



CITY OF MARTINEZ

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

Community Development Department

(925)372-3515 | Fax (925)372-0257

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Date: May 18, 2022

(County Clerk please stamp here)

To: Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Olive Grove Fuel Reduction and Maintenance Project
Project Location: Area Southwest of Rankin Park
Assessor's Parcel No.: 372-040-007
Approximate Coordinates: 38°00'52.5"N 122°08'35.8"W

Project Applicant: City of Martinez – Community Development Department
525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553
Tel: (925) 372-3524

Lead Agency: Same as project applicant

Lead Agency Contact: Michael Chandler, Community Development Director
Tel: (925) 372-3517 | Email: mchandler@cityofmartinez.org

Project Description: The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) and the City of Martinez will collaborate on a brush removal project at the historic Rankin Olive Grove located west of Downtown Martinez, which was designated in 2012 as a California Point of Historical Interest. The goals of the project are to improve tree health and reduce fire risk. Fuel reduction and maintenance of the grove will focus on the fire road and 25-30 feet from the edge of the fire road. Additionally, reduction and maintenance will prioritize 100 feet from the residential fence line. Crews will receive arborist training to ensure the utmost care is taken to preserve and maintain the Rankin Olive Grove. Treatment methods will use tools such as hand saws and pole pruners, to perform reduction and removal cuts. Crews will remove dead/dying branches, sections, or trunks as well as crossing branches and stems. The crews will focus on removing ladder fuels in addition to duff and litter greater than one inch diameter removed or piled for winter burning. Concentrations of brush will be thinned or removed. Low hanging

and dead branches will be pruned. Annual grass and weeds will be cut or grazed to less than six inches. Weed eaters or string trimmers will not be used within 12 inches of any tree trunk or branch that will be retained. Maintenance is expected to commence in summer 2022. In the winter of 2022/23 crews will complete fuel reduction in the remainder of the Rankin Olive Grove.

Area of Proposed Work




Exempt Status:

- Review for Exemption (Section 15061 (b)(3))
- Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption: Section 15304(i)
- Statutory Exemption:

Reason(s) why Project is Exempt:

The Olive Grove Fuel Reduction and Maintenance Project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(i). This exemption class applies to fuel management activities which are intended to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation.

Signature: 

Date: 5/18/2022

Michael Chandler
Community Development Director
City of Martinez