NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Chico Air Attack Base Retardant Color Test		
PROJECT LOCATION	Two small project areas totaling 2 acres located within the mountainous region approximately 25 miles north and east of the city of Chico, CA. Section 9, T25N, R3E and Section 34, T26N, R3E, MDBM.	**COUNTY**	Butte
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Kenneth Kendrick, Forester II		
ADDRESS	*CAL FIRE* Butte Unit 176 Nelson Ave, Oroville CA 95954	**PHONE**	530-872-6334 office 530-370-5107 cell

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a one time project involving a color visibility test of aerial fire retardant material. The retardant would be applied by a *CAL FIRE* air tanker onto two small test plots. The first is a one acre closed canopied forest and the second is a one acre closed canopied brush vegetation type in a remote mountain area north and east of Chico Air Attack Base (CAAB) located in Chico, California. The purpose of this project is to test nine (9) different shades of retardant to determine the most visible and effective coloration. There will be nine drop lines on each of the two test areas. Individual drops will be approximately thirty (30) feet in width and one hundred (100) feet in length covering from one half (1/2) to three quarters (3/4) acre in total area per unit. Total project area for both units will be 2 acres or less. The drop sites are located on clearly identifiable ridge tops 1600 feet or more from any Class II and 2500 feet or more from any Class I watercourse. These areas have been flown extensively by helicopter followed up by ground survey by the Butte Unit Forester. Drop lines and project area were identified by Latitude and Longitude utilizing current state of the art Global Positioning System hardware to insure controlled positive material placement. A Confidential Archaeological report has been written by Butte Unit Environmental Coordinator and is available at Unit headquarters for review by authorized persons. The report is not available for general public review. The sites are within a location of controlled public access and use.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption — Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land; Class 7 §15307 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources; & Class 8 §15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
- [ ] 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 within the definitions of the above-listed three Categorical Exemptions authorized in the CEQA Guidelines. Field review and office research conducted by CAL FIRE Resource Management staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department 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 the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Butte Unit, Resource Management, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, California, CA 95954, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
OCT 04 2012
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder 10/3/12
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director — Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection