



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019028513

PROJECT TITLE: L. A. Moran Reforestation Center Drone Aerial Surveys

PROJECT LOCATION: 5800 Chiles Rd., Davis, 95618

COUNTY Yolo

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire protection

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Project Description

The project involves Fresno State University use of drones on property owned by CAL FIRE. The subject property is the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) which is located at 5800 Chiles Road in Davis, California. The LAMRC property is approximately 40 to 60 acres in size and is predominately undeveloped

Fresno State University has received grant funding to use small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), or drones, to test mapping and surveying protocols and has asked CAL FIRE to partner with them to acquire data that can be shared. Approximately 30 metal targets would be placed in the ground within the project boundary. The targets consist of a one foot long post buried two inches below the ground surface with a removable circular target that attaches to each post during drone flights. The flights would take place approximately one day every 2-3 weeks for about a year.

EXEMPTION STATUS

Categorical Exemption: Class 4 §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)

Class 6 §15306 (Information Collection)

- 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 three classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) and Class 6 (Information Collection). The project activities will all occur within previously disturbed areas. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are minor in scope.

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 or 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at LAMRC.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 26 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

For  Date 2/25/19
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection