain safe rail operations. The project involves excavating the stockpiled material to approximately restore the original ground elevations, beneficially reusing suitable excavated sand by placing it over the existing rock revetment seaward of the railroad tracks, and restoring the disturbed stockpile area with native vegetation. Excavation limits will be established to avoid destabilization of the adjacent coastal bluff, with no excavation occurring within 10 feet of the bluff face. The project will not enlarge, extend, or otherwise modify the existing rock revetment. Any debris or unsuitable material encountered during excavation will be removed and disposed of at an appropriate facility.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Transportation Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Orange County Transportation Authority

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: **CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land**

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land. The project involves the removal of previously stockpiled sand generated from railroad maintenance activities, beneficial reuse of suitable excavated material over an existing rock revetment, and restoration of the disturbed stockpile area with native vegetation. Excavation will be limited to previously deposited material, with excavation limits established to avoid destabilization of the adjacent coastal bluff. The project will not expand or modify the existing railroad infrastructure or underlying rock revetment. The proposed activities constitute minor alterations to existing land and vegetation and are intended to restore the stockpile area to conditions present before placement of the material.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dan Phu **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 714-560-5907

Signature: _____ **Title:** Director, Planning and Analysis

Date: November 17, 2026