



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Hwy 108 – Yankee Hill Road fuel break

PROJECT LOCATION T2N, R15E, Sections 5, 6, and 7 **COUNTY** Tuolumne

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

CONTACT Steve Hollett, Unit Forester

PHONE (209) 754-3831

ADDRESS 785 Mt. Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project objective is fire hazard abatement by constructing a shaded fuel break. Proposed work consists of using a chipper, chainsaws and other hand tools to remove hazardous fuels including brush, tree limbs, and small trees (less than 6"DBH) from 200 feet on either side of Yankee Hill Road. Within areas to be treated, all brush (except elderberry plants), and small trees will be removed so that the ladder fuels are eliminated. Vegetation will be cut and either chipped or piled and burned. Residual trees will be pruned to ½ the height or 8' whichever is less. Vehicles will be confined to road surfaces or shoulders. This project will add to the fuel break system developed over the last decade designed to create a zone between the Stanislaus River Canyon to the north and Columbia and the unincorporated lands to the south. The Stanislaus River canyon consists of wild lands characterized by steep terrain, dense chaparral, and poor vehicle access. This project runs along Yankee Hill Road from Knickerbocker Flat Road to Mountain Boy Mine Road excluding the BLM managed parcel in Section 6. Areas to be treated (50 acres) lie within Tuolumne County rights-of way and private property. A review of the CNDDDB did not reveal the presence of any listed species of plants or animals that could be adversely impacted by this project. All burning will be conducted in accordance with a burn permit issued by the Tuolumne County APCD.

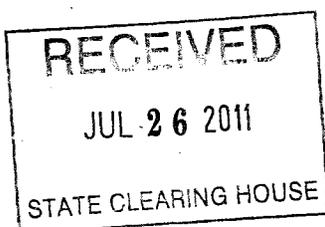
EXEMPTION STATUS

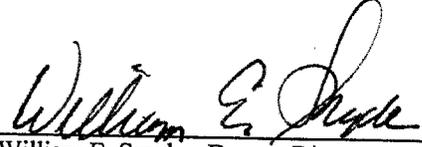
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class §15304 – Minor Alteration to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

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 7/26/11
Date