



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Minarets High School Training Burn - Between Buildings		
PROJECT LOCATION	45077 Road 200, O'Neals, CA 93645 Sec. 24, 25 T09S R20E and Sec. 19, 30 T09S R21E	COUNTY	Madera
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit		
CONTACT	Brian Mattos, Unit Forester Sebastien Cordier, Environmental Scientist	PHONE	(559) 706-8807
ADDRESS	5366 Highway 49 North Mariposa, CA 95338		(559) 706-8808

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is proposing annual training burns at Minarets High School. These annual training burns will be around the school buildings targeting the grassland vegetation build up to remove the weeds and reduce fire hazard. Anticipated annual spring burns (May to June timeframe) for this project, are outside of class time when high schoolers and most staff are not present. This project is located at Minarets High School, address 45077 Road 200, O'Neals, CA 93645. Driving approximately 9 miles south of Coarsegold, CA on Highway 41, turn left at Road 200 and Minarets High School will be on the left. One property owner, Chawanakee Unified School District, with 48 acres in the project, only 14 acres will be broadcast burned. This project is in Madera County on the O'neals and Millerton Lake West CA USGS 7.5' Quadrangle. Legal Description is portions of Sec. 24, 25 T09S R20E and Sec. 19, 30 T09S R21E MDB&M. Project elevation is between 1425ft - 1495ft. Vegetation setting is in the Southern Sierra Foothills, oak woodland-grassland community. CAL FIRE engine crews will be conducting the burn with hand firing devices. Hand lines will supplement existing holding lines, such as roads and sidewalks. A light scrape around trees, shrubs, and infrastructure as needed to prevent catching fire.

EXEMPTION STATUS

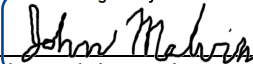
- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4, §15304(e): Minor Alteration to the Land Categorical Exemption
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project meets the requirements of Class 4, §15304(e): Minor Alteration to the Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 includes minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 or 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 or traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mariposa Headquarters at 5366 State Highway 49 North, Mariposa CA 95338.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date 5/27/2022
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection