



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Shooting Range Lead Mining		
PROJECT LOCATION	4501 State Highway 104, Ione, CA 95640	COUNTY	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Megan Scheeline, Forester II CAL FIRE Training Center 4501 State Highway 104, Ione, CA 95640	PHONE	209-274-5505

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The CAL FIRE Training Center has three shooting ranges that are used for Peace Officer firearms training. The far ends of the ranges have earthen berms that act as a safety measure to block and capture ammunition. Over the course of many decades, expended lead (bullets, shot, pellets, fragments) has built up in the berms, resulting in an environmental hazard. A contractor will be employed to mine the lead from the berms. An excavator and backhoe will be used to dismantle the berms and feed a generator-powered soil trommel, which will filter and separate the lead from the soil. After the lead is removed, the soil will be replaced and compacted to re-establish the berms at the same locations. The lead will be transported by a certified contractor to a lead recycling/disposal facility. Activities will comply with US Environmental Protection Agency Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines and procedures. The shooting ranges cover an area of approximately three acres, with the area covered by the berms less than half an acre.

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

This project fits the description for a Class 4, §15304: Minor Alterations to Land Exemption to CEQA. 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 project consists of mining expended lead (bullets, shot, pellets, fragments) from earthen berms at the end of three shooting ranges. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/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/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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John Melvin
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1/18/2022

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