



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE CALFIRE Conservation Crew County-Wide Cutting & Chipping

PROJECT LOCATION MVU County-Wide **COUNTY** San Diego

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

CONTACT Eric Just, Unit Forester
ADDRESS 2249 Jamacha Road **PHONE** (619) 590-3103
 El Cajon, CA 92019

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – CAL FIRE CONSERVATION CREW COUNTY-WIDE CUTTING & CHIPPING

Fuel reduction activities conducted under this project will be completed by CAL FIRE Conservation Crews. The objective of the project is to reduce the fire hazard typically associated with heavy fuel buildup. Depending on the vegetation present, the level of treatment can vary from the removal of all shrubs to the creation of a shaded fuelbreak where residual trees and shrubs are spaced out 10-15 feet apart. The most common level of treatment involves creation of a fuelbreak where 1/2 to 2/3 of the existing vegetation is removed within the designated areas. The most common fuelbreak width for the project is 100-150 feet wide. Roadside treatments are also common and involve removal of vegetation within the road right-of-way for a width of 10 to 50 feet on each side. No more than 90 acres will be treated county-wide by this method annually. Crews often chip vegetation immediately after cutting but more commonly, vegetation is staged in windrows or stacked in a manner to facilitate efficient chipping at a later time. No heavy equipment use will occur as part of the project. Chip mulch generated from project activities will be spread in a discontinuous pattern within the treatment area on bare soil surfaces for erosion control.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section:
 - 15301 Existing Facilities
 - 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
 - 15308 Actions Taken for Protection of Environment
- 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 portions of Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land), and Class 8 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment). After completing an environmental assessment, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. 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 or 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the MVU Unit Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 7/28/15
 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection