



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Rohnerville Air Attack Base Retardant Jettison Area		
PROJECT LOCATION	Approximately 1 mile southeast of Fortuna, CA Section 13, T2N, R1W; Humboldt B & M	COUNTY	Humboldt
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	James M. Robbins, Forester II		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540	PHONE	707-726-1251

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves the periodic jettisoning of excess fire suppression chemicals from air tankers onto grassland at the Rohnerville airport near Fortuna, California. CAL FIRE air tankers that respond to wildland fires from the Rohnerville Air Attack Base are occasionally cancelled prior to dropping retardant. Depending on the air tankers capabilities and amount of residual retardant, air tankers may jettison a portion of the load to insure a safe landing. For initial attack, air tankers are not routinely loaded to full capacity so that the need to jettison retardant is minimized if the tankers are cancelled. CAL FIRE only uses fire suppression chemicals which are approved for use by the USFS. CAL FIRE limits the use of fire suppression chemical mixtures in areas adjacent to waterways. There are no waterways near the project area that might be impacted by the project. The use of this jettison site at the airport is conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding with Humboldt County.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 7, 15307 & Class 8, 15308 Actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources and the 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

The project is classified as a Categorical Exemption, Class 7, Section 15307 & Class 8, Section 15308. These are actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources and the environment. The project consists of the periodic jettisoning of excess fire retardant from air tankers onto flat grassland at the Rohnerville airport. The use of fire retardant is essential to the suppression of wildland fires to protect the environment. The retardant jettison practice is a necessary part of the program so that aircraft can safely land.

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 Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Resource Management, 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
 JUN 16 2011
 STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 6/16/11
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection