

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	La Cima Water Well Project 2024		
PROJECT LOCATION	15108 Sunrise Highway Julian, CA 92036 N ½ of SW ¼, Sec 23, T14S, R4E, SBBM	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Pete Scully		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE- San Diego Unit Headquarters Pre-Fire/Resource Management Office 2249 Jamacha Rd. El Cajon, CA 921019	PHONE	(619) 933-6503

Project Description): This project proposes upgrades to the current domestic water supply at the La Cima Conservation Camp to include the drilling of a new well and associated infrastructure to place the new well in service. La Cima Camp is located at 15108 Sunrise Highway, approximately 4.25 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Cuyamaca in San Diego County. The surrounding environmental setting, located outside the project site, is moderately steep mountainous terrain covered in mixed montane chaparral with isolated stands of hardwood and coniferous trees.

Project activities will include: 1) Minor surface leveling as needed to existing dirt access to new well site, to facilitate drill machinery access, 2) Drilling of a new well to a depth of approximately 1000-feet, excavation of 980-foot of 12-inch-wide by 36-inch-deep trench over previously disturbed ground, from new well to existing water storage tanks, 3) Placement of 2-inch PVC water line, back fill, and compaction of trench with soils to preexisting grade, 4) Excavation of 120-foot trench 12-inch-wide by 24-inch-deep across previously disturbed ground from well site to existing power drop, 5) Placement of 2-inch PVC conduit, back fill, and compaction of trench with soils to preexisting grade, 5) Placement of in ground water pump, electrical panel box at well head, and electrical connection to adjacent power drop, 6) Connection of water lines, minor hand leveling, wood form board and re-enforcing bar placement to support placement of 6-foot by 6-foot by 6-inch-deep concrete pad to encompass well head and electrical panel box.

The well drilling to be completed by a contractor, all other work will be completed by CAL FIRE employees using CAL FIRE owned or rental equipment, including hand tools, grader, and excavator. Work will take 2 to 3 weeks to complete.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 3 and 4
15303, New Construction
15304, Minor Alteration to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project contains two Categorical Exemptions listed in the CEQA Guidelines: Class 3 pertaining to new construction and Class 4 pertaining to minor alterations to land. After completing an environmental analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on a field assessment, CNDDDB search, greenhouse gas emission calculations, and archeological review completed by qualified CAL FIRE staff.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE SDU Headquarters in El Cajon, San Diego.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
John Melvin

4/18/2024

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Protection and Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date