



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Soda Bay Road Shaded Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Soda Bay Road, from the intersection with Highway 29 north and west to the intersection with Clark Road, Kelseyville	COUNTY	Lake
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Linda Green, Battalion Chief		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE: Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574	PHONE	(707) 967-1400

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Soda Bay Road is a single, narrow two-lane road serving the communities of Buckingham, Clear Lake Riviera, Riviera Heights, Riviera West, and Soda Bay. In the event of a wildland emergency, ingress and egress into these areas could be compromised. The Soda Bay Fuel Break will follow Soda Bay Road from its intersection with Highway 29 at Kit's Corner north and west to the Clear Lake State Park, ending at Clark Drive. The work will entail removing and/or thinning brush, small trees less than 4-inch DBH, and the pruning or limbing up of the lower branches of large trees. Understory fuels over one foot in height will be thinned and/or removed in order to develop the required vertical and horizontal separation. Such thinning and clearing will be approximately 100 feet wide from the edge of Soda Bay Road. All material cut or trimmed will be hand-carried to Soda Bay Road. The material will be transported to another site for chipping or hand-pile burning. All work will be accomplished using hand tools and saws, supported by an off-site chipper. Chips not disbursed on site will be centrally located for community access for mulch/cover and/or spread on agricultural land. CAL FIRE will be providing two hand crews from Konocti Conservation Camp to do the majority of the work. CAL TRANS will be mowing and trimming within its right-of-way along Highway 281, within its normal scope of practice. The fuel break will be constructed in multiple phases and tie in with a similar fuel break constructed on Bureau of Land Management property (Black Forest), which was completed in 2009 [NEPA Black Forest ACEC Shaded Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion CA-340-07-007]. The project will primarily occur during the months of October through March/April, during day time hours Monday through Friday. Work will not be performed during rain events or during the active fire season. At the closest point to Clear Lake (1.27 miles from the West end of the project) Soda Bay Road is approximately 90 feet from the road edge with a vertical drop in some areas of 200+ feet to the shore of the lake. The remainder of the project is covered by steep, moderate and low-gradient slopes. The dominant vegetation is Very High Load, Dry Climate Shrub and Very High Load, Dry Climate Timber-Shrub. The Soda Bay Shaded Fuel Break was identified in the Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2009) as its top priority project.

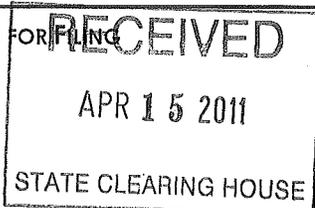
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, Sec. 15301 Class 4, Sec. 15304(b, i)
- 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 two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to 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's LNU Headquarters in St. Helena.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection