



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Geyser Communication Tower Fuel Reduction		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T11N R09W a portion of Section 27 Mount Diablo bm USGS 7.5' Quad "The Geysers"	<b>COUNTY</b>	Sonoma
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Tim Holliday VMP Coordinator Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit (LNU)		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	1199 Big Tree Road St. Helena CA 94574	<b>PHONE</b>	707-967-1400

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is in Sonoma County on Geyser Peak approximately five (5) miles northeast of Geyserville around critical communication infrastructure used by multiple government agencies. The communication facility lies along a ridge line that was affected by the Kincade Fire in 2019. This facility has been protected with the construction of a dozer line approximately 500 feet around the facility. Considering the work completed for the protection of the facility during the Kincade fire this project is being completed to add protection to the communication towers and provide an opportunity to maintain the surrounding area from future fire threats. The site is mixed chaparral, Quercus wizilizeni (Live Oak) and Adenostoma fasciculatum (chamise). The vegetation within the 500-foot area, will have Live Oak thinned to create an open growing space and the remaining trees will be pruned to 6 feet above the ground to eliminate ladder fuels. Chemise will be removed by hand. All material removed will be chipped onsite. NO burning will occur. Treatments include Hand cutting, thinning, removing and chipping the brush within the 500-foot radius from the communication site. Heavy equipment will not be used to remove the cut material.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: §15304 Minor Alterations to Land Class:4
- 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 meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resource Code) as the proposed activities involve clearing of brush and chipping to reduce wildfire threat. This project will only have minor alterations to the vegetation and no conversion to other vegetation types. It will not remove healthy, mature, or scenic trees. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species were identified on the project site that will be negatively impacted by this project.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 or 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at Sonoma-Lake-Napa (LNU) Headquarters 1199 Big Tree Road St. Helena CA 94574, 707-967-1400.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Matthew Reischman 9/18/2021  
Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection