NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Big Trees Village Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Big Trees Village Subdivision Township 5N; Range 15E; Sec. 12 MDBM	**COUNTY**	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jan Bray, Calaveras Area Forester Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters	**PHONE**	(209) 754-2708
ADDRESS	785 Mt. Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is located adjacent to the community of Big Trees Village in Calaveras County. It is on property owned by the Big Trees Village Homeowners Association; it is approximately 18 acres in size. CAL FIRE hand crews will reduce ladder fuels and concentrations of surface fuels by cutting, piling, burning and/or chipping. Green trees less than 10 inches in diameter at breast height as well as brush will be removed to create a shaded fuel break condition. Dead trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at breast height may also be felled as a safety precaution. Target residual stem spacing will be approximately 10 feet between live crowns. Residual trees may be pruned up to 8 feet in height from the ground. The project objective is to improve stand health by increasing growing space for residual trees and to protect homes, maintain evacuation routes and protect natural resources by reducing fuel loading on the Big Trees Village property. Minimal soil disturbance will occur. No activity will take place in watercourse protection zones and there will be no stream crossings constructed. No known occurrences or habitat of threatened, rare or endangered species occur in or adjacent to the project area. No activity will take place on any steep pitches over 50% in slope or when soils are saturated.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 14 CCR §15304 Minor Alterations to Land;
  7 14 CCR §15307 Protection of Natural Resources
- [ ] 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 the above-listed two Categorical Exemptions authorized in the CEQA Guidelines. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions exist which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. CAL FIRE 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 CAL FIRE is kept on file at the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas, Attention Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
SEP 29 2011
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder 9/28/11

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection