



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - TRAINING

This project method includes all of the individual training sites that are utilized county-wide by hand crews at Cuesta CC. Specifically, projects are designed to instruct crew members in the proper use of numerous hand tools including chainsaws, shovels, Pulaski's, McLeod's, brush hooks and axes. Crews are trained to use these tools to create firebreaks of the appropriate dimensions based on expected use and on vegetative conditions. All slash created is piled and burned in accordance with a burn permit issued by APCD. Less than 50 acres per year are treated in this manner county-wide utilizing 5-6 separate training sites.

Training sites occur primarily on steep slopes, densely vegetated with brush. Minimal soil disturbance is caused by the 2'-4' wide "scrape", where all organic matter is removed from the fireline. No heavy equipment use is authorized under this document. A CAL FIRE Archaeologist and the Unit Forester will review the project to prevent impacts to cultural resources. A query of the Natural Diversity Database will be performed for each project site to check for the presence of listed plants or animals. DFG and the CCRWQCB will be consulted as necessary for input on an individual project basis. Piles are not burned within the standard width of a watercourse or lake protection zone.

This exemption will be reevaluated every five years.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 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

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 7/18/11
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection