



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	El Cariso Village- Fuel Break Community Protection		
PROJECT LOCATION	El Cariso, CA Portions of Section 17, R5WT6S, SBB&M.	COUNTY	Riverside
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Gregg Bratcher, Forester II, RRU, CAL FIRE		
ADDRESS	P.O Box 2097 Idyllwild CA, 92549	PHONE	951-659-3335

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The intent of the project is to create a defensible fuel brake around the community of El Cariso Village, providing greater defensible space and increased protection for the community in the event of catastrophic wildfire. The community is located SW of Lake Elsinore, and has been identified by CALFIRE as being at risk to wildfire due to its terrain, high fuel loads and previous fire activity. The project is a continuation of a vegetation treatment project done in 2009. This new project is approximately 15 acres, providing protection for 58 structures. Vegetation is represented by mostly chaparral intermingled with scattered oaks and riparian vegetation. Elevation varies between ~2400 and 2750 ft. The project consists of hand cutting, removal and treatment (piling & burning and/or chipping) of living and dead vegetation creating a 100-150 ft. wide belt around the community. Treatment is planned on various aspects with predominantly moderate slopes. Tree pruning shall be performed inside the treatment zone as needed, dead, dying or diseased trees will be removed. No commercial operations are planned. These types of treatments will create fire safe conditions for the community and ease further fuel reduction work. No treatment of grass or herbaceous perennials is planned. Under direct supervision of CALFIRE captain, inmate crews will cut/prune and drag by hand the downed material to an accessible location to be piled, burned and/or chipped and broadcast onto the ground.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4, §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

This project fits under portions of Class 4 categorical Exemption, "15304.Minor Alterations to Land." "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for Forestry and agricultural purposes. Field review by CAL FIRE staff determined that this project will not have a significant effect on or to the environment and 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 and confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Additionally, a CAL FIRE resource management staff representative will be available onsite providing project oversight and coordination during project implementation. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the Mountain ResourceCenter-25380 Franklin Dr. Idyllwild, CA 92549.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date 5/30/14
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection