



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019038287

PROJECT TITLE Greeley Hill Fuel Treatment

PROJECT LOCATION Greeley Hill Road x Cuneo Road, Coulterville, CA 95311 **COUNTY** Mariposa

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

CONTACT Brian Mattos, Unit Forester

ADDRESS CAL FIRE Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Headquarters **PHONE** (209) 742-1907
 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa CA 95338

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is proposing hazard fuel reduction along the historic Ponderosa Way Fuel Break. Private partners have initiated hazard tree removal (in response to the tree mortality incident), mastication and pile burning, and fire road grading along the upper perimeter. This proposal is a priority identified in the Unit Fire Plan. This fuel break is strategically critical to protect the unincorporated settlements of Coulterville and Greeley Hill which are both included in the Communities at Risk List. Proposed project would tier from BLM project with EA and may eventually lead to a prescribed fire project for approximately 2200 acres. Initial work to include brush crushing, mechanical and manual brush cutting and piling, pile burning, and mastication along strategic locations within the property. If the prescribed fire project becomes viable a separate CEQA analysis will be completed before the prescribed fire project work begins. Topography is steep foothill with chamise and manzanita chaparral and some live oak and gray pine mostly below the ponderosa pine belt. The Unit fire atlas does not show any fire history in the belt of old chaparral that extends from Dogtown Road to Cuneo Road. Resident rancher remembers a fire in 1945 that burned part of the basin.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, §15304 (e): Minor Alterations to Land, Minor temporary use of 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

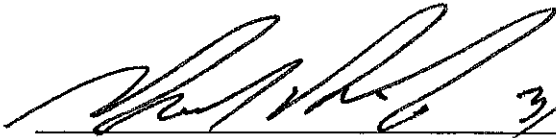
The project meets the requirements of Class 4, §15304(e): Minor Alteration to the Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 includes minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no 15300.2. Exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant 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 utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mariposa Headquarters at 5366 State Highway 49 North, Mariposa CA 95338.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 13 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 3/13/19
 Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection