

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019090683

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

Project Title: CAL FIRE Howard Forest Fire Station 29-acre Parcel Acquisition

Project Location – Specific: 16755 N. Highway 101 (Mendocino County Assessor's Parcel Number:: 147-170-06)

Project Location – City: Willits

Project Location – County: Mendocino

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The project is the acquisition of approximately 29-acre of land adjacent and north of CAL FIRE Howard Forest Fire Station. The irregular-shaped parcel is generally unimproved and consists of vacant forested hillside terrain with gated access from Old Highway 101. CAL FIRE intends to maintain the land until it determines how best to use the property. Any future change in use would be subject to further State approvals following a determination of CEQA compliance.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CAL FIRE

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Wesley Dote, Sr. Real Estate Officer, Real Estate Services Division, Department of General Services

EXEMPT STATUS: California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061(b)(3): Common Sense Exemption

Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

The acquisition activity is exempt under the "common sense exemption" at California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b)(3). The common sense exemption states a project is exempt from CEQA if "the activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." The land acquisition agreements that transfer the ownership to the State do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Any future approval of any use of the site is conditioned upon full CEQA compliance per California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15004, subdivision (b)(2)(A), which states prior to completion of CEQA compliance regarding the use of site, "agencies may designate a preferred site for CEQA review and may enter into land acquisition agreements when the agency has conditioned the agency's future use of the site on CEQA compliance."

Contact Person: Daniel O'Brien, Supervising Environmental Planner, (916) 376-1603
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Date Received For Filing:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 9/23/19

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