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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	La Cima Conservation Camp Roadside Brushing Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Rancho Cuyamaca Spanish Land Grant, Projected as SW¼ of SE¼, Sec 11, T 14S, R 4E, SBBM	**COUNTY**	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Cheyenne Borello		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE – Monte Vista Headquarters 2249 Jamacha Road El Cajon, CA 92019	**PHONE**	(619) 590-3123

Project Description:

The La Cima Conservation Camp (LCM) Roadside Brushing Project proposes vegetation maintenance for a distance of 20 feet from the edge of both sides of the access road to LCM for a total width of 40 feet, will be approximately four miles in length and result in the treatment of approximately 20 acres. Treatment will include reducing the existing fuel loading of mixed chaparral vegetation by approximately 80 to 90%. No live trees will be removed. Annual grasses and forbs will be left untreated. Shrub vegetation will be cut at ground level and root structures left in place to reduce the potential for erosion. Most of the project work will be implemented with an excavator with a masticator head attachment that will be positioned on the access road and will work exclusively from the road. CAL FIRE hand crews, using manual methods, will treat the vegetation in areas that are inaccessible to the excavator and in drainages where appropriate. All treated vegetation will be either masticated or chipped on site with chips spread to a depth of three inches or less.

LCM is located at 15108 Sunrise Highway, approximately 4.25 miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Julian in San Diego County. The project site is located on land owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation and leased to Cal Fire and consists of: CAL FIRE/CDCR office building, officer's sleeping quarters, Inmate barracks, kitchen/mess hall, automotive shop, crew vehicle storage building, fuel house and warehouse and other small support structures. The surrounding environmental setting is comprised of steep, mountainous terrain, in montane chaparral with isolated stands of mixed conifer forest. La Cima Conservation Camp is in a rural area with controlled public access and is accessed by a private road four miles from the Sunrise Highway.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15304, Minor Alterations to the 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

The project is consistent with Categorical Exemption: 15304, Class 4 Minor Alteration to the Land. After completing an environmental analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, a CNDDB search, greenhouse gas emission calculations, and archaeological review completed by CAL FIRE Archaeological staff.

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, energy, 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, utilities and service systems or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is retained on file at CAL FIRE MVU Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Matthew Reischman 10/20/2021

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