NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Castlerock Training Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	NE ¼ of Section 34, T2S, R4E, MDBM. Approximately five miles west of Tracy, CA.	**COUNTY**	San Joaquin
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Shana Jones, Division Chief		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit HQ 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037	**PHONE**	(408) 472-1603

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) proposes to periodically burn-off a 9 acre piece of property to eliminate a fire threat at CAL FIRE's Castlerock Forest Fire Station. The proposed burn plot is immediately adjacent to the Castlerock CAL FIRE station, the Tracy City Fire Department Station, the Delta Mendota Aqueduct, Schulte Road and Hansen Road. The 9 acre burn would also be used as a training burn to train CAL FIRE Firefighters in the proper procedures of prescribed fire techniques.

The topography of the project area is flat and vegetation consists entirely of annual grasses. The project site is zoned industrial There are no water features within the 9 acre proposed burn area. The project area is surrounded by a concrete aqueduct, paved roads and two fire stations. The project area is free of any threatened and endangered plants or animals. CAL FIRE Type 3 engines, and Local Government Type 3 engines will be used for the training burn and will be present for all burning activities. All applicable burn permits issued from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will be obtained prior to commencement of burning. The first of these burns is planned for late July, 2011, and repeat burns may take place every two years or so. This NOE covers five years of burning. CAL FIRE shall conduct additional environmental review in July 2016, to determine the adequacy of this programmatic NOE and take any additional actions that might be appropriate at that time, including the possibility of continuing the use of this NOE for an additional 5 year period.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (i) 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 fits under portions of Class 4 §15304 (i) pertaining to Minor Alterations to Land. 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 CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Headquarters, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2011
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

7/11/11

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