



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	PG&E Joaquin Ridge Satellite Dish Installation		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Joaquin Ridge on Black Mountain	<b>COUNTY</b>	Fresno
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Christina Snow		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA, 95811	<b>PHONE</b>	916-324-1639

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of installing a new Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite dish on a 10-foot tall poll within the existing communication site. The satellite dish will be approximately 4-foot tall and mounted onto the top of the pole. The pole will have a concrete foundation that is 5' 6" deep and 1' 6" in diameter. A 10-foot long trench, 2-foot deep, will hold a conduit providing electrical power between the satellite dish and the existing Telecommunications Room (see the attached Project Design Drawing).

Additionally, space within the existing generator room and vault on-site will be leased to PG&E along with 11 additional antenna positions on the existing telecommunications tower.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 1 and Section 15301 – Existing Facilities  
Class 4 Section 15304 – Minor Alteration 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

Per CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), the minor alteration of existing structures involving negligible expansion of the existing or former use qualifies as a Categorical Exemption under CEQA. The addition of satellite dishes to the existing lattice steel communications tower will not alter the existing use of the tower or expand the footprint of the tower. Additionally, the leasing of space within existing generator rooms to PG&E will not change the use of those buildings or expand the footprint of those buildings.

Per CCR Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), the construction of new, small structures qualifies as a Categorical Exemption under CEQA. The construction of a new, relatively short (10-foot tall pole with 4-foot tall satellite dish) structure at a communications site is consistent with this Categorical Exemption. This project consists of leasing and minor improvements of an existing vacant lot.

Field review by CAL FIRE confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. 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 the 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 19 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

6/18/2020

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

Date