



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019071004

PROJECT TITLE	Flinn Springs Work Center		
PROJECT LOCATION	Section 23, T15S, R01E, MDB&M	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Len Nielson		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes the placement of a new 24-foot-wide by 30-foot-long prefabricated “Tough Shed” storage building on a 6-inch-thick concrete slab and a parking area within a dirt covered area behind the existing CAL FIRE San Diego Flinn Springs Fire Station 21 residence. The environmental setting is in oak and grass land within a rural residential area. Implementation of this project will require minor leveling of the proposed area with any spoils to be terraced into adjacent areas, placement of form boards and re-enforcing steel, placement of approximately 14 cubic yards of transit mix concrete. Installation of the 24-foot by 30-foot building to be completed by building contractor. There will be utility connections to this new building requiring excavation of 10 feet of trench, 18 inches in depth from existing station electrical panel to new building, placement of 1-inch electrical conduit and backfill, compaction and leveling of trenches to original grade. Prefabricated building will be installed by private contractor, all other work will be performed by CAL FIRE personnel and hand crews. The project is anticipated to take approximately 3 weeks to complete. Less than one acre of soil will be disrupted when work is completed.

The CAL FIRE San Diego Flinn Springs Fire Station 21 is located at 9711 Flinn Springs Rd in El Cajon approximately 1 mile east of Lake Jennings in a residential area.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, §15301 Existing Facilities
 Class 3, §15303 New Construction of Small Structure
 Class 4, §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of three classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Class 3 (New Construction of Small Structure), and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land). Most of the project activities would occur within previously disturbed areas. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are best described as minor in scope. These areas were carefully inspected for environmental concerns. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE's San Diego Unit Headquarters 2249 Jamacha Road, EL Cajon, CA 92019.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

7/24/19

Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director
 Resource Protection and Improvement
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

Note: This report form is intended for use by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a notice of exemption document for a proposed CAL FIRE project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable categorical exemptions, this report presents CAL FIRE's review for possible exceptions that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by CAL FIRE.

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Project Name:	Flinn Springs Work Center	
Project Number:	None	
Program Type:	Technical Services	
CAL FIRE Unit:	San Diego Unit (MVU)	
County:	San Diego	
Acres:	Less than 1 acre	
Legal Location:	Section 23, T15S, R01E, MDB&M	
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s):	Alpine	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Vicinity Map Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Location Map Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photos Attached	

Other Public Agency Review or Permit Required:		
Would the project result in:	YES	NO
Alterations to a watercourse (DFW - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:		

Project Description and Environmental Setting (describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):
<p>This project proposes the placement of a new 24-foot-wide by 30-foot-long prefabricated "Tough Shed" storage building on a 6-inch-thick concrete slab and a parking area within a dirt covered area behind the existing CAL FIRE San Diego Flinn Springs Fire Station 21 residence. The environmental setting is in oak and grass land within a rural residential area. Implementation of this project will require minor leveling of the proposed area with any spoils to be terraced into adjacent areas, placement of form boards and re-enforcing steel, placement of approximately 14 cubic yards of transit mix concrete. Installation of the 24-foot by 30-foot building to be completed by building contractor. There will be utility connections to this new building requiring excavation of 10 feet of trench, 18 inches in depth from existing station electrical panel to new building, placement of 1-inch electrical conduit and backfill, compaction and leveling of trenches to original grade. Prefabricated building will be installed by private contractor, all other work will be performed by CAL FIRE personnel and hand crews. The project is anticipated to take approximately 3 weeks to complete. Less than one acre of soil will be disrupted when work is completed.</p> <p>The CAL FIRE San Diego Flinn Springs Fire Station 21 is located at 9711 Flinn Springs Rd in El Cajon approximately 1 mile east of Lake Jennings in a residential area.</p>

Environmental Impact Analysis

Aesthetics

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project will not result in a noticeable alteration to aesthetics. This project proposes the placement of a new 24-foot-wide by 30-foot-long prefabricated “Tough Shed” storage building on a 6-inch-thick concrete slab at an existing CAL FIRE station. These buildings are common and frequent in the area. These activities will not significantly alter the existing view, and therefore will not have a significant impact to the public’s aesthetic view. It has been determined this project will not have significant impact on aesthetics.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds, if necessary.
- Yes No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?
- Yes No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land or timberland to non-forest use?
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

There are no commercial trees in the project area that will be removed. This project will have no impact on agriculture or forest resources.

Air Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project proposes the placement of a new 24-foot-wide by 30-foot-long prefabricated “Tough Shed” storage building on a 6-inch-thick concrete slab with electrical hook-up. Project implementation will require minor site leveling. To avoid the possibility of dust generation and to ensure proper compaction, water will be on site and appropriately applied whenever soil disturbance takes place. CAL FIRE hand crews will be used to facilitate this project. This project will require mechanized equipment use for engineering staff and hand crews to commute and transit mix concrete to be delivered. The limited duration and limited use of mechanized equipment will not create a significant impact on air quality. CAL FIRE shall ensure that the project is implemented in a manner which is consistent with the guidelines provided by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District. There will be no significant impact on air quality.

Biological Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?
- Yes No Was a current California Natural Diversity Database review completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project will not affect any stream or watercourse. Biological resources were researched and there will be no adverse impacts to any state or federally listed species of plants or animals. A query of CDFW’s California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted on July 2nd, 2019 to identify State and Federally listed species that might be present in the project area. The query was based on a 1-mile search around the project area. The query was further filtered to rule out species that don’t have a listing status such as endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate, or a California Rare Plant Rank of 3.2 or less, or CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC) and Fully Protected (FP). The search yielded 9 species. There are no known sensitive species in the project area or habitat that could be affected by the project. Based on these findings, CAL FIRE staff determined that there will be no impacts to any special status species that was listed in the biological table as a result of this project.

Cultural Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes No Was a CAL FIRE staff or contract archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
- Yes No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- Yes No Will the project effect any historic, archaeological or tribal cultural resources?
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

CAL FIRE Senior State Archaeologist, Larrynn Carver has reviewed the survey report for proposed Flinn Springs FFS Tough Shed and Parking Improvements project at the CAL FIRE Flinn Springs FFS and determined that impacts of any significance to historic or pre-historic cultural resources by this project, as proposed, are unlikely.

This determination is based on a field surveys conducted by RA Battalion Chief Pete Scully on July 3, 2019 at Flinn Springs. He reports the project area is previously disturbed, with good ground visibility. The survey, as described, was adequate for the setting and conditions. This field survey did not identify any cultural resources and the proposed shed and parking improvements are not anticipated to affect cultural resources.

If previously undocumented cultural resources are located during project implementation, work will be temporarily halted until the archaeologist is contacted to evaluate the find and provide recommendations in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resource protection. In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the regional archaeologist and the County Coroner, in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code.

Based on these findings, CAL FIRE staff determined that the project would have no impacts to cultural resources.

Geology and Soils

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project would not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects from the rupture of a known earthquake fault, ground shaking or other seismic-related ground failure. Minor site leveling will occur. The proposed location has flat slopes and no unstable areas. Installation of the "Tough Shed" will not disturb soil in an area exceeding one acre in size nor will substantial excavation or grading be needed. There will be no significant effect on geology or soils.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- Yes No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:
- Yes No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

Estimates for GHG emissions were done based on total fuel consumption per day for planned motor vehicles operations to facilitate this project. The common conversion factors were obtained from the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) General Reporting Protocol U.S. EPA. The results are listed below:

- One tractor will be needed for 1 day using a total of 10 gallons of diesel. Hand crews will be working for 4 days and will be travelling to and from the project an average of 50 miles round trip per day, using a total of 20 gallons of gasoline.

Estimation of GHG emissions are based on total fuel consumption per day. The results are listed below:

- Net Diesel Fuel = 10 gallons * 10.15 (conversion factor) = (101.5 KG/1000) = 0.1015 metric tons CO₂ emissions for the project.
- Net Gasoline Fuel = 20 gallons * 8.18 (conversion factor) = (163.6KG/1000) = 0.1636 metric tons CO₂ emissions for the project.

Total = 0.1015 + 0.1636= **0.3** metric tons CO₂ emissions for the project.

The significance threshold CAL FIRE uses to determine significance has been established by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association as 900 tons/year for indirect sources (combined construction and operational emissions). It is estimated that emissions associated with the operation of equipment for this project is below this threshold. Impacts would be less than significant.

All vehicles and equipment will comply with current Air Pollution Control District's standards. The proposed project will not generate significant greenhouse gas emissions due to the small size and scope of the affected area and its short duration. There are greenhouse gas emissions expected from the burning of gas and diesel engines during trench excavation. Operations will not lead to a long-term increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Due to the limited nature of the project and the significance threshold, it is CAL FIRE's determination that impacts to greenhouse gas emissions will be less than significant.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project would not result in a significant hazard to the public or environment through the transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials and is located on an existing active fire station. Any debris removed from the project area will either be recycled, or disposed of properly at a landfill. No impact would occur.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- Yes No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project will not result in adverse impacts related to hydrology and water quality.

Land Use and Planning

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The property is currently used as a fire station with continued planned use. The project will not result in adverse impacts related to land use and planning.

Mineral Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project will not result in adverse impacts related to mineral resources.

Noise

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

There will be a temporary increase in noise in the project area during construction. Work on site will only occur during normal business hours. Construction equipment and placement of the temporary building will not have a significant impact to noise in the area.

Population and Housing

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

No additional housing capacity will be improved. This project will have no effect on population or housing.

Public Services

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no adverse effects on public services. An increase in Fuel Reduction projects will occur from the assignment of the new Fuel Reduction Crew to MVU.

Recreation

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The property is not used for recreation and it is not planned to include recreational use. The project will not result in adverse impacts related to recreation.

Transportation and Traffic

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

There may be a slight and temporary increase in traffic on the Kumeyaay Hwy during construction for three weeks. The project would not conflict with any applicable plan, or policy establishing service level standards as the transportation system has adequate capacity. The vehicle trips created by the proposed project and new assigned work crew will not create a significant impact on transportation and traffic as the traffic generated is not substantial. This would not create a significant impact.

Utilities and Service Systems

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no impact on existing municipal utilities or services.

Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts: No changes were required to avoid environmental impacts.

Mandatory Findings of Significance:

	YES	NO
(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):

This project fits under portions of three classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Class 3 (New Construction of Small Structure), and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land). Most of the project activities would occur within previously disturbed areas. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are best described as minor in scope. These areas were carefully inspected for environmental concerns. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE's San Diego Unit Headquarters in 2249 Jamacha Road, EL Cajon, CA 92019

Conclusion:

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of categorical exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. CAL FIRE considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways,

(e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A notice of exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of categorical exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site that precludes the use of a categorical exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration.