



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Laytonville Fuel Break

PROJECT LOCATION Approximately ¼-mile east of Laytonville, CA
 Legal Description: T21N, R17W; Sections 7,12 & 18; Mount Diablo
 Baseline & Meridian

COUNTY Mendocino

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

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the reduction of hazardous fuels on various private property parcels and will be conducted by the California Conservation Corps under CAL FIRE contract. Hand crews will create a shaded fuel break for the purpose of reducing fire hazard to the nearby community of Laytonville. The treatment area will be approximately 200-ft wide by 4,500-ft in length (20 acres). The vegetation consists of oak woodland, dense shrubs and mixed oak/conifer stands. Project work will involve utilizing chainsaws and hand tools to remove brush and dead ground fuels. Live trees which are 12-in. diameter or less will be thinned and removed in order to improve spacing of desired trees and decrease ladder fuels. Trees to be left on site will have branches pruned up to 8-ft above ground level. Shrubs will be removed to break up fuel continuity. Woody material generated by this project shall be chipped or piled and burned.

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

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Minimal ground disturbance is expected as work will be performed by hand crews. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified that will be negatively impacted by this project. An archaeological records check was performed & Native American tribal groups were contacted. The CAL FIRE Area Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

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 Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2014

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku 2/19/14

Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection