



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Esperanza FFS Water Tank Installation Project

**PROJECT LOCATION** T5N, R13E, Portion of Section 35 MDBM **COUNTY** Calaveras

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

**CONTACT** Gary Whitson

**ADDRESS** 785 Mountain Ranch Road  
 San Andreas, CA 95249

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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

*The capacity of the existing water tank is insufficient and the Esperanza Fire Station has run out of water the past few seasons. An additional 5,000 gallon cement tank will be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing tank. The tank will be approximately 16 feet in diameter by 8 feet tall. The project will consist of preparing a pad for the tank using a backhoe for approximately one half day. The tank form will then be placed with a backhoe and cement trucks will be used to pour the tank. A trench approximately 2 feet wide and 3 feet deep for approximately 250 feet will be necessary to connect the tank to the existing system. The project is expected to take approximately two weeks. The project area is located in Calaveras County approximately 2 miles northeast of the community of Mountain Ranch. The project area is approximately 2,500 feet in elevation above sea level. Vegetation consists of a mixture of native oaks, pines and various planted species. The project area has been developed and the current CAL FIRE Esperanza Forest Fire Station occupies the site. Only minor vegetation removal is expected, and no watercourses exist within 200 feet of the project.*

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 3 *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 portions of 14 CCR 15303- New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures as the proposed project consists of a new water tank and water lines. 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 CAL FIRE Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



*Duane Shintaku* 7/2/15  
 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection