



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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|-------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| PROJECT TITLE | Gonzales Forest Fire Station – Hazard Tree Removal | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | CAL FIRE's Gonzales Forest Fire Station Route 1, Box 107A, Soledad, CA 93960 | COUNTY | Monterey |
| LEAD AGENCY | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) | | |
| CONTACT ADDRESS | CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940 | PHONE | (831) 333-2600 |

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will remove approximately 10-12 hazardous trees on the fire station property. These include 10 large Monterey pines and 2 cypress trees. One of the Monterey pines is leaning at a 25 degree angle over the messhall and presents a serious hazard which needs to be addressed before it crashes into the building. Another Monterey pine is leaning over the parking lot. The trees will be felled either by state employees or contractors using chain saws. The large material will be cut up and used for firewood. The limbs will be chipped and used as mulch on the property. It is anticipated that minor damage to a fence and landscaping will result upon removal of some of the trees. CAL FIRE will repair, clean up, and re-landscape the area upon tree removal.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, 4 §15301 Existing Facilities, §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 1 and Class 4 Categorical Exemptions described in the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15301, 15304) pertaining to existing structures and minor alterations to land, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Prior to reaching this conclusion, however, the Department first conducted limited environmental review to confirm that no *Exceptions* exist at the project site which would preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption. The possible exceptions that lead agencies must consider include (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2). This project involves reducing fuel loading on private property which are hazards to the emergency ingress/egress, and which will have no appreciable impact on the water or the 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's San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder 4/21/11
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection