



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Spanish Ranch Memorial

**PROJECT LOCATION** Intersection of Highway 166 and Chimineas Ranch Road **COUNTY** San Luis Obispo

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** Alan Peters, SLU Unit Forester

**ADDRESS** 635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 **PHONE** 805-903-3406

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Project consists of erecting an 8-foot x 12-foot stone monument with concrete footings and a bronze plaque to memorialize four CDF firefighters killed while fighting the 1979 Spanish Ranch Fire. The stone monument will be approximately 5-6 feet tall and will be located in the northwest corner of the project site. Related work includes installation of a small gravel parking area, measuring approximately .25 - .5 acres, at the intersection of State Highway 166 and Chimineas Ranch Road and fence construction around perimeter of site. The current fence running along the Caltrans right-of-way will be modified to extend around the east, north and west sides of the parking area. The existing gate to Chimineas Ranch Road will be moved from the southeast corner of the project area to the northeast corner of the project area. Parking area will be approximately .25 - .5 acres and will also provide public access point for South Chimineas Unit of the Carrizo Plains Ecological Reserve. Current parking area located .5 miles east of the project location is on a dangerous curve and will be closed. Minimal, if any, scraping or leveling will be necessary and a shallow layer of gravel will be spread for a parking surface.

Project site is adjacent to the north side of State Highway 166 near mile marker 45, approximately 30 miles east of Nipomo and 20 miles northwest of New Cuyama. The site location is near the valley floor on level topography at an elevation of 1,453 feet. Vegetation type at this location is primarily nonnative annual grassland.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: 14 CCR § 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
- 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 the Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines - 14CCR §15303 covering New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

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 San Luis Obispo Unit Headquarters.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 11 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

*Helge Eng*  
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 10/7/16  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection