



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Fullen Road Shaded Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	T4N, R16E, Portion of Sections 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, and 29 MDBM	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Adam Frese	PHONE	(209) 533-2265
ADDRESS	18464 Striker Court Sonora, CA 95370		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in southern Calaveras County along the ridge between San Antonio and San Domingo Creeks. The project is approximately 3 miles north of the city of Murphys and 2 miles southeast of the Sheep Ranch. Project area is defined as 300 feet following the ridge or designated centerline. The eastern terminus is Avery Sheep Ranch Road east of the section corner of sections 14, 15, 22, and 23. From here the project follows the ridge east approximately 1 Mile. At this point it turns south crossing Indian Creek to Fullen Road. From this point it follows Fullen Road to its intersection with Sheep Ranch Road. The portion along Fullen Road and the Ridge in the eastern portion of the project have been treated in the recent past and this operation will treat re-growth and increase width where needed. This ridge is strategically located between the San Domingo and San Antonio creek drainages. The project area ranges from approximately 2,600 feet to 3,500 feet in elevation above sea level. Protection from wildfire is paramount to the public safety of Calaveras County. The potential for a fire coming from the south or north is extreme. The 2015 Butte fire threatened from the north and the 1992 Gulch Fire and 2004 Armstrong Fire burned through the area. Sheep Ranch and Avery Sheep Ranch roads are major access roads for residents and EMS. Vegetation type is in the conifer transitional belt and consists of Ponderosa Pine and Chaparral vegetation types. Major tree species include native oaks and conifers, Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), Canyon and Interior Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis and wislizenii*), Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Sugar Pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), and Incline Cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*). Brush species include manzanita, toyon, ceanothus, poison oak, and bear clover. The area is overstocked with vegetation. The conifer component has experienced a large amount of mortality from bark beetles. Mortality has lessened the last 2 years. Understory brush is thick through most of the project. Project will consist of fuel reduction activities conducted with mastication and light equipment. Spacing of residual vegetation will target crown spacing of 20 feet or brush spaced at a distance equal to twice the height. All leave trees will be pruned to 10' or to leave a minimum of 50% of live crown.

The project area is approximately 128 acres in size with a length of 2.75 miles.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 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 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project consists of constructing, maintaining and improving shaded fuel breaks. No grading or permanent alteration to vegetation types or habitat elements will occur as a result of the project. A query of the CNDDB did not reveal the presence of any sensitive species that could be negatively impacted by the project. Impacts to watercourses are not expected. Archaeological resources will be protected through avoidance, and impacts are not expected. A contract archaeologist was consulted. All burning will be done in accordance with a permit for the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District.

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, energy, wildfire, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 18464 Striker Court, Sonora, CA 95370.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Matthew Reischman

12/21/2020

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