



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Mokelumne Hill Gorse Eradication Project

PROJECT LOCATION T5N, R 12E, Section 7 MDBM, 1 mile east of Mokelumne Hill **COUNTY** Calaveras

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

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 Sonora, CA 95370

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is approximately one mile east of the town of Mokelumne Hill in Calaveras County. The project area is approximately 4 acres in size. The project area contains gentle slopes. Vegetation consists primarily of oak and brush. The project area has been highly disturbed from mining activity and grading. Gorse, an invasive plant, has become established on the site. The Calaveras County Agricultural Commissioner would like to conduct some prescribed burning as part of an integrated pest management strategy to eradicate the gorse. CAL FIRE crews will conduct the burning. Burning will consist of piling and burning, or a broadcast burn.

EXEMPTION STATUS

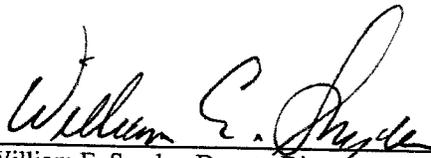
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. Control lines will be constructed by hand and will be minor in scope. No trees will be felled. A check of the CNDDDB did not reveal the presence of any plant or animal species likely to be adversely impacted by the project. The project area was reviewed by a professional archaeologist, and no mitigation measures were recommended. All burning will be conducted in compliance with a burn permit from the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District. The objective of the project is to eliminate a population of gorse, an invasive/noxious weed, and to allow native vegetation to recapture the site.

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 Tuolumne Calaveras Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

 12/2/11
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

RECEIVED

DEC 2 2011

STATE CLEARING HOUSE