NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE BTU Hightest Folsom Training Burn

PROJECT LOCATION T17N, R4E, S1/2 Section 17 **COUNTY** Butte

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CONTACT Kenneth Kendrick, *CAL FIRE*

ADDRESS 176 Nelson Avenue Oroville, CA 95954 **PHONE** 1-530-872-6334

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves wildland fire training in fire suppression tactics and fire investigation in which burning will be conducted. The project area is located entirely within abandoned agricultural land (rice checks or paddies) on a 120 acre parcel of farmland. There are six individual blocks proposed for training burns. Each range from 8 to 12 acres in size, with a total of 60 acres where operations will occur. Each burn block is further contained within an individual rice "check" (area previously leveled and entirely surrounded by berms five to 8 feet high and 10-12 feet wide). Training will consist of such tactics as hose lays, firing operations, hand-line construction, mobile attack, and fire investigation. Mechanical operation within an individual block or check will be minimal. Mobile attack utilizing a piece of fire apparatus will normally be done by making one pass in and one out. All other work will be by hand. Access is by way of existing public/private roads, and along tops of the present "checks"or "paddies."

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 Categorical Exemption to CEQA: Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land. The project will fall entirely within ground that has been previously heavily developed (graded, leveled, vegetation removed). The areas of potential disturbance (burning) are limited to small individual blocks and extent of project impacts is best described as minor in scope.

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 the Butte Unit Headquarters, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

William E. Snyder 8/19/13

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

RECEIVED
AUG 21 2013
STATE CLEARING HOUSE