

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Modoc Resource Conservation District
221 West 8th Street Alturas, CA 96101

County Clerk
County of: Modoc
108 E. Modoc Street
Alturas, CA 96101

(Address) FILED
JUL 02 2020
STEPHANIE WEIEMEYER COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]*
DEPUTY

Project Title: California Pines Fuel Break Project (New Fuel Break Section)
Section)

Project Applicant: Modoc Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:
Project is located 12 miles Southwest of the city of Alturas and south of Centerville Road (County Road 54).
Legal location is T.40 N., R.10 E., portions of sections 10, 11, 14, 22, 23, 26 and 36.
Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Proposed Action: This forest fuels reduction project will occur along two roadways approximately 18 miles southwest of Alturas, CA and is in the community of California Pines. The project is a roadside fuel reduction along approximately 2 miles of Gatling Road and 4 miles of California Pines Boulevard. The California Pines Boulevard is signed as an Evacuation Route. The goal of this project is to eliminate hazardous fuel loading that may pose a threat to the California Pines Community and help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Vegetation treatment in the form of hand-thinning using chain saws, chipping, and mastication will be used within 100 feet on each side of the permanent un-paved road. Cal Fire and contractor crews will thin trees to a minimum of 10'x 10' spacing while targeting larger trees for retention. Small trees; shrubs; and other surface fuels will be pruned to eliminate ladder fuels and general fuel buildup. Material generated by this fuel treatment will be processed using a variety of practices including a 14" chipper, pile burning, and mastication.

The nature of the project is the construction of shaded fuel break using hand crews to reduce vegetative cover by pruning and thinning. The purpose of this project is to reduce ladder fuels to aid fire suppression activities in the event of a wildfire in the area. The primary beneficiaries of this project are the landowners living in the residential wildland interface zone and the local fire suppression agencies.

Analysis to support this exemption include archaeological records check and survey along with CNDDDB check. Project layout includes avoidance of identified sensitive habitats, historical and pre-historical sites. Informal consultation with local agencies, organizations and tribes was completed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Modoc Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Modoc Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4 Section 15304 Minor alterations to Land or vegetation (i) Fuel management activities".

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

An environmental review has determined that the above-mentioned project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The project will not result in the loss of special status species, archaeological or historical sites and will not have a significant impact on scenic areas or trees.

This exemption is based on the following: Section 15304 Class 4 Minor alterations to land or vegetation consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

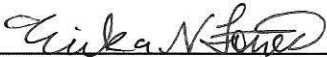
15304. Minor Alterations to Land or Vegetation (I) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.

Community shaded fuel breaks are other activities that have been included under 15304

Lead Agency Contact Person: Richard L. Westman Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530)233-4314 ext.115

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ___ Yes _ No

Signature:  Date: 7/2/2020 Title: Vice President MRCD

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: Jul 07 2020
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

California Pines Fuel Reduction Project (New Fuel Break Construction)

