

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s) : Temporary Disposal Site: 059-120-003 Case No: N/A

Location: 4400 Cathedral Oaks Road

Project Title: Post Thomas Fire/1.9 Debris Flow/Carpinteria Salt Marsh Sediment Disposal for Pre-Winter Protective Measures

Project Description: Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sediment is being removed from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh under routine permits in anticipation of the upcoming winter and the heightened probability of additional sediment being delivered through the system from the burned watersheds that have not recovered from the Thomas Fire. Sediment will be trucked to a temporary stockpile site on the Cathedral Oaks Campus and offered to contractors.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: Section 15269 subsection (c): Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary)

The December 2018 Thomas Fire and subsequent January 2018 Debris Flow impacted several watersheds across the south coast of Santa Barbara County. On Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for Santa Barbara County. On Dec 8<sup>th</sup> the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local Emergency for Santa Barbara County, and on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> President Trump proclaimed a Presidential Declaration of Emergency for Santa Barbara County. The Proclamation of Local Emergency has been ratified on a monthly basis and remains in place. Recovery efforts are ongoing and there continues to be an extremely high probability of increased runoff and large volumes of sediment and debris this coming winter that can cause flooding and threaten the public health and safety of the citizens along the South Coast. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting a 70% chance of El Nino conditions during the coming winter. Carpinteria Salt Marsh was desilted under Emergency Permits between January and April 2018. However, storms in March of 2018 transported additional sediment into both Santa Monica and Franklin Creeks that needs to be removed in advance of the winter season to prevent or mitigate an emergency. Sediment from Carpinteria Salt Marsh cannot be deposited in the ocean under routine permits, therefore a temporary upland stockpile location is needed. Several other viable stockpile options have been considered and eliminated, therefore the County-owned Cathedral Oaks Campus is being utilized for temporary stockpiling of dredged material. Receiving a report on potential actions of the Flood Control related to emergency beach disposal is not a project and

if emergency permits are necessary, they would separately comply with CEQA. Directing Flood Control and General Services to return for an update on the acquisition process of a long-term disposal is not a project and the acquisition itself of a long-term disposal site would separately comply with CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Maureen Spencer Phone #: (805) 568-3437

Department/Division Representative: Maureen Spencer Date: September 11, 2018

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Date Posted at P&D

Date Filed by County Clerk