

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Orange

From: (Public Agency): San Joaquin Hills Transportation
Corridor Agency
125 Pacifica, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 96218

(Address)

Project Title: Defensible Space at Toll Plaza Buildings

Project Applicant: San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agencies (SJHTCA)

Project Location - Specific: State Route 73

Project Location - City: Irvine and Unincorporated County Project Location - County:
Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project consists of ongoing thinning and pruning of vegetation at the SJHTCA Catalina View Toll Plaza on State Route 73, in accordance with the Orange County Fire Authority Guidelines, to reduce the combustible fuel mass of the remaining plants to maintain defensible space between buildings and the abutting wildland to reduce fire danger. Specific activities include trimming or removing plants to create the recommended vertical and horizontal separation between them; removing dead and dying plant material, dry leaves, twigs and small branches; string trimming annual weeds and grasses down to a maximum height of four (4) inches, remove cut material; removing vegetation found on the Undesirable Plant List and replant using drought-tolerant, fire-resistant plants; and eliminating combustible mulch within five (5) feet of a structure or reduce vegetation cover to below two (2) feet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency

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: Class 1 Existing Facilities Section 15304 (i)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15304(i) *Minor Alteration of Land* because the project involves the removal of vegetation for the purpose of fuel management. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply. There is no reasonable possibility that the project would have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Doug Feremenga Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-754-3496

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Title: Manager, ENV Planning

Signature:  Date: 11.02.2022

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

