



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Jackson Demonstration State Forest Learning Center Well and Storage

PROJECT LOCATION Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Fort Bragg, CA **COUNTY** Mendocino

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

CONTACT ADDRESS 802 North Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437 **PHONE** (707) 964-5674

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves drilling of a water well, installing a pump, and placing portable storage tanks within a highly disturbed area where the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) Learning Center (FLC) is located. The FLC is located on a portion of the area previously occupied by a mobile home park. The mobile homes have been removed; however, the utilities infrastructure and concrete slabs associated with the trailer park remain. The FLC is located south of Highway 20 at approximately the 17.5 mile marker within redwood forest habitat and near the North Fork of Big River. The water will be used for fire suppression and road maintenance on JDSF and as a secondary supply for the FLC. The FLC currently receives water from Chamberlain Creek Camp where a new well was recently installed due to failure of the old well. The proposed locations of the well and storage tanks are routinely mowed for fire prevention. There are no known endangered, threatened or sensitive plants or animal species within the proposed area.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section:
 - Class 1 Existing Facilities §15301
 - Class 3 New Const of Small Struct §15303
 - Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land §15304
- 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 within the Class 1, 3, and 4 Categorical Exemptions described in state law (14 CCR Section 15301, 15303, & 15304) pertaining to existing facilities, new construction of small structures, and minor alterations to land, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The project involves the operation and maintenance of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use and minor alterations to the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation not involving removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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 address noted above.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

FEB 06 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 1/31/13
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection