



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Short Ridge Fire Road and Shaded Fuelbreak		
PROJECT LOCATION	Las Cumbres Homeowners, T8S R2W, Sections 27 & 28 MDB&M	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Angela Bernheisel	PHONE	(831) 335-6794
ADDRESS	6059 Highway 9 Felton, CA 95018		

Project Description

The project is to maintain a shaded fuelbreak along 1 mile of the Short Ridge Fire Road and establish a 300 foot bypass along this road to avoid an impassable section of road. The road reroute roughly follows the ridge and the natural contour of the ground, requiring minimal grading. The section of road to be bypassed will be maintained as a hiking trail. The work involves removing trees along the section of reroute and trees encroaching into the existing road, removal of ladder fuels and dead fuels within 50 feet of the road. The material will be utilized by the residents for firewood and slash will be chipped or pile burned. This road is part of the fire defense infrastructure for the Las Cumbres and Deer Creek communities.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land.
Class 1 §15301 Maintenance of Existing Facilities
- 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 into two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 (Existing Facilities) for maintenance of the existing fire road and shaded fuel break and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) for the 300 foot reroute section along the ridgeline fire road. This new section of road is minor in scope and the area has been carefully inspected for environmental concerns. An archaeological survey has also been conducted to insure no impacts to cultural sites or the environment will occur.

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 CZU Headquarters in Felton.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 5/23/11
Date