



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

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

2019070460

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Shafer Ranch Road Shaded Fuel Break		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T 18 N, R 13 W; Sections 31 & 32 T 17 N, R 13 W: Sections 5 & 6 Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian	<b>COUNTY</b>	Mendocino
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Louis Sciocchetti, Forester II	<b>PHONE</b>	707-961-1494 (Office)
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit 17501 North Highway 101 Willis, CA 95490	<b>PHONE</b>	707-391-6750 (Cellular)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project consists of the removal of vegetation located adjacent to 3.6 miles of Shafer Ranch Road & Roads A, B, D, F to maintain ingress and egress routes in the event of a wildland fire. CAL FIRE hand crews will reduce surface and ladder fuels by cutting & chipping shrubs and understory trees for the purpose of reducing the fire hazard along the county road through a rural subdivision. The roadway treatment area consists of county and private road Right-of-Ways (ROWs) extending approximately 30-ft in both directions from the centerline of the roadway. The vegetation consists of grassland, oak & conifer stands with areas of dense shrubs. Hand crews will utilize chainsaws, pole-saws & hand tools to remove brush & dead ground fuels. Live trees which are 10-in. diameter or less may be thinned and removed. Larger trees will have branches pruned up to 10-ft above ground level. Woody material generated by this project shall be chipped.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4; 15304 Minor Alteration 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 project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption, consisting of "minor public/private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature & scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes". The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified on the project site that will be negatively impacted by this project. The CAL FIRE 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, Willis, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

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

  
 Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection