



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** L.A.Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) Seed Bank and Office Repairs

**PROJECT LOCATION** L.A.Moran Reforestation Center, Davis, California **COUNTY** Sacramento

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

**CONTACT** Chris Zimny Deputy Chief Forestry Assistance Programs

**ADDRESS** 1416 9th St **PHONE** 916 -- 712 -- 7329  
Sacramento, California

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project will install an additional seed bank freezer on a new 40 x 60 foot concrete pad adjacent to the existing freezer building. The freezer will be housed in an aluminum structure and connected to the existing seed processing building. The new seed bank and structure will be placed entirely on an area of the LAMRC that is currently paved. The new freezer project includes installing a new propane generator used for emergency power supply. The project will also involve interior improvements to the LAMRC business office, including floor sanding, wall repairs, painting, and removal of mold stained kitchen cabinets, other minor repairs, installing new windows and blinds, and disposal of construction demolition material. Other projects include constructing American with Disability Act compliant access improvements to the office building, repaving existing paved areas, and replacing an open wall roof cover structure where cones are air dried.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 Existing Facilities  
Class 3 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 Class 1, Existing Facilities exemption, because the work being done is consistent with 14 CCR 15301 (a) and (e) and is limited to interior and exterior alterations and additions to existing structure less than 2500 ft.<sup>2</sup>. This project fits under portions of Class 3, Replacement or Reconstruction exemption, because replacement and reconstruction of existing structures will be located on the same site and have the same purpose and capacity.

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. The LAMRC business office has been reviewed for its historical status and is not listed in the Departments Management Plan for Historical Buildings and Archaeological Sites nor on the CAL FIRE list of historic buildings. The documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 1416 9th St. Rm 1540-47.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

RECEIVED

DEC 21 2012

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 12/19/12  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



# California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

**Note:** This report form is intended for use by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed CAL FIRE project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents CAL FIRE's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the Department.

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<b>Project Name:</b>	L.A. Moran Reforestation Center Seed Bank and Office Repairs
<b>Project Number:</b>	None
<b>Program Type:</b>	Forestry Assistance/Nursery Special Repairs
<b>CAL FIRE Unit:</b>	SAC HQ
<b>County:</b>	Sacramento
<b>Acres:</b>	<1
<b>Legal Location:</b>	Davis , CA Portion Section 7 , Township 8 South, Range 2 East, MD Base and Meridian
<b>Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s):</b>	Davis Quadrangle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Vicinity Map Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Location Map Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos Attached	

<b>Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:</b>		
Would the project result in:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
alterations to a watercourse (DFG - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
other: Yolo Solano AQMD Stationary Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:</b>		

<b>Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):</b>
<p>The project is located at the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) in Davis, California on State property approximately three miles southeast of downtown Davis, California. The property is located on 29 acres of a state facility that was used to grow conifer tree seedlings. CAL FIRE Davis mobile equipment center is also located on the property. Currently the nursery area is being used solely for storing tree cones, extracting seed from the cones, and storing seed in a seed bank.</p> <p>The project is located completely within paved areas and existing buildings in the nursery area. The project consists of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) installing a new seed bank refrigeration system and backup generator;</li> <li>2) interior repairs and window replacement to the LAMRC office building and adjacent storage/office building;</li> <li>3) providing American with Disability Act (ADA) access improvements to the office building (if funding is available);</li> <li>4) repaving existing paved areas (if funding is available); and</li> <li>5) replacing an open wall roof cover structure where cones are air dried (if funding is available).</li> </ol> <p>The Seed Bank freezer expansion portion of the project will construct a 40 foot by 60 foot concrete pad, install a new 35 x 48 foot seed storage freezer, install a new propane back-up emergency generator for the refrigeration system, and erect a metal building structure to house the new seed freezer. The work is being done adjacent to the existing seed lab building where the existing seed bank is located. The two buildings will be connected. Other repairs are being done to the seed lab building door and garage access. All construction work will be on existing paved area. A trench footing will be constructed for the new slab being poured for the new seed freezer. As part of the project, three portable auxiliary refrigeration units are no longer needed due the new seed bank and will be removed. The existing seed bank refrigerated storage facility will remain functional for cone storage uses that were previously provided by the portable auxiliary refrigeration units. The project includes removal of</p>

demolition construction debris.

The LAMRC business office is being repaired is an older 1950s building and is not listed among the historical building on the CAL FIRE historic building list. Repairs to this building are solely related to the interior repairs, window replacement, remodeling of the kitchen area, kitchen cabinets and counter replacement, and floor repairs. CAL FIRE Tech Services, who is conducting the work for all projects, is also evaluating the need for ADA access to the front of the office. If funding is available, a ramp and accessible doorway may be installed in the vicinity of the existing concrete sidewalk leading to the office door. Materials being selected for the repairs are to be consistent with the existing character, architecture, and construction materials in the office building.

Other repair projects may be conducted if funding becomes available. This includes repaving of selected portions of the existing nursery asphalt driveway areas, and removing and replacing an open wall roof cover structure where cones are air dried. The paving project could cover 10,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> of existing asphalt or concrete driveway areas. The removal and replacement of the cone drying structure involves removal of the existing 100 x 30 foot roofing structure and support posts. Structure would be replaced with a new metal structure building similar to the existing structure.

For all projects, there will be a virtually no disturbance to existing vegetative land. All work will be conducted on existing asphalt paved area.

## Environmental Impact Analysis

### Aesthetics

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project will not result in a noticeable alteration to aesthetics since the project proposes to update existing facilities which won't change the existing vistas. The facility is generally closed to the general public.

### Agriculture and Forest Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Yes  No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.

Yes  No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?

Yes  No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land/timberland to non-forest use?

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on timberland or agricultural land. It is confined to the existing facility grounds.

### Air Quality

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Yes  No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below: No significant airborne pollutants (PM 10, PM 2.5, ozone, exhaust oxides etc) are expected to be discharged during the repair project. The only pollutants expected to be emitted are from equipment exhaust for machinery used to deliver material, construct the seed bank building; or repave the existing pavement. Water is available on site for any dust abatement needs.

The component of the project related to installation of a new backup-emergency propane powered generator will require and be consistent with Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District Stationary Source Permits. The permits required include "Authority to Construct" and "Permit to Operate". The permits require an emission evaluation and application of Best Available Control Technology practices that minimize emissions.

### Biological Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Yes  No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?

Yes  No Was a current NDDDB review completed? Results discussed below:

Yes  No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project will not affect any stream, watercourse, wildlife, or plant species as the project is being conducted on existing paved areas and within buildings. The existing buildings were surveyed for any nesting bird structures or other signs of

wildlife and none were found.

### Cultural Resources

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Yes  No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:

Yes  No Was a CAL FIRE Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:

Yes  No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:

Yes  No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project area was surveyed for cultural resources by a CAL FIRE Associate State Archaeologist. The Department's Management Plan for Historical Buildings and Archaeological Sites was reviewed and it was determined that there are no CAL FIRE listed historic buildings being affected.

### Geology and Soils

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The new projects will be conducted on existing paved areas and within existing buildings. No areas with native vegetation will be disturbed. The only soil disturbance involved may be construction of new footings for the concrete slab being constructed in an area where there is now existing asphalt concrete.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

Yes  No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

Yes  No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:

Yes  No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

The component of the proposed project related to construction activities will not generate significant GHG emissions because of the small size and limited scope of the area to be affected, and its short duration. Greenhouse gas emissions are expected from burning of gasoline and diesel in equipment engines during the building construction and paving. However, operations will be limited to a short time frame and will not lead to long term increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Given a fuel consumption emission conversion of 8.81 KG/GAL and the project consuming 30 gallons of gasoline, the volume of emissions is 0.265 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Similar or less levels of diesel and electricity emissions will occur during the construction project. Together, these levels of emission are limited due to the nature of the project and no significant effects will occur.

The project includes installation of a 85 KW (114 HP) backup-emergency propane power generator which will have GHG emissions. The use and emissions from the back-up generator will only occur when city power is non operational. Therefore, the emergency generators will only be used when power is out and monthly for a few hours to ensure testing of the back up system. The generators will require and be consistent with Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District Stationary Source Permits. The permits required include "Authority to Construct" and "Permit to Operate". The permits require an emission evaluation and application of Best Available Control Technology practices that minimize GHG emissions. Emissions from the new generator is likely to result in a net emission reduction for the facility due to the removal of the older 35 KW propane seed freezer generators, removal of the three portable auxiliary refrigeration units, and replacement with more efficient, newer technology.

The usage of electricity is expected to slightly increase due to the addition of the new seed freezer. These emissions will be offset by removal of the three portable auxiliary refrigeration units and improved energy efficiencies resulting from removal of the older single pane windows in the office building and installation of new energy saving windows and blinds. Additionally, CAL FIRE Tech Services is evaluating a solar electric generation system that would provide the majority of power for the new and existing refrigeration systems. Therefore, the net increase in electricity and corresponding GHG emissions, if any, are not expected to result in significant GHG emissions and no significant effects will occur.

### Hazards and Hazardous Materials

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Hazardous waste could be generated by demolition of the cone shed, repairs made to the office building, and decommissioning of the portable trailer refrigeration units. It is expected that only small quantities of these material would be

generated. Demolition and office repair work could generate minor amounts (less than 220 pounds) of asbestos or lead painted waste materials. This material will be disposed of in accordance with Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management procedures for Business Hazardous Wastes. Portable trailer refrigeration units being decommissioned could contain Freon hazardous waste. Freon from these units will be recovered and disposed by a certified refrigeration company.. There will be no Freon released to the environment.

Temporary hazards will be present during the construction aspects of the project. The primary hazards involves 12-18 inch deep open trench footings used for the concrete slabs for the new freezer. Open trenches will be present for a short duration of time (one week) prior to filling the trenches with concrete. Open trenches will have appropriate safety barriers. No public access, other than construction workers and CAL FIRE staff, will be allowed on the LAMRC during construction.

#### Hydrology and Water Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 Yes  No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?

#### Land Use and Planning

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:  
 The cone shed demolition project will dispose of materials consistent with Yolo County Construction and Demolition Ordinance Section 6-16.01, "Construction And Demolition Debris Recycling And Diversion Ordinance". The ordinance requires demolitions over 1500 square feet to obtain a diversion permit and divert from land fill at least 50% of the debris.

#### Mineral Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

#### Noise

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:  
 There will be a temporary increase in noise in the project area during construction. The nearest residences are approximately 800 feet from the located near the nursery grounds. Due to the distance from homes and the short duration of project work (intermittent construction noise for a 30 day period), the temporary increase in noise will result in only a negligible and temporary noise impact.

#### Population and Housing

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

#### Public Services

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

#### Recreation

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

#### Transportation/Traffic

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:  
 There may be a slight and temporary increase in traffic on Chiles Rd. during construction due to transporting material to the site. This would be no more than a negligible impact and still within the framework to fit as an exempt project.

#### Utilities and Service Systems

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
 This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

**Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:**

The LAMRC office building is not on the CAL FIRE historic list of building but the intent is to retain the historic character of the building with all improvements. Replacement windows and kitchen cabinets will be selected to be consistent with the time period of other material which were used in the building's original construction.

**Mandatory Findings of Significance:**

<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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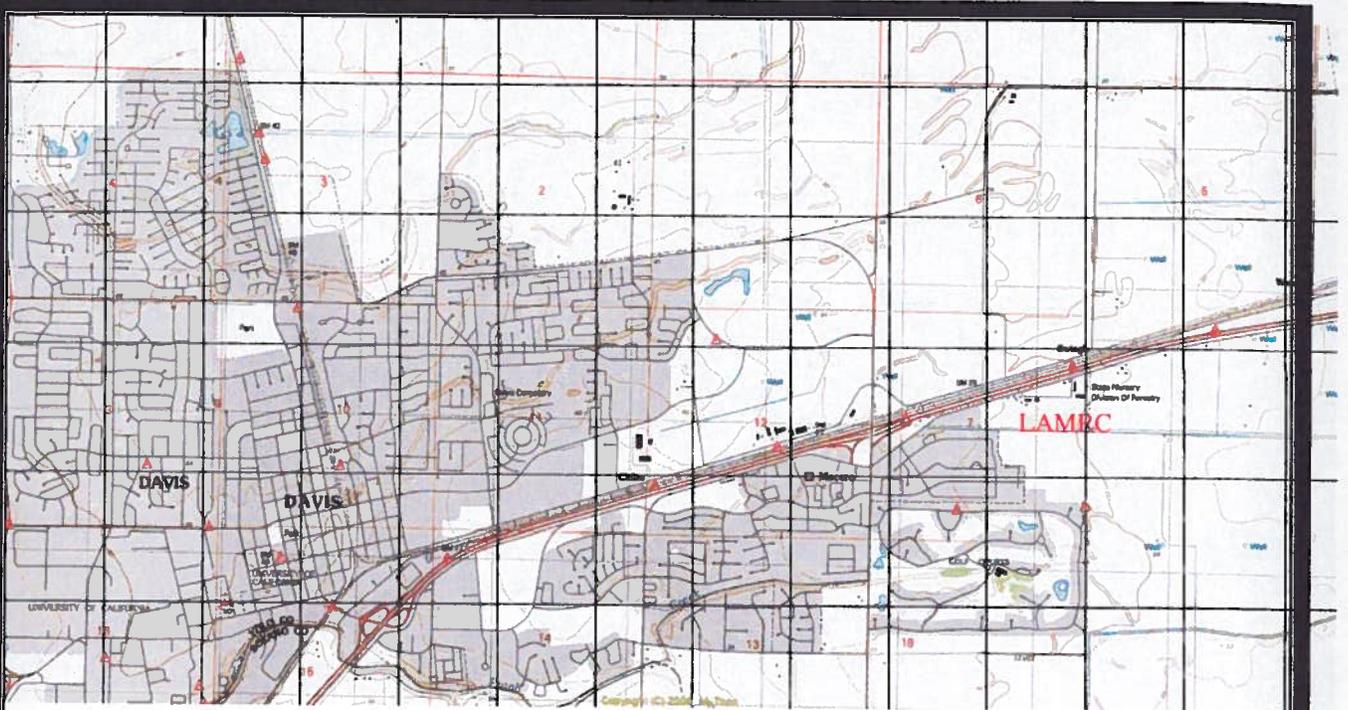
**Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):**

This project fits under portions of three classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: This project fits under portions of Class 1, Existing Facilities exemption, because the work being done is consistent with 14 CCR 15301 (a) and (e) and is limited to interior and exterior alterations, additions to existing structure less than 2500 ft.<sup>2</sup>, repaving existing pavement, and replacing to the same footprint an existing open wall roofed cone shed structure.

**Conclusion:**

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. The Department considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

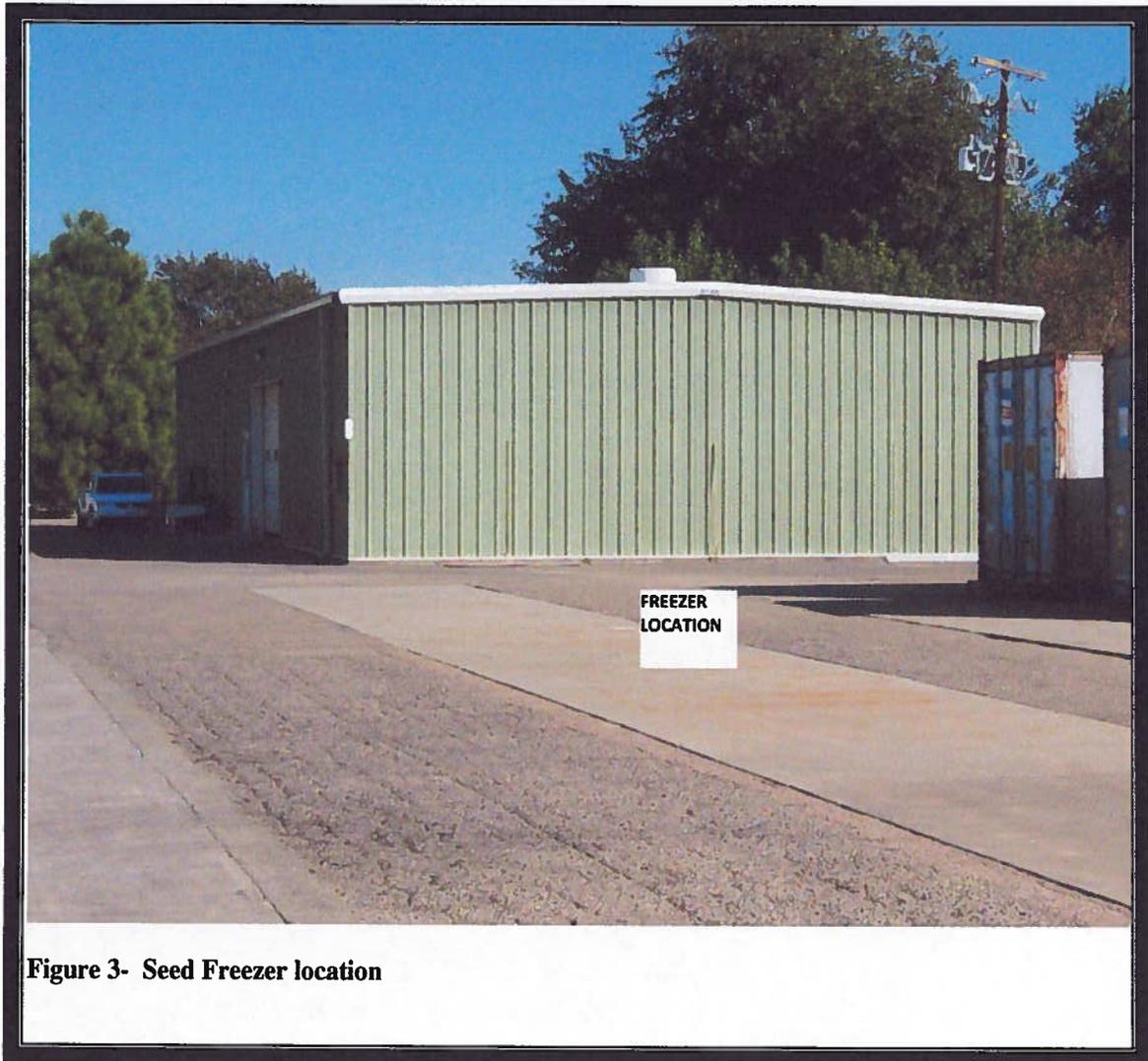
After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.



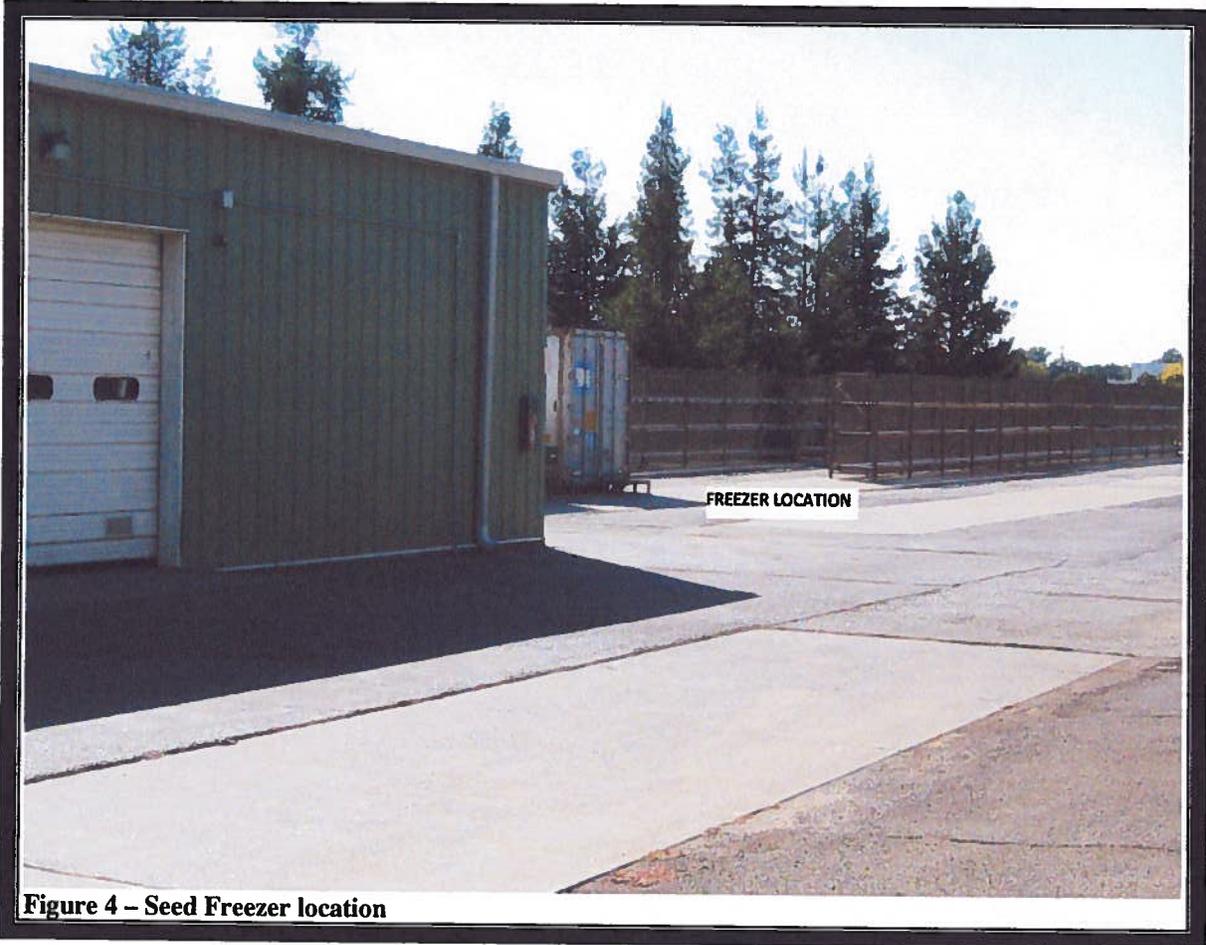
**Figure 1- Project Vicinity and USGS Map**



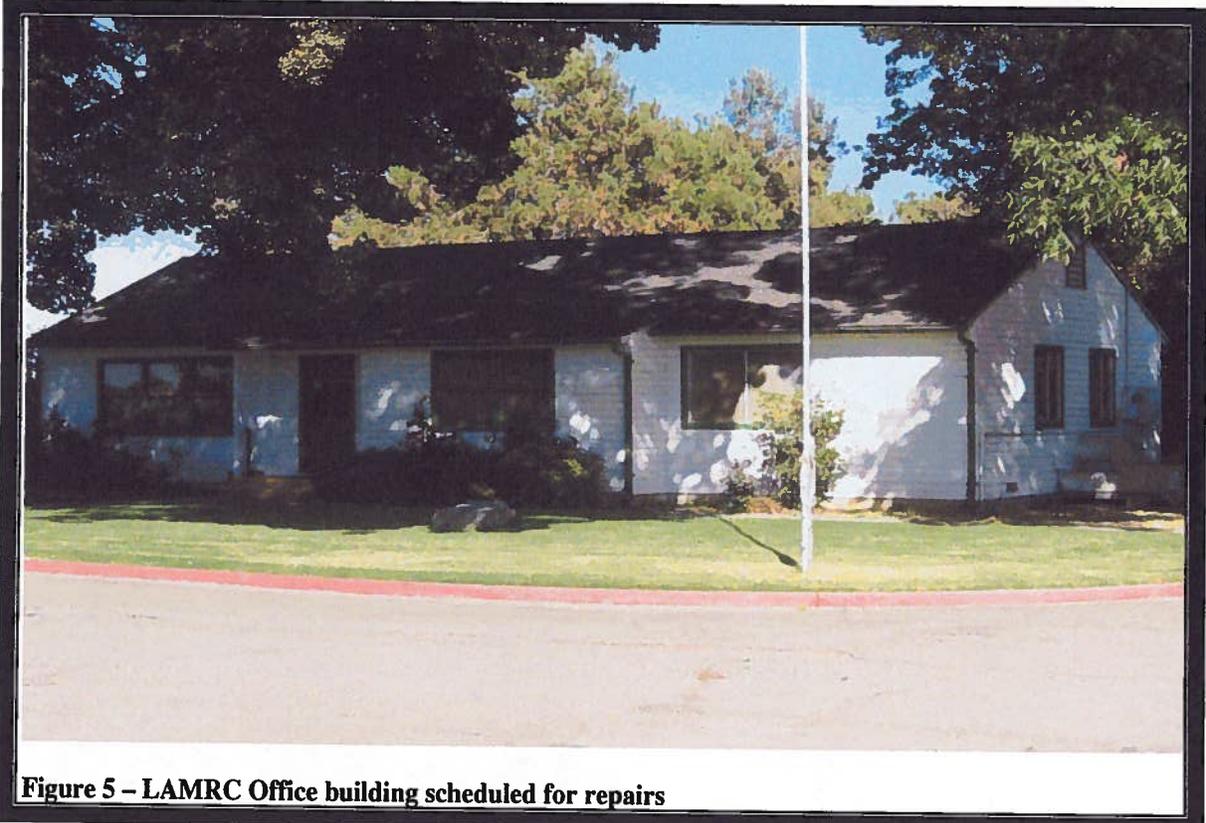
Figure 2- Satellite site map



**Figure 3- Seed Freezer location**



**Figure 4 – Seed Freezer location**



**Figure 5 – LAMRC Office building scheduled for repairs**