



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Foran Fuel Reduction Project # 19-FP-MMU-2024 Funded by the California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grants Program		
PROJECT LOCATION	T5S, R18E, portions of Section 3, MDBM	COUNTY	Mariposa
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Brian Mattos 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338	PHONE	(209) 742-1907

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This fuel reduction project is a cooperative effort between the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) and the Foran and Pennyroyal Roads homeowners. It will provide roadside brushing and expanded defensive space clearing along Foran Road and Pennyroyal Lane in the Midpines community of Mariposa County, creating a ~70-acre strategic fuel break. The Foran Fuel Reduction Project will directly tie into the CAL FIRE proposed Midpines/Mt Bullion fuel break (2019 MMU Strategic Plan) providing fire protection and a safe ingress/egress route for fire personnel and residents. The project will provide an alternative escape route for Alta Vista Road as well as East Whitlock/Colorado. The project area is on gentle to moderate slopes (<40%) along Foran Road and Pennyroyal Lane at an elevation of approximately 3400 feet. The project area is at the lower end of Sierran Mixed conifer forest type consisting of an overstory of Gray pine along with Black oak and White oak with an understory of annual grasses and rabbit brush. There are no known endangered, threatened or sensitive plants or animal species within the project area. The project area on a ridge; the drainage is north into Lyons Creek watershed to the north, and the Stockton Creek watershed to the south.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, §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 the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA. An environmental review was conducted to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included an on-the-ground field inspection by a Registered Professional Forester on October 20, 2020. A full Archeological Survey Report was prepared and approved by Mark Walker, Archeologist/Anthropological Studies Center/Sonoma State University on 2020/10/23. In addition, consultation/correspondence was sent via email to representatives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board. No concerns were raised by the RWQCB Agency Representative, and the concerns raised by CDFW Representative were addressed and provided in return to the CDFW Representative on 2020/10/19 with no further correspondence as of 2020/12/07. 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, energy, wildfire or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at MMU Unit Headquarters in Mariposa.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Matthew Reischman

12/17/2020

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