

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of Orange
601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) – District 12
1750 E. 4th Street, Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Project Title: District Fuel Reduction Program – Contract 1

Project Applicant: Caltrans – District 12

Project Location - Specific:

- State Route 1 (Southbound (SB) from PM R0.13 to R0.8).
- Interstate 5 (SB from PM 9.7 to 10.1) and (northbound [NB] from PM 1.7 to 2.8).
- State Route 57 (SB/NB from PM 18.8 to 19.6) and (NB from PM 21.3 to R22.5).
- State Route 74 (westbound [WB] and eastbound [EB] from PM 2.6 to PM 12.7).
- State Route 91 (WB from PM R9.3 to R10.02), (WB/EB from PM R14.6 to R18.9), (WB from PM R15.8 to R16.6)

Project Location - City: Various Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of wildland fires to roadway infrastructure, while maximizing carbon reduction in healthy wildland habitat and minimizing the uncontrolled release of emissions emitted by wildfires. In addition, roadway fuel reduction along highway corridors creates a defensible space which decreases the probability wildfire ignitions originating from vehicles while protecting roadway assets and maximizing traffic flow during normal and emergency operations.

Proposed work includes:

- Vegetation clearance in critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread.
- Use of various Department approved weed and brush control chemicals, including but not limited to pre and post emergent herbicides and surfactants.
- Manual use of lawn mower and weed eaters to trim grass and weeds.
- Removal of dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health and safety
- Selective tree removal (thinning) to improve forest health to withstand wildfire.
- Modification of vegetation adjacent to roads to provide for safer ingress and egress of evacuating residents and responding emergency personnel.
- Reduction of fuel loading around critical infrastructure to maintain continuity of government and other critical services, including, but not limited to fire, police, power, water, sewer, roads, etc.

All work will occur with the existing Caltrans Right of Way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans – District 12

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans – District 12

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 15304(i)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Proposed work does not result in a significant environmental impact.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Liu

Phone number: (949)279-8765

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: Smita Deshpande Date: Jan 13, 2025 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.