

State of California
Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA 95655

PROJECT TITLE: Seismic Monitoring Station

COUNTY: Kings

PROJECT APPLICANT: UC Berkeley Seismological Lab

PROJECT LOCATION: West Hills Community College, a West Hills Community College District property (BK.WHCL), near Coalinga, CA, Lat/Long: at 36.28885, -119.82911, Dot Map ID: NS0170

DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE AND NATURE OF THE PROJECT:

This new station will contribute to the CA Earthquake Early Warning System (CEEWS) designed to potentially save thousands of lives during a large earthquake, prevent critical infrastructure damage and expedite recovery following a large earthquake. The network to which this sensor is connected will contribute real-time data to accurately record and warn people of strong shaking due to earthquakes in the region, and help provide records of ground motion that would be of immense scientific, engineering and public safety value.

Under a ten-year lease with property owner, UC BSL plans to install and operate an outdoor seismic monitoring station at the Lat/Long location noted above. Installation will take place in a roughly 100' x 10' area, to install four main structures: 1. 4'x3'x10" sensor vault set on a 6" concrete base, with two attached PVC-pipe postholes (10" diameter) running from center of vault, to a maximum of 10' into the ground, leading to two seismometers (1 strong motion accelerometer and 1 broadband seismometer); 2. 4'x3'x6" concrete base on which a battery box, solar panel equipment, antenna mounts, and communications equipment are housed; 3. A deep drilled braced GNSS monument consisting of a 4-legged structure encased roughly 35' deep with grout; and 4. a free standing, 18", three faced Rohn 45 series tower up to 40' tall that will facilitate data being telemetered to our USGS partner at Moffett Field. A flexible conduit 1' deep and 5" wide will connect structure 1 and structure 2. Grounding rods will be inset next to the equipment to protect the site from lightning strikes. Access to site is entirely by existing roads and trails. There are no hazardous substances involved. A detailed description, schematic and photos are in Attachment 1.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

DIVISION OR UNIT CARRYING OUT PROJECT: CA Earthquake Early Warning Program

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption. Class 3, CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (New Construction), Class 4 Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and Class 6 Section 15306 (Information Collection).

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

This project is exempt in accordance with Class 3 as described above; construction of new small weatherproof enclosures to operate seismic sensor equipment for the purpose of data collection (Class 6). In accordance with Class 4, the project described above consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. None of the exceptions to a notice of exemption apply.

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SIGNED BY LEAD AGENCY:

Signature:



Title: Program Manager II

Date: 7/3/23