



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019090378

PROJECT TITLE	Columbia Air Attack Base Helicopter Pad Replacement Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Columbia Air Attack Base, T2N, R16E, Portion of Sec 11, MDBM	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Adam Frese		
ADDRESS	785 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	(209) 754-2706

Project Description The existing cement helicopter landing pad at the Columbia Air Attack Base needs to be expanded to accommodate larger rotary winged aircraft. The existing cement pad and lawn will be removed using a tracked excavator, loader and dump truck. A new cement pad, approximately 100-feet by 100-feet in size, will be poured in the same area as the existing cement pad and lawn. The demolition phase of the project is expected to take approximately one week. The construction phase of the project is expected to take approximately two weeks. Tree removal will not be required within the footprint of the construction; however, some trees adjacent to the new pad may need to be felled for adequate clearance for aircraft. The project is not adjacent to any watercourses. The topography is flat. The Columbia Air Attack Base is located near the town of Columbia in Tuolumne County. The airport is approximately 2,120 feet above sea level in elevation. Surrounding vegetation would best be described as oak woodland, with scattered Ponderosa and California Gray Pine.

- EXEMPTION STATUS**
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 2 15302 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 14 CCR §15302: Replacement or Reconstruction. The new cement pad will be in the same location as the existing pad, and will have substantially the same purpose of the existing pad. The project is not anticipated to have any impacts on biological resources. The project is not near any watercourses, and will not have any impacts on water quality. A CAL FIRE Archaeologist was consulted, and the project is not anticipated to have any impacts on cultural resources.


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 Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas at 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 13 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Protection and Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date: 9/9/19