



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Ukiah Fuels and Fire Break Project – Orr Springs Road (MCFSC)		
PROJECT LOCATION	T15N R12W Sec 7 T15N R13W Secs 1, 2, 12 T16N R13W Secs 19, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35 T16N R14W Secs 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 T16N R15W Sec 24 Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian.	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Julie Rhoads, Forester I		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit -VMP 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	707-671-3357

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to improve ingress and egress safety, reduce wildfire risk, and aid in fire suppression activities through fuel reduction treatments. This project aims to reduce roadside understory and ladder fuels along 20 miles of Orr Springs Road between North State Street and Low Gap Road in Ukiah, Mendocino County, California. The project area contains a diversity of plant communities including valley oak woodland, mixed oak forest, live oak woodland, madrone forest, Douglas fir forest, Douglas fir-tanoak forest, tanoak forest, bay forest, redwood forest, and maple forest. Vegetation will be thinned and pruned within the road right-of-way (30 feet on either side). All work will be completed using manual treatment methods (no off-road heavy equipment or ground disturbance proposed). Hand crews will employ chainsaws, pole saws, weed whackers, and hand tools to remove small trees, brush, and surface/ground fuels. Live trees (10 inches in diameter or less) will be removed when appropriate. Larger trees will be pruned to provide for a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet. Slash and debris created by this project will be chipped and scattered onsite. Chippers will not leave the roadway. Any material to be chipped will be transported by hand to the parked equipment.

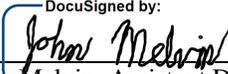
EXEMPTION STATUS

- 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, from an existing roadway, and dead/tree removal to improve access for 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, 802 N. Main Street. Attn. VMP Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date 1/12/2022
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection