Exempt from Processing Fee Per
California Government Code Section 26857

(above for use by Office of Planning and Research only)

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: Charlie View
Title: Interim Public Works Director
Phone: (949) 443-6322
Email: cview@sanjuancapistrano.gov

PROJECT TITLE: Trabuco Creek Arundo Removal
PROJECT APPLICANT: Charlie View, Interim Public Works Director, cview@sanjuancapistrano.gov 949-443-6322
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:

The City has identified dense stands of invasive Arundo donax (Arundo) along a portion of Trabuco Creek that may impede creek flows and contribute to debris accumulation during significant storm events. In preparation for the upcoming winter storm season, removal of the accumulated Arundo vegetation has been identified as a priority to reduce potential creek obstructions and associated flood-related risks. The project area is located along a City-owned portion of Trabuco Creek, generally in the vicinity of Rancho Viejo Road, Trabuco Creek Road, and Imperial Drive, and falls within the South Orange County Team Arundo initiative. The City and city residents will be the primary beneficiaries of this action.

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

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Charlie View, 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 Arundo removal prior to storm season 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 Arundo removal 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

November 19, 2026
Date