

## Notice of Exemption

**To:**  
Office of Planning and Research  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**From:**  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
South Coast Region  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA, 92123  
Jennifer Blackhall  
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**Project Title:** Laguna Niguel Regional Park Irrigation Upgrade and Improvement Project (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-ORA-23635-R5)

**Project Location (Orange County):** The project is located at Sulphur Creek in the Laguna Niguel Regional Park; 28241 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, County of Orange, State of California, 92677; Latitude 33.552451, Longitude - 117.70985; Assessor's Parcel Number 654-061-29.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-ORA-23635-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Orange County Parks Department.

The project is limited to the separation of the Laguna Niguel Regional Park's irrigation lines from the fire service lines, involving the replacement of the existing irrigation mainlines throughout the park. Project activities will occur within Laguna Niguel Regional Park at four locations with existing infrastructure across the Creek designated as Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, and Area 4. The work at Area 1 and Area 4 will involve replacing irrigation lines that are attached to the undersides of bridges spanning outside of the Creek banks. The work at Area 2 involves horizontal direction drilling (HDD) to replace the irrigation lines located beneath Sulphur Creek. The trenching required for the HDD work will occur outside of the Creek banks. The work at Area 3 involves the replacement of irrigation lines above concrete box culverts in the Creek.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:** Orange County Parks Department

**Exempt Status:**

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15302; Class 4, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304

**Reasons why project is exempt:** A section 15302 exemption describes the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. A section 15304 exemption describes minor alterations to land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The project is exempt because the activities involve in-kind replacement of existing infrastructure with new infrastructure and will not be removing any healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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Signature: David Mayer Date: 8/11/2022  
David Mayer, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_