

135 Portola Road Notice of Exemption, continued

The overall project is a proposed modernization of existing operations to comply with Department of Homeland Security requirements, modernize fire station safety measures and accessibility code requirements, and to upgrade sleeping accommodations for the current staffing at the facility.

Concerns about the presence of contamination based upon a historic underground storage tank (UST) have been addressed in that the County of San Mateo has issued a closure letter which found no further remediation required. To the extent there is any residual contamination located on the property prior to issuance of the grading permit, applicant will test soil and groundwater and employ best management practices to manage and dispose of any contaminated water and/or soil.

Removal of a large Coast Redwood Tree (59.8" DBH) is appropriate in that: (1) tree is in poor health condition due to moderate expression of drought stress and structural defects, (2) tree is susceptible to failure during inclement weather such as high heat or heavy winds; this failure could target the fire station or Portola Road, and (3) tree size and growth rate results in some risk of foundation damage to station with expanding root system.

Accordingly, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment and the project is thus exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3).