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# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

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| **PROJECT TITLE** | Alma Helitack S70i Helipad Clearance | | |
| **PROJECT LOCATION** | CAL FIRE Alma Fire Station/Helitack<br>19650 Old Santa Cruz Highway<br>Los Gatos, CA 95033 | **COUNTY** | Santa Clara |
| **LEAD AGENCY** | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) | | |
| **CONTACT** | Ed Orre – Unit Forester | | |
| **ADDRESS** | CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit<br>15670 South Monterey St.<br>Morgan Hill, CA 95037 | **PHONE** | (408) 206-3704 |

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) proposes the removal of vegetation adjacent to an existing concrete helipad to allow for adequate rotor clearance for the newly acquired CAL FIRE Hawk (S70i). The project is located at 19650 Old Santa Cruz Highway, approximately 2-miles South of the town of Los Gatos. The project is just East of Highway 17 and adjacent to Lexington Reservoir. The overall length of this aircraft is 64 feet, 11 inches. The treatment activities will improve safety, visibility, and allow for the use of this helipad for helicopter operations in support of CAL FIRE's Mission. The project work is located in previously disturbed areas, adjacent to an existing concrete helipad and rocked road.

Hand crews will utilize chainsaws and/or other various hand mechanized or hand tools to remove trees and brush within 100 feet-from-center-point of the concrete pad. No commercial use of wood products is proposed, and all cut material will remain on site. The area to be treated encompasses less than one acre.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- [x] Categorical Exemption — Type and Section: Class 1; §15301 Existing Facilities
- [ ] 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 1 (15301) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Field review by CAL FIRE staff concluded that no exceptions stated in CCR 15300.2 apply to this project that would preclude the use of a "Notice of Exemption". No significant environmental impacts would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit Headquarters, 15670 Monterey Rd. Morgan Hill CA, 95037.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

Matthew Reischman 7/27/2021

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