



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Blanchard Wells

PROJECT LOCATION CAL FIRE Blanchard Station T3S, R15E, Sec 18, MDBM

COUNTY Tuolumne

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

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 San Andreas, CA 95249

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The CAL FIRE Blanchard Fire Station is located at the intersection of Bonds Flat Road and Highway 132 at 2990 CA-132 in Tuolumne County near the community of La Grange. Due to prolonged drought conditions, the station needs to access two existing wells on the property to augment its limited water supply. The station is located on open grassland, and surrounded by blue oak woodland and rural residential development. The station is approximately 950 feet above sea level in elevation. The proposed project will consist of digging two trenches with a back hoe, excavator, or trencher to connect the two wells to the fire station. Water lines and electrical lines will be buried in the trench, which will be back-filled with dirt. Trenches will be 18 inches wide and three feet deep. Total length of trenches will be approximately 1,500 feet. Additionally, two 5,000 gallon water storage tanks will be placed on the site at the approximate location shown on the attached sketch. The approximate time frame to complete the project is two weeks.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 15303(d)-- 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 portions of 14 CCR §15303(d)-- New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. This type of exemption includes the construction and location of a limited number of new, small facilities or structures. The project consists of trenching and installation of water supply pipelines and the addition of two new water tanks that are 5,000 gallons in size. The project is minor in nature, will occur over a two-week time frame and all trenches will be back-filled, and native annual grasses will regrow over the trenches. All potential impacts are less than significant.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 and 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 and traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 5/19/15
 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection