



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: SSSRA - Laser Strainmeter (03/04-CD-21)
LOCATION: Salton Sea State Recreation Area **COUNTY:** Imperial
DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

The project consists of installing a laser strainmeter for the purpose of earthquake research. The strainmeter will be within the footprint of a temporary strainmeter that was removed in 2002, and will cross over a currently operating strainmeter. The new construction includes two 25-foot long shipping containers that will be partially buried (two feet deep) 400 meters apart and connected with 6" diameter vacuum pipe supported by removable stakes. A shallow trench will be excavated along the side of each container for wiring, and some minor repairs will also be done to the existing equipment. District Resource Ecologist and Paleontologist report that there will be no impacts to biological and paleontological resources. An Archaeologist will monitor the excavation, although the site has been surveyed and no nearby cultural resources have been found.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation
NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Colorado Desert

EXEMPT STATUS:

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- Statutory Exemption (Section)
- Categorical Exemption
 Class: 3, 6 Section(s): 15303 15306

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

No potential for significant impacts to the environment is anticipated.
An archaeologist will ensure avoidance of significant impacts to cultural resources.
Consists of construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities (Class 3)
Project will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. (class 6)

CONTACT: Tina Townsend, District Env. Coordinator **PHONE NO.:** (760) 767-4037
California Department of Parks & Recreation **EMAIL:** ttownsend@parks.ca.gov
Colorado Desert District Headquarters
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Mat Fuzie
Acting District Superintendent
Colorado District

4/27/04
Date