

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Castle Rock Station Fire Investigation Training		
	NE1/4, NE1/4 Section 34; Township 2S Range 4E; MDB&M		
PROJECT LOCATION	APN # 209-110-11. Site Address: 25825 Hansen Road USGS 7 1/2' Quadrangle Map: Midway	COUNTY	Santa Clara
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Edgar Orre		
ADDRESS	Division Chief; Santa Clara Unit, CAL FIRE 15670 S. Monterey Street Morgan Hill CA 95037	PHONE	(408) 779-2121

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) proposes to continue conducting periodic training burns in a field adjacent to CAL FIRE's Castle Rock Forest Fire Station near Tracy, California. This project is a continuation of a Categorical Exemption that expired in July 2016 (SCH # 2011078093). The field has a gross area of 5.68 acres but less than five acres has been burned in the spring each year since 2011. The triangular shaped field is bounded by CAL FIRE's Castle Rock Forest Fire Station and Tracy City Fire Department Station to the north, Hansen Road to the East and the Delta Mendota Aqueduct to the South and West. Hansen Road is a two lane paved County Road and the aqueduct is concrete lined with an access road on each side. This privately-owned parcel is fenced around its perimeter, undeveloped, level, and dominated by annual grasses. No trees, structures, watercourses or utilities are present. Public access is not permitted. This parcel was heavily disturbed by historic agricultural use but is now zoned Industrial. Additional fuelbreaks may be constructed by mowing, hand tools or dozers scraping surface vegetation only. No excavation shall be performed. The landowner allows State and local government fire departments to conduct training burns in part to satisfy County mandated weed abatement. No protected status flora or fauna have been observed at this location. No sensitive cultural resources have been observed at this location. All applicable burn permits issued from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will be obtained prior to commencement of burning.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4; §15301 Existing Facilities
Class 4; §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
Class 33; §15333. Small Habitat Restoration projects
- 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 meets the requirements for a Categorical Exemption to CEQA under Sections §15301, §15304 §15333. An environmental review has confirmed that no exceptions listed under §15300.2 have been found to apply. This review included on-the-ground field inspection. The vegetation treatment is confined to annual and perennial grasses and forbs. No sensitive cultural resources are expected to exist on-site due to past agricultural management activities. This project review 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 is kept on file at Santa Clara Unit Headquarters in Morgan Hill.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 30 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 5/24/17
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection