



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	West Side Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Legal Description: Township 15 North, Range 13 West, Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26; & Township 15 North, Range 12 West, Sections 19, 30; Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian.	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Louis Sciocchetti, Forester II		707-961-1494 (Office)
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE 802 N. Main St. Ft. Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	707-391-6750 (Cellular)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the maintenance & widening of an existing fuel break for the purpose of wildfire control in State Responsibility Area (SRA). The project is located along a series of interconnected ridge tops located west of the city of Ukiah. The vegetation type is primarily chaparral with interspersed hardwoods and conifers. The current fuel break ranges from 20-40 feet in width and is partially overgrown. With improvement, the width will range from 40 to 50-ft width. Where wider openings currently exist on gently sloping terrain, several safety zones up to 100-ft in width may be created. The work will be performed by CAL FIRE dozers, with CAL FIRE engine or hand crews utilized as necessary for training purposes. Where mature trees are present, they will be retained, only flammable surface vegetation will be removed. Where possible, existing roads located on the ridge top will be graded to improve vehicular access. Woody material generated by this project shall be either scattered or piled and burned.

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

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified that will be negatively impacted by this project. An archaeological records check & survey was performed & Native American tribal groups were contacted. The CAL FIRE Area Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

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 Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection