

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles

12400 Imperial Highway

Norwalk, Ca 90650

**From:** (Public Agency): County of Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Forestry Division, 5823 Rickenbacker Road, Room 123  
Commerce, Ca 90040

(Address)

Project Title: West Ranch High School Live Fire Training

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:

West Ranch High School 26255 Valencia Blvd, Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

Project Location - City: Stevenson Ranch Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The West Ranch Highschool live fire training exercises provide the Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel not only the opportunity to safely and effectively undergo Prescribed Fire and Fire Suppression tactics, but also protects valuable infrastructure, all while creating community awareness to the benefits of prescribed fire. The West Ranch High School lies adjacent to the upmost northern side of the Santa Susana Mountain range, is approximately 65 acres in size, and is categorized by CALFIRE as being within the Local Responsibility Area (LRA), Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). The identified training ground is a 5.5 acre altered cut slope made up of 4, 50 ft wide, sectional stepped dividers, with cement inslope paving that is about 2 ft wide in-between each sectioned area. These stretches of land extend about 2 miles around the school's recreational field, the upper levels have irrigation lines installed and have concrete curbs in place. This identified area, which is on the southwestern edge of the parcel, is mostly inhabited by California Buckwheat, Sand Coprosma, Maltese Star-thistle and some Purple Sage. As described, the concrete layout and moderate slope provide an ideal training opportunity to personnel and as a secondary benefit, will remove invasive thistle and encourage native flora to return. Type 1 Hand Crews will prep the area by thinning vegetation and improve control lines. Fire Apparatus will be operated from existing roads/motorways to pump water for the progressive hose lays. No heavy equipment will be operated off pre-existing roads or previously undisturbed soil surfaces.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Los Angeles Fire Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Los Angeles Fire Department

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 and section number: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project fits under portions of Class 4 Categorical Exemption described in CCR 14 Section 15304 pertaining to minor alterations to the land. County of Los Angeles Fire Department Foresters has conducted a limited environmental review of the project. The exceptions that must be considered by the lead agencies are a) sensitive locations, b) cumulative impacts, c) significant impacts due to unusual circumstances, d) impacts to scenic highways, e) activities within hazard waste sites, f) significant adverse change to significance historical resources (14 CCR Section 15300.2). Field review by LACoFD Forestry staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at Natural Resource Section Office in Pacoima.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Evan Conklin Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (213) 503-6324

**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: Evan Conklin Date: 11/21/24 Title: Deputy Forester

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_