



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Fire Training		
PROJECT LOCATION	3670 Bass Lake Road, Station 86, El Dorado Hills, CA	COUNTY	El Dorado
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jan Bray, Forester Amador-El Dorado Unit Headquarters	PHONE	(530) 647-5212
ADDRESS	2840 Mt Danaher Rd, Camino, CA 95709		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE and the El Dorado Hills Fire Department propose to use a portion of the 10 acre parcel to assist in the annual training of fire prevention personnel in the suppression of vegetation fires. The project site is in El Dorado Hills, east of Sacramento on the north side of Highway 50 at the intersection of Bass Lake Road and Silver Dove Road. The property address is Bass Lake Road, El Dorado Hills, CA 95672, phone number (916) 933-6692. Approximately ¼ of the property is developed into a Fire Station with associated infrastructure and the remaining property is grassland. Prior to burning operations, preparation of the area would consist of hand crew construction of fire control lines around the burn perimeter to ensure no fire escapes. A Type 1 and two or more Type 3 fire engines will be present during all burning activities. The topography is generally flat (0-6% slope) and vegetated entirely with grasses and other herbaceous species. The training would consist of burning sections within the perimeter control lines over the course of the training exercise which is dependent upon favorable weather conditions. The proposed project is part of an annual training offered to CAL FIRE and cooperators and is proposed to occur annually at this location for the next 5 years.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 14 CCR §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land;
7 14 CCR §15307 Protection of Natural Resources
- 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 within the Class 4 Categorical Exemption described in state law (14 CCR Section 15304) pertaining to minor alterations of land. This project will not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from further environmental analysis under CEQA. Prior to reaching this conclusion, CAL FIRE conducted a limited environmental impact analysis to confirm that no exemptions exist at the project site which could preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption. The CA Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database was consulted during this project preparation and shows no occurrences of Threatened or Endangered plant or animal species within the project area. However, as an added precaution, a field survey was conducted by the CAL FIRE Environmental Coordinator with negative results. All applicable burn permits issued by the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District will be obtained prior to commencement of burning. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. CAL FIRE has concluded that no significant environmental impacts would occur. The Amador-El Dorado Unit Environmental Coordinator will survey the project area each year prior to course implementation to confirm the absence of threatened and/or endangered species. Additionally, if this training continues at this location beyond the 5 years as specified, additional CEQA review will be conducted to ensure continued compliance. Documentation of the environmental review is on file at CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit Headquarters in Camino, CA. No significant environmental impact is anticipated from this project.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 6/29/10
 Date