

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:  Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
[CEQASubmit.opr.ca.gov](http://CEQASubmit.opr.ca.gov)

County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk  
Attn: Fish and Wildlife Notices  
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260, MS A-33  
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: County of San Diego, Department of Public Works  
Environmental Services Unit  
**Attn: Anissa Busch**  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, MS O-332  
San Diego, CA 92123

**SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152**

Project Name: OCOTILLO WELLS AIRPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (DISTRICT: 5)

Project Location: Ocotillo Wells Airport, unincorporated community of Ocotillo Wells in San Diego County, California

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Public Works, Airports  
1960 Joe Crosson Drive, MS S-119, El Cajon, CA 92020

Project Description: County Airports proposes to perform routine grading of the existing airfield's dirt runways and adjacent safety areas. Pursuant to the original acquisition agreement, County Airports is required to ensure the land is maintained and "used for public airport purposes for the use and benefit of the public." The project would relevel the runways to preclude water from ponding on the airfield and remove Foreign Object Debris from the active airfield. Work would occur within previously disturbed areas.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

County Contact Person: Jason Forga, Senior Civil Engineer Telephone: (619) 956-4800

Date Form Completed: September 10, 2024

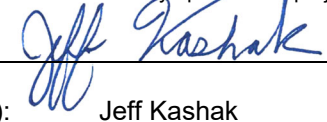
This is to advise that the County of San Diego Department of Public Works (County decision-making body) has approved the above described project on 8/28/24 and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
- Statutory Exemption. C Section:
- Categorical Exemption. G Section: 15301
- G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
- G 15061(b)(1) - Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
- G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt: Section 15301 of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines categorically exempts CEQA review of actions consisting of the "operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use." The key consideration in applying this exemption is whether the proposed action involves expansion of an existing use. The proposed action includes maintenance of existing public airport infrastructure, required to maintain safety of the active airfield. These activities involve negligible or no expansion of use of existing facilities, and accordingly, are exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15301 of CEQA Guidelines.

The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature:  Telephone: (858) 288-5740

Name (Print): Jeff Kashak Title: Environmental Planning Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than nine months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.