



Santa Barbara County Fire Department

CEQA – Notice of Exemption

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
DEPT. OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROJECT TITLE	Via Regina Defensible Space		
PROJECT LOCATION	Santa Barbara, 34° 27'25.00"N 119° 47'40.00"W		
LEAD AGENCY	Santa Barbara County Fire Department		
CONTACT	Jason Sweet, Captain/Pre Fire Engineer		
ADDRESS	4410 Cathedral Oaks Santa Barbara, CA 93110	PHONE	805-681-5500

PROJECT DESCRIPTION -

The project consists of 2 shaded fuel reduction treatments totaling approximately 14 acres located in the San Antonio Creek area in the foothills of Santa Barbara. The project will utilize hand crews to reduce flammable fuel volume by removing dead material, reducing ladder fuels, and selectively thinning standing vegetation. The existing fuel is predominately mature oak woodland with scattered chaparral and stands of Eucalyptus. Mature trees will be limbed and pruned of dead branches. The cut material will be chipped and spread uniformly on site. The shrub dominated areas will be treated with a residual mosaic approach, leaving scattered shrubs and islands of intact formation comprising approximately 50% of the original cover. No mature trees will be removed. No work will occur within 50 feet of a riparian corridor. The project will greatly increase the defensible space around the community and also protect the open space wildland from a fire starting from the surrounding residential developments. The project will also involve maintenance of Via Regina Park by removing overgrown vegetation and ladder fuels that create fire hazard for neighboring residents.

No heavy equipment is authorized under this document. A query of the National Diversity Database will be performed for each treatment to check for the presence of endangered plants and/or animals. DFW will be consulted for input as necessary. Chips will not be deposited within the standard width of a watercourse or lake protection zone.

This exemption will be reevaluated every 5 years.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section:
 - 15301 Existing Facilities
 - 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
 - 15308 Actions Taken for Protection of Environment
- 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))

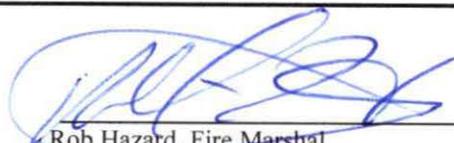
REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4- Minor Alterations to Land. The project also involves maintenance of existing fire access roads and recreational area. A biological assessment has concluded that no listed species shall be adversely impacted by project activities. The limited nature of this project's footprint in relation to the amount of identical habitat available in the surrounding area further reduces the likely hood of any species (T & E or otherwise) being adversely affected by potential habitat modification due to the fuels reduction activities. SBC 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, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at SBC Fire GIS, 4570 Hollister Ave, Santa Barbara 93110.

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POSTED

APR 15 2021


 Rob Hazard, Fire Marshal
 Santa Barbara County Fire Department

4/13/2021
 Date