



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Cuesta Camp County-Wide Exempt Conservation & Training Projects (Cutting & Chipping)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	SLU County-Wide	<b>COUNTY</b>	San Luis Obispo
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Alan Peters, Unit Forester		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	635 N. Santa Rosa San Luis Obispo, CA 93405	<b>PHONE</b>	805-543-4244

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION - CUTTING & CHIPPING**

The objective of these projects is the reduction in fire hazard. Depending on the vegetation present the level of treatment can vary from the removal of all shrubs to the creation of a shaded fuelbreak where residual trees and shrubs are spaced out 10 – 15 feet apart. The most common level of treatment involves creation of a fuelbreak where 1/2 to 2/3 of the existing vegetation is removed within the designated areas. The most common fuelbreak width for these projects is 100-150 feet wide. Roadside treatments are also common and involve removal of vegetation within the road right-of-way for a width of 10-50 feet on each side. In average years, less than 80 acres are treated county-wide by this method. Crews sometimes chip vegetation immediately after cutting but more commonly, vegetation is “staged” or stacked in a manner that will facilitate efficient chipping at a later time. Depending on the project, chips are disposed of both on and off site as agreed.

No heavy equipment use is authorized under this document. A CAL FIRE Archaeologist will review the project to prevent impacts to cultural resources. A query of the Natural Diversity Database will be performed for each project area to check for the presence of listed plants or animals. DFG will be consulted for input as necessary on individual projects. Chips will not be deposited within the standard width of a watercourse or lake protection zone.

This exemption will be reevaluated every five years.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- |                                     |   |                     |                           |                                 |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption                         | Type/Section: Class | 15301 Existing Facilities | 15304 Minor Alterations to Land | 15308 Actions Taken for Protection of the Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Statutory Exemption (state code section):     |                     |                           |                                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)             |                     |                           |                                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))   |                     |                           |                                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) |                     |                           |                                 |   |

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

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 the contact address above.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



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