



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Riverside Unit Fire Station 18 - Hazardous Tree Removal

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**PROJECT LOCATION** 7545 Mission Blvd, Riverside, CA 92509  
 APN # 174160008 and 174160009 **COUNTY** Riverside  
 Portion of NW1/4 of Section 7, T2SR5W, SBBM.

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

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**CONTACT** Gregg Bratcher, Forester II, CAL FIRE, RRU  
**ADDRESS** PO Box 2097, Idyllwild, CA 92549 **PHONE** 951-232-4166

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project goal is to remove identified dead, dying and hazardous trees located on the property of Station 18, located at 7545 Mission Blvd, Riverside, CA 92509 in West Riverside. Station 18 is RRU's State Station that has been identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic places (rated 3s-eligible), and is one of CAL FIRE's 29 Significant Historic Buildings selected for preservation (Foster and Thornton 2001: Table 2). Two leaning live cypress trees, located in the front of the fire station's main building, are growing too close to the building and are creating the possibility of damaging the fire station's foundation. Located behind the main building is a dead incense cedar that is directly in the path of the fire station if it were to fall. Also, located behind the buildings are dead and dying bishop pines, failing due to severe drought conditions, which are to be removed. Removing the identified hazardous trees will prevent possible damage to the existing buildings and property while enhancing general safety. Under direct supervision of a CALFIRE captain, inmate crews will fell, limb and buck targeted trees, while some material will be chipped and broadcast back onsite. No commercial operations are planned. These types of interventions will improve building safety, create fire safe conditions and ease further fuel reduction work. No treatment of grass or herbaceous perennials is planned.

**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**

This project meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" - "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes". The project is small in size, will increase safety, aesthetics, has minimal ground disturbance and will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources nor the environment. Field review by CALFIRE 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 CALFIRE, Riverside Unit, Mountain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr. Idyllwild, CA 92549.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



*Duane Shintaku* 7/10/15  
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 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection