

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
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Project Title: Hicks Haul Road Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-ORA-33366-R5)

Project Location (Orange County): The Project is located at Limestone Creek, in the County of Orange, State of California; Latitude 33/759692, Longitude -117.702921; Section 10, Township 5 South, Range 8 West, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographical Quadrangle map Black Star Canyon; Assessor's Parcel No. #105-391-51. The project location is along Santiago Canyon Road approximately 4.5 miles east of Jamboree Road and approximately 2.5 miles west of Silverado Canyon Road.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-ORA-33366-R5, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Orange County Department of Public Works as represented by Giles Matthews.

The Project is limited to the retrofitting of the Hicks Haul Bridge that spans over Santiago Canyon Road and Limestone Creek. The retrofit activities will increase the width of a dropped bent cap on both sides of the bridge and extend it upward to restore its position. Six western sycamore trees will be removed in order to access the bridge. A cherry picker and scaffolding will be positioned on the shoulder of the road under the bridge where the dropped bent cap is located; a wooden form will be lifted up and placed around the bent cap then filled with concrete to cast the extensions on the cap itself. Mitigation activities include the planting of 10 western sycamore trees and 10 native willow trees approximately 50 feet upstream on Orange County Parks Department land.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Orange County Department of Public Works

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301

Reasons why project is exempt: A section 15301 exemption describes the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features. The project is exempt because the activities involve the repair and maintenance of an existing bridge to remove a vulnerability to design-level earthquakes.

CDFW Contact Person: Jennifer Blackhall, Environmental Scientist, email: Jennifer.Blackhall@wildlife.ca.gov, phone: (858) 354-3285

DocuSigned by:

Signature: Heather A. Pert Date: 8/10/2023

Heather A. Pert, Acting Environmental Program Manager signing for Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____