



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Gill Ranch Range Improvement		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T18S R26 E Sections: 14, 15, 21, 22, 23	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tulare
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Raymond Gutierrez		
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Gill Range Improvement Burn is located approximately 3.1 miles north of Exeter, CA at 380' elevation, adjacent to Lort Drive. Exeter Blvd. bisects the project running from north-south. The project can be accessed from Lort Dr. and a private drive way off highway 245. This project is designed to 1) be available for training and 2) decrease the population of invasive milk thistle and it is a direct benefit to the SRA. A fire prescription will be applied to the treatment units within the project area. The habitat type is a Valley Oak Savanna with the herbaceous layer consisting of non-native grasses. The Kaweah River bisects the project area running east-west, WPLZ protection will be implemented for all wetlands areas, though the Department will not be conducting ground disturbing activities. There is minimal riparian habitat in the project area. Backing fire may be used within the riparian area. There have been wildland fires that have been ignited along Exeter Rd, because of this fire risk the landowner has created a buffer around the historical archeological sites within the project area. Holding lines are existing road shoulders and disc lines established by the rancher.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

Categorical Exemption                      Type/Section: Class 414 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 the project meets the Categorical Exemption as described under 14CCR§15304 Minor Alteration to Land. CNDDDB, archeological and field reviews have been conducted for this project. Consultations with CAL FIRE archaeology has occurred. No significant environmental impact is anticipated from this project.

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 CAL FIRE TUU Headquarters at 1968 S Lovers In Visalia, CA 93292.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

*Matthew Reischman*

8/12/2020

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