NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	CAL FIRE Academy Parking Area Extension		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portion of Arroyo Seco Grant, T6N, R9E, MDBM, CAL FIRE Academy in Ione.	**COUNTY**	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Eric Huff		
ADDRESS	4501 State Highway 104 Ione, CA 95640	**PHONE**	(209) 274-5505

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is an extension of a portion of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Academy passenger vehicle parking area. The project area is situated near the Academy entrance from State Highway 104 and is parallel to the existing Academy parking area. This location consists of generally flat terrain with little discernable slope and was previously graded at some point in the past. The area immediately north and west of the project area includes a previously documented unimproved exercise track and is used annually for various heavy equipment training exercises due to its low gradient, open condition. A paved Academy access road runs parallel along the eastern perimeter of the proposed project area while dozens of civilian and government passenger vehicles are parked in the existing lots accessed by this road. The proposed project area is kept mowed and currently serves as unimproved overflow parking for a limited number of students and instructors. All that is required to improve this parking area is the mechanical blading-off of the annual grass vegetation, and surfacing with road rock. When completed, the project would allow for additional parking of up to approximately 80 vehicles.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land 14 CCR § 15304
- [ ] 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

The project fits under the Categorical Exemption from CEQA designated for "Minor Alterations to Land" (Class 4) 14 CCR § 15304. This Exemption Class is appropriate as the proposed project will occur on a previously graded area. The grading proposed for the creation of a new parking area will merely remove the annual grass layer for the purpose of re-surfacing with road rock. This ground disturbing activity is proposed to occur on no more than 1 acre of gently sloped land and is otherwise minor in scope. 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 project location and CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
AUG 01 2014
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku 8/1/14
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection