



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Columbia Air Attack Base Electrical Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Columbia Air Attack Base, T2N, R16E, Portion of Sec 11, MDBM	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Adam Frese		
ADDRESS	785 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	(209) 754-2706

Project Description An existing electrical line at the Columbia Air Attack Base will be upgraded to facilitate starting the aircraft in the loading pit area. The project will consist of temporarily opening an existing trench that runs between an existing power pole and an existing panel to install a new electrical line. From the panel, an additional existing trench will be temporarily opened to connect the electrical line with an existing cement trench that houses other conduits. The existing trenches to be re-opened cross an area that is generally used for parking and vehicle traffic. The trenches will be opened and re-filled using a backhoe or small excavator. The trench length is approximately 200 feet in length, and will be approximately three feet deep and two feet wide. Additionally, an approximate 16-foot by 20-foot cinder block building will be constructed to house a generator and provide for storage. The building location is in an open area used for parking.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 2 and 3 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 14 CCR §15303: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and §15302 Replacement or Reconstruction. The project consists of constructing a small out building, approximately 16 feet by 23 feet in size at an existing facility, and temporarily opening existing trenches to upgrade an electrical line. A query of the CNDDDB did not reveal the presence of any sensitive species within the project area. The Department of Fish and Wildlife was consulted regarding the project and did not recommend any changes to the project. The project is not located near any watercourses. The Regional Water Quality Control Board was consulted, and did not recommend any change to the project. A CAL FIRE Archaeologist conducted a site visit and survey and did not recommend any changes to the project. The project is minor in scope and is not likely to result in any significant adverse impacts.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 10 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Date: 2/10/16
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection