

City of Rancho Santa Margarita  
22112 El Paseo  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
(949) 635-1800

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: X County of Orange X Office of Planning and Research  
Clerk-Recorder Submitted via online at <https://cegasubmit.opr.ca.gov>  
601 N. Ross Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Project Title and File Number:** Camino Altozano Wireless Communication Facility (Planning Application RSM 24-002)

**Project Applicant:** Smartlink on behalf of AT&T **Telephone Number:** (925) 699-2227  
10 Church Place  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Project Location:** Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 805-501-06, Rancho Santa Margarita, California 92688

**Project Description:** A Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a new wireless communication facility (WCF) attached to an existing Santa Margarita Water District water tank on a developed 0.83-acre site. The proposed WCF would consist of two antenna sectors mounted to the exterior sides of the water tank, with each antenna sector comprised of four antennas and four remote radio units. In addition, an existing at-grade equipment enclosure next to the water tank would be expanded to house a new emergency diesel generator and five equipment cabinets as part of the proposed WCF. A 36-inch tall meter pedestal would also be installed at the driveway to the property from Camino Altozano.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** City of Rancho Santa Margarita

**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, section and class number)

**Section 15301 Class 1: Existing Facilities; and  
Section 15303 Class 3: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Pursuant to California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) Sections 15301 (*Existing Facilities*) and 15303 (*New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures*), the proposed project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 1 and Class 3 Categorical Exemptions since the project involves the construction and operation of a new WCF on an existing water tank that would not increase the existing water tank footprint beyond the existing area, and would involve the installation of small accessory structures and equipment. Furthermore, all necessary public services and facilities are already available to the proposed project site, and approval of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

**Lead Agency:** City of Rancho Santa Margarita

**Contact Person:** Derek Bingham, Senior Planner **Telephone:** (949) 635-1800 Ext. 6705

**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

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Name and Title:** Derek Bingham, Senior Planner

**Date:** July 3, 2024