

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

RECEIVED

FROM: Public Works Department – Flood Control District

2024 OCT -2 A 9:32

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s) : 133-120-069, 133-151-060, 139-530-008 Case No: Not Applicable

Location: Third and Fourth Supervisorial Districts

Project Title: 2024 Lake Fire Emergency Projects

Project Description:

The Lake Fire began on July 5, 2024. Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency related to the Lake Fire on July 12, 2024 which was ratified by the County Board of Supervisors on July 16, 2024. Watersheds upstream of the communities of Los Olivos, Ballard, and Solvang were significantly burned, creating conditions in which the pending rainy season may lead to flooding, sedimentation, and debris impacts downstream. To respond to the emergency and prepare for actions necessary to prevent and mitigate another emergency, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District proposes three actions in the Alamo Pintado Creek watershed as follows:

- 1) Install and maintain a debris rack on Alamo Pintado Creek at the Midland School Property. The debris rack consists of a standard design used in similar fire-response, with a steel pipe structure installed across the creek channel to capture and slow down flood debris from the burned watershed. The steel pipe structure would be anchored to the substrate with cement slurry. Minor associated excavation, grading, and brushing of vegetation for access would be required. Maintenance of the debris rack may be required, in which accumulated debris would be removed from the rack and hauled away for disposal. Associated maintenance may include creek bank protection, re-grading, erosion control, and sediment management as needed to retain the site in good working order. After a period of approximately 5 years, the debris rack would be removed during the dry season, the creek bed and bank would be re-graded to restore the pre-project conditions, and additional native plants may be installed if necessary to recolonize the areas of temporary disturbance.
- 2) Install and maintain a debris rack on Alamo Pintado Creek at the Chamberlain Ranch Property. The debris rack would consist of the same materials, methods, and maintenance as described above.
- 3) Install K-rail barriers along Alamo Pintado Creek upstream of Highway 246. This action is optional and under consideration. If pursued, the action would involve temporary placement of K-rail barriers along the top of the bank of the creek on the northwest side, in order to manage potential high water flows, and guide water away from the adjacent shopping center and into the drainage channel under the Highway 246 bridge. The K-rail barriers may be left in place for one or more winter seasons, depending on performance.

There is not an insignificant chance of additional storms during the pending winter rainy season, and urgent action is required to respond to the Lake Fire emergency and to prepare for and mitigate potential emergency damages from rain events.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Flood Control District

Exempt Status:

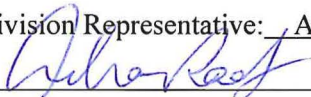
- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

Section 15269(c): Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency that does not have a low probability of occurrence. The Lake Fire began on July 5, 2024. Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency related to the Lake Fire on July 12, 2024 which was ratified by the County Board of Supervisors on July 16, 2024. Burned watersheds typically exhibit higher flood flows and debris-laden water, even in low or moderate rains. The imminent winter rainy season indicates that the probability of a fire or flood-related emergency is not low.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Andrew Raaf Phone #: (805) 722-7250

Department/Division Representative: Andrew Raaf Date: August 18, 2024

Signature: 

Acceptance Date: _____

Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenge

10/2/2024
Date Filed by County Clerk