

CEQA Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136
Capitola, CA 95010

Clerk of the Board
701 Ocean Street, Rm 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Title: Summit Road/Soquel-San Jose Road Shaded Fuel Break

Project Locations – General: Summit Road from the Loma Prieta Joint School District building to where Summit Road turns into Highland Way.

Project Locations – City: Los Gatos, CA **Project Locations - County:** Santa Cruz County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: This project will create a shaded fuel break by removing small trees, underbrush and low hanging limbs on trees within 100' of Summit Road. Large (over 8" diameter), healthy trees will be retained; dead/dying trees will be removed. Also removed will be trees leaning over the roadway that are at increased susceptibility to falling over the road during wildfires as well as dead trees that have fallen onto the ground. Where large, healthy trees are not present or there are large gaps in the tree canopies, small trees and/or shrubs will be retained, spaced about 15-20' apart. Most of the cut material will be chipped and broadcast back onsite; material too large for chipping will be hauled off-site. By removing this vegetation, a future wildfire will burn with less intensity, at a slower rate of spread and with a decreased potential for fire to climb into treetops – making fire suppression easier and evacuation during a wildfire safer. Portions of this 100' zone along the roadside will not receive any work where the project interfaces with the maintained yards of residents. This generally occurs within the 100' "Defensible Space" residents have already created. Within this project the woody invasive species, such as French broom, will be cut and removed. The stumps of broom over one inch in diameter will be treated with herbicide; specimens smaller than this will receive a direct foliar application of herbicide. All application will occur with a Licensed Applicator in accordance with the guidelines specified by a licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA). It is anticipated the majority of the project will be conducted during the summer and fall months, with follow-up maintenance occurring periodically, as needed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: RCDSCC/CAL FIRE/Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

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 (Sec. 15304 Class 4 (i))
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is categorically exempt pursuant to Sec. 15304 Minor Alterations to Land for the following

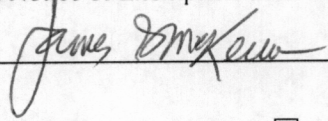
reasons: No healthy, mature, or scenic trees will be removed, no take of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal

species will occur, and there will be no significant impacts to surface waters. For the reasons stated above, this project shall be exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: James McKenna, Board President RCDS **Telephone:** (831) 464-2950

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: 6/10/21 Title: BOARD PRESIDENT
BCD OF SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: