



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Green Gate Run Shaded Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	T17N R13W Section 9 Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian.	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Pablo Anguiano, Forestry Assistant II CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit		
ADDRESS	17501 North Highway 101 Willis, CA 95490	PHONE	707-326-6035

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to improve the ingress and egress of fire engines, reduce wildfire risk, and aid in fire suppression activities through roadside fuel reduction treatments along 1.2 miles of dirt road (15 acres) that traverses through state property and private property, approximately 6 miles southeast of the town of Willits. This project would tie together the Howard Forest VMP and Laughlin Peak Accesses Road fuel reduction projects. Connecting these two projects would provide an effective fire break if a roadside fire on Highway 101 were to extend deep into the wildland. The project area consists of mostly oak woodland intermixed with semi open grasslands, shrubs and conifers. Vegetation will be thinned and pruned 50 feet from either side of the road. Work will be completed using manual treatment methods (no off-road heavy equipment proposed). Woody materials will be dragged by hand to a chipper parked on the existing roadway or would be masticated on the dirt road by a tracked skid steer with masticator head. Hand crews will employ chainsaws, pole saws, string-trimmers, and hand tools to remove small trees, brush, and surface/ground fuels. Live trees, less than 10" diameter breast height (DBH), will be removed to improve tree spacing. Dead or live trees of any size that pose a safety hazard to the roadway or firefighters will be removed. Trees larger than 10" DBH that are removed will be felled and buck and left on site or masticated from the existing road surface. All material removed will be treated on site no material will be processed for commercial purposes. Live trees greater than 10" DBH will be pruned to provide for a minimum vertical clearance of 10 feet.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4/15304 Minor Alterations to 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 meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed fuel management activities entail understory brush removal, 10 "DBH or less tree removal, thinning, pruning, chipping, masticating on existing roadway, and dead/tree removal to improve access of fire engines and reduce volume of flammable vegetation. As such, CAL FIRE has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, and 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. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

12/2/2021

John Melvin
John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection