NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Cuesta Camp County-Wide Exempt Conservation & Training Projects (Weedeating)		
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 - WEEDEATING

This project method includes all individual project sites county-wide where weedeating is performed by hand crews from Cuesta CC. Specifically, these projects are conducted to create defensible space in heavily used areas such as near schools, Boy/Girl Scout camps, parks, subdivision common areas, city open space, and areas owned by community services districts adjacent to communities. This work occurs almost entirely in spring and early summer prior to the peak of fire season and is conducted almost always during normal business hours. The amount of weedeating completed varies from year to year but is generally less than 20 acres per year county-wide. Project work consists of using standard weedeaters to clear tall weeds and grass. No heavy equipment use, off-road vehicle travel, or soil disturbance will occur. 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 will be consulted as necessary for input on an individual project basis. This project method will not impact cultural resources and does not require a cultural resource evaluation per CAL FIRE policy.

This Exemption will be reevaluated every five years.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] 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

RECEIVED
JUL 18 2011
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder 7/18/11

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