

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Sunol-KWA chipping, defensible space and tree limbing project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Section 36 Township 3S Range 1W, S31 T3S R1E and S5, S6 & S8 T4S R1E MDB&M; Dublin and Niles USGS 7.5 min Quads	COUNTY	Alameda
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Edgar Orre		
ADDRESS	Division Chief; Santa Clara Unit, CAL FIRE 15670 S. Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037	PHONE	(408) 779-2121

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this joint project of Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) and homeowners is to reduce the volume of fuels around residences in the unincorporated communities of Kilkare Woods and Sunol in Alameda County. The project area encompasses the homes accessed by the approximately 3.62 miles long Kilkare Road, including the private roads and drives off of Kilkare Road, within the town of Sunol and residences accessed by Foothill Road. The homeowners will reduce ladder fuels using hand tools from immediately around their homes to create defensible space. DFSC Grant funds will be used to hire contractors to chip homeowner cut fuels and existing fallen trees. The contractors will also use hand tools to remove understory shrubs (including poison oak, blackberry and French broom), limb-up and thin trees that are dead, diseased or dying from around homes and along the access/ egress road and driveways. The contractors will also remove ground debris and ladder fuels from eucalyptus groves located throughout the communities.

Project work is located in previously disturbed areas around existing homes and along roads. All work will be done by hand tools. Chipping equipment will stay on existing roads and driveways. No mastication, burning or other ground disturbance will occur on this project. Project work is expected during March-August during bird-nesting season. The project area will be reviewed by a biologist to identify any active nests and the work boundaries adjusted to avoid active nests. The project areas are adjacent to, but do not include Sinbad Creek and its ephemeral tributaries. No materials will be removed from or placed into the creek or tributaries. Additional best management practices incorporated into the project include: no re-fueling on the project site, retention of existing canopy cover no exposed mineral soil that could be mobilized by runoff or other mechanism, and protection of existing native, riparian vegetation.

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

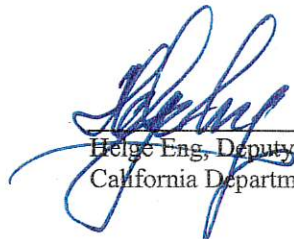
An environmental review has confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included on-the-ground field inspection. Project work is located in previously disturbed areas around existing homes and roads; no special status species are anticipated in the project area. The review 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 is kept on file at Santa Clara Unit Morgan Hill.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 30 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 5/24/17