



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Laughlin Ridge Radio Tower Tree Removal and Maintenance

Laughlin Ridge

**PROJECT LOCATION** T17N, R13W; NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec 14; Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian **COUNTY** Mendocino

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

**CONTACT** LOUIS SCIOCCHETTI  
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project consists of the removal of 13 trees (currently) and the future recurring maintenance of keeping trees & foliage clear of the transmission path of the Mendocino unit radio transmission facility located on Laughlin Peak. A replacement antenna installed onto an existing Laughlin Peak (3,281-ft elevation) radio tower is currently being obstructed by the limbs of adjacent trees that block signal transmission to the Cold Spring Mountain (2,673-ft elevation) radio tower located approximately 18 miles away. Microwave transmission via parabolic antenna is suitable only over an obstacle-free line-of-sight transmission link, as the presence of obstacles results in attenuation of the radio signal. The trees will be felled and either removed for wood utilization by the Unit or left on site. Slash will be piled and burned or chipped on site. All tree stumps will remain intact in the soil.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: **Class 1** **Pursuant to Section 15301, Existing Facilities**
- 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 above-listed Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 and 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 and traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit in Fort Bragg, Attention: Environmental Coordinator.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

*Duane Shintaku* 4/15/15  
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Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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