

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of: Orange

**From:** (Public Agency): Foothill/Eastern Transportation  
Corridor Agency  
125 Pacifica, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 96218

(Address)

Project Title: Defensible Space at Toll Plaza Buildings

Project Applicant: Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agencies (F/ETCA)

Project Location - Specific: State Routes 133, 241 and 261

Project Location - City: Multiple Cities and Unincorporated County Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project consists of ongoing thinning and pruning of vegetation at the F/ETCA Tomato Springs, Orange Grove, Windy Ridge, and Irvine Ranch toll plazas on State Routes 133, 241 and 261, in accordance with the Orange County Fire Authority Guidelines, to reduce the combustible fuel mass of the remaining plants to maintain defensible space between buildings and the abutting wildland to reduce fire danger. Specific activities include trimming or removing plants to create the recommended vertical and horizontal separation between them; removing dead and dying plant material, dry leaves, twigs and small branches; string trimming annual weeds and grasses down to a maximum height of four (4) inches, remove cut material; removing vegetation found on the Undesirable Plant List and replant using drought-tolerant, fire-resistant plants; and eliminating combustible mulch within five (5) feet of a structure or reduce vegetation cover to below two (2) feet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1 Existing Facilities Section 15304 (i)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15304(i) *Minor Alteration of Land* because the project involves the removal of vegetation for the purpose of fuel management. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply. There is no reasonable possibility that the project would have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Doug Feremenga Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-754-3496

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

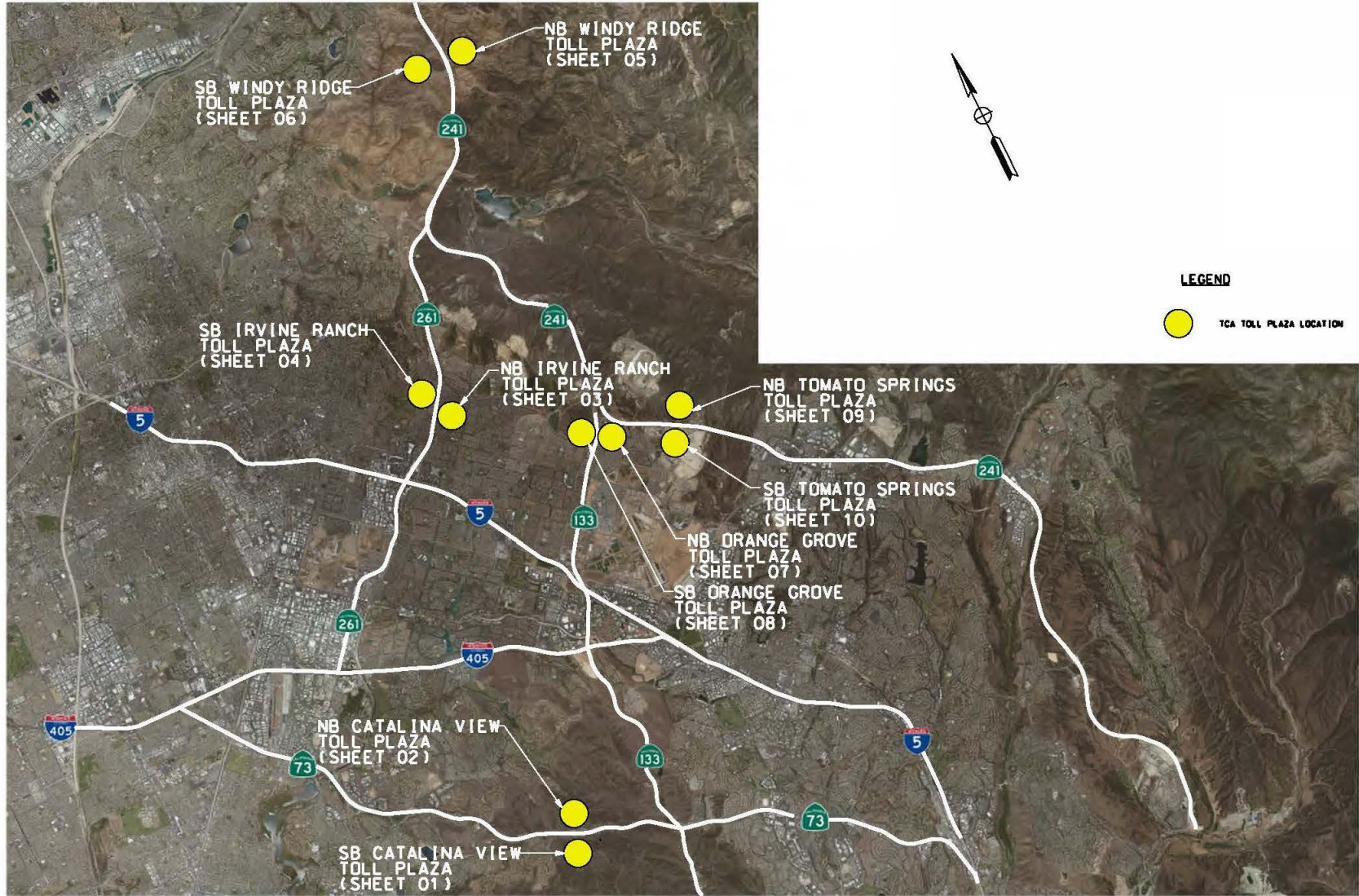
Title: Manager, ENV Planning

Signature:  Date: 11.02.2022

Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY