

Recording Requested by:

Clerk of the Authority Office
Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

When Recorded Mail to:

Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Exempt from Recordation Fees per Government Code 27383

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR CEQA COMPLIANCE

(Please fill in Document Title(s) above this line)

Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Pilot Program
at
Chino Airport, 700 Merrill Ave., Chino, CA 91710

**This page added to provide adequate space for recording information
(additional recording fee applies)**



**Notice of Exemption
For CEQA Compliance**

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

✓ County Clerk
San Bernardino County
222 West Hospitality Lane
San Bernardino, CA 92415

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2021 OCT -4 PM 1:57
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
CALIFORNIA

Project Title:

Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Pilot Program

Project Location - Specific:

The Project will be located at the Chino Airport, 7000 Merrill Ave., Chino, CA 91710

Project Location - City: Chino **Project Location - County:** County of San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is an aerial firefighting performance-based program in collaboration with Southern California Edison, Coulson Aviation (USA) Inc., Perimeter Solutions, and the Orange County Fire Authority to enhance regional wildfire aerial response. The project is anticipated to commence on August 4, 2021 and end within 130 days. The project calls for daytime and nighttime aerial firefighting during the 2021 wildfire season. The project would result in OCFA's temporary storage and operation of one Type 1 CH-47 Very Large Helitanker (VLHT) and one S76 coordination helicopter at Chino Airport for a period of up to 130 days. The helicopters will be operated and maintained by crew supplied by Coulson Aviation (USA) Inc.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Fire Authority

Name of Project Applicant: Orange County Fire Authority

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(b)(c));
- ✓ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Class 1, Existing Facility (14 Cal. Code Regs., §15301).
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Feasibility and Planning Studies.

Reasons why the project is exempt:

CEQA’s Class 1 Exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing or private facilities, structures or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of an existing or former use. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §15301).

Here, the project will operate from Chino Airport. Chino Airport is an existing 1,097-acre, three-runway facility home to existing aerial facilities and operations. There are approximately 451 aircraft operations per day at the Chino Airport, including helicopter operations conducted by Southern California Edison.

Under the current project, a CH-47 Very Large Helitanker and S76 coordination helicopter would operate from the Chino Airport for an up to 130-day period during the 2021 wildfire season. Notably, the CH-47 and S76 helicopters will be made available to over 15 other counties in the Southern California region; therefore, these helicopters could also be fighting fires in those other counties during that time. The project does not require any construction at Chino Airport. The project therefore calls for the operation of existing public and private facilities (namely, the Chino Airport) with no or a negligible expansion of an existing or former use, and the Class 1 Exemption applies.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Fennessy, Fire Chief

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (714) 573-6010

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?

Yes No

Signature:  **Date:** 8/9/21

Signature:

✓ Signed by the Lead Agency

✓ Signed by the Applicant

Date received for filing: _____

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California)
County of Orange)

On August 9, 2021 before me, Maria D. Huizar, Notary Public personally appeared Brian Fennessy, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) ~~is/are~~ subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that ~~he/she/they~~ executed the same in ~~his/her/their~~ authorized capacity(ies), and that by ~~his/her/their~~ signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.



WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature Maria D. Huizar
(Seal)

CAPACITY CLAIMED BY SIGNER:

- Individual(s) _____
- Corporate _____
- Officers Fire chief
Title(s)
- Partner(s)
- General Partner of a Limited Partnership
- Attorney-in-Fact
- Trustee (s)
- Subscribing Witness
- Guardian/Conservator
- Other: _____

SIGNER IS REPRESENTING:

THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENT DESCRIBED TO THE BELOW: _____

Notice of Exemption for CEQA compliance

NUMBER OF PAGES: _____ DATE OF DOCUMENT _____

SIGNER (S) OTHER THAN NAMED ABOVE: _____