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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	The CHY Company Hand Crew Training Site		
PROJECT LOCATION	Placer County APN: 072-191-019, 47.2 Ac., 072-191-020, 12.79 Ac. Located in Section 33, T., 14 N., R. 9 E., MDBM	**COUNTY**	Placer
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Cal Fire – NEU, Steve Garcia		
ADDRESS	13760 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA. 95603	**PHONE**	(530) 889-0111 x-139

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area consists of 60 acres of commercial timberland between 1900' and 2100' elevation. The project is limited to hand line construction using chainsaws and hand tools. Brush strips from 6-10 feet wide will be installed, followed by a 4 to 6 foot wide scrape to bare mineral soil. All trees greater than 6" diameter will be left uncut and no more than 1.5% of the natural vegetation on site will be disturbed in any given year. It is expected that re-vegetation will occur naturally within 2 years. No work of any kind will occur within 100' of a watercourse. Training will occur annually in the spring, prior to fire season. Limited disposal of some cut material will occur by lopping, scattering, chipping, or piling and burning. The project area is covered by an approved timber harvest plan and has been reviewed by Cal Fire for timber operations. Timber operations have not commenced and are not expected until the summer of 2012.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 – 14 CCR§ 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- [ ] 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 involves the use of hand tools only on a very limited area. The resulting condition will be only slightly altered from the existing conditions of the land. Vegetation will be only slightly modified in terms of age distribution on limited areas, less than 1.5% of the total project area, creating greater diversity of age classes and less stagnant canopy. A CAL FIRE Registered Professional Forester has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Game , conducted an environmental review of the project and determined, pursuant to 14 CCR § 15300.2 (c) and (f) that no historical resources or unusual circumstances exist which would prevent the use of a Categorical Exemption.

Field review by CAL FIRE 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 NEU Headquarters in Auburn, California.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
APR 11 2012
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder 4/10/12
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection