



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE**      Bear Mountain Fire Control Road Maintenance

**PROJECT LOCATION**      This project is located in eastern Fresno County adjacent to Highway 180 along the Bear Mountain Fire Control Road west of Squaw Valley, CA further described as in Section 32, T13S, R25E Section 4, 5, T14S, 25E, MDBM and can be seen on the Orange Cove North, Tucker Mountain, and Pine Flat Dam quadrangles

**COUNTY**      Fresno

**LEAD AGENCY**      California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT**      Edwin Simpson

**ADDRESS**      210 S Academy      **PHONE**      559 281 4337  
                          Sanger, CA 93667

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project includes periodic vegetation removal within 100 feet each side of Bear Mountain Fire Control Road to reduce fuel loading, eliminate ladder fuels, to reduce fire hazard and allow vehicle access, and to minimize future vegetation maintenance needs. Residual vegetation will be limbed and/or pruned to avoid encroachment on the road. Vegetation will be removed by hand crews utilizing chainsaws. Material removed will be piled and burned, removed from the site, or chipped. Trees less than nine inches DBH may be removed. Trees greater than nine inches DBH may be removed if deemed a hazard to road use or infrastructure, or if deemed dead or dying by a Registered Professional Forester. Road prism and erosion control structures including lead outs will be maintained using heavy equipment. The project is 88 acres and will be re-entered as necessary to maintain the project.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption    Type/Section: Class IV      Categorical Exemption §15304 (i) 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**

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 the contact address above.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



*William E. Snyder*      7/18/11  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection