



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019070458

PROJECT TITLE: Banner Mountain Lookout Fuels Treatment

PROJECT LOCATION: SE 1/4 , Sec 16, T16N, R09E, MDBM **COUNTY:** Nevada

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

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project is located on just over nine acres of property owned by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at the Banner Mountain Lookout. The vegetation on the site is a mixed conifer forest with a brush understory. The trees are primarily Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, incense cedar and black oak. The understory consists of manzanita, deer brush, buck brush, poison oak and bear clover scattered throughout it resulting in a fuel model 6. The surrounding properties are heavily forested with conifers and a thick brush understory. The proposed project involves utilizing CALFIRE hand crews and/or equipment to remove the fuels across the site to provide protection to the critical infrastructure and improve the visibility from the tower. Brush as well as trees that significantly impact the viewshed for the lookout, will be masticated, chipped or burned.

The primary purpose of this project is to protect critical infrastructure as the site houses not only a CAL FIRE lookout but also several communication towers that house transmitters for public utilities, law enforcement, fire and a variety of cell phone providers.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 1, 4, and 7 14 CCR§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

This project fits under portions of **14CCR§15304, Minor Alteration to Land**

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 or 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at NEU Headquarters, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA. 95603.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

governor's Office of Planning & Research
 JUN 14 2019
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 6/11/19
 Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection