



NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

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

FROM: City of Ukiah
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

X County Clerk
500 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA, 95482

PROJECT TITLE: Vichy Springs Fuel Management Project

PROJECT LOCATION: 2300 and 3100 Vichy Springs Road. The City-owned parcels are developed with the Ukiah Landfill and the Ukiah Rifle and Pistol Club, in addition to vacant land. APNs 170-210-01 and 178-130-01. See Location figure.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Ukiah Valley Fire Authority

DATE OF APPROVAL: Determination to carry out the Project was made by the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority and the Community Development Department on May 23, 2022.

CEQA EXEMPTION STATUS:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Categorical Exemption:** Article 19 §15304, Minor Alteration to Land, (i) fuel management and (d) alterations to land and vegetation
- Statutory Exemption Section

PROJECT SUMMARY AND REASONS THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

The Ukiah Valley Fire Authority (UVFA) plans to conduct fuel management activities, including prescribed burning, at two City-owned parcels in order to reduce fuel load to protect existing facilities and surrounding residential development. The parcels are located outside of the Ukiah City limits, and within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), classified as having a "Moderate" fire severity risk. However, because the parcels are City-owned, they are serviced by the UVFA.



The parcels comprise a total approximately 380 acres that are developed with landfill and gun club facilities, as well as open areas that contain overgrown ruderal grasses, trees, and brush. The parcels also contain undeveloped roads throughout them. Prescribed burning would include burning open grass and understory vegetated areas; existing trees would remain and a one to three-foot buffer will be created by removing all vegetation around each tree for protection. Burning activities would use a combination of fuel drip torches and fuses, and would be performed in accordance with the National Fire Code guidelines. Burning activities are anticipated to take up to six hours over one day. Fire breaks would be created with hand tools and dozers, mostly along existing roads, to ensure the fire remains contained. The fire breaks will also serve as additional fire protection in the future. In addition, at the conclusion of the burning, crews will "mop-up" all hot spots to make sure the site is safely secured from additional fire risk. Fuel management activities will be conducted in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and other local fire entities, in part to provide training opportunities.


A search of California Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wetland Habitat Mapper show no sensitive species or watercourses on the parcels. According to the County's GIS Public Portal, the parcels are also not identified as having timber, agricultural or scenic resources. As noted above, no healthy, mature or scenic trees would be removed. The UVFA plans to conduct fuel management activities on the parcels over the next two years (see figure below), and annually for the foreseeable future. This Notice of Exemption is intended to be utilized for future vegetation management practices, so long as there is not a significant change in the environment or project description that would necessitate additional environmental review, in accordance with CEQA guidelines.

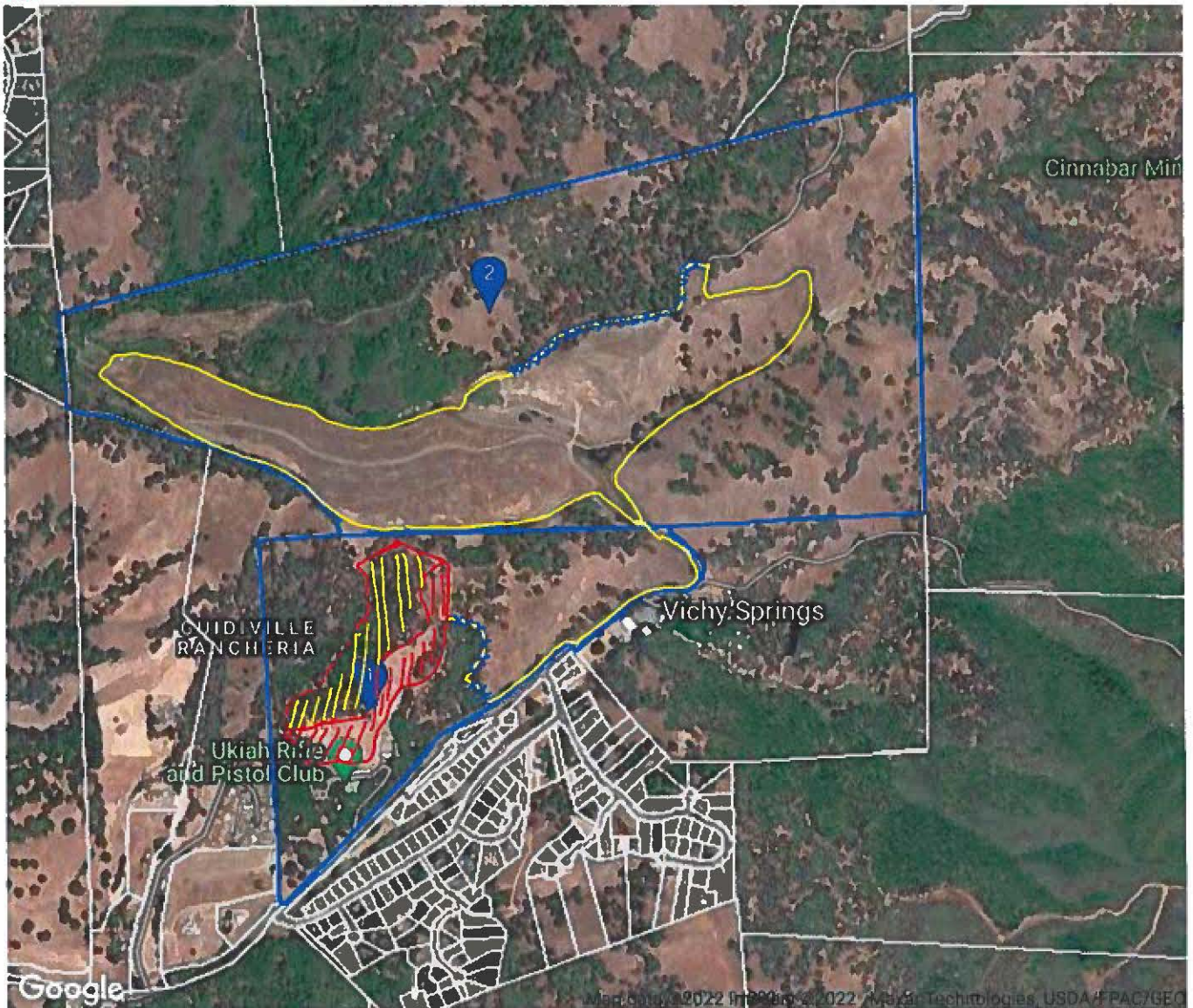
The proposed project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15304, Minor Alteration to Land, subsection (i) for fuel management activities and (d) minor alterations to land and vegetation, in order to reduce the fuel load and protect City-owned properties, facilities and surrounding residential development.

Lead Agency Contact Person Craig Schlatter, Community Development Director
Phone Number (707) 463-6219
Email cschlatter@cityofukiah.com

This is to certify that the record of project approval is available to the General Public at:


Community Development Department, Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482


	5-24-22	Community Development Director
Signature (Public Agency)	(Date)	(Title)




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 = Next YRS. Burn footprint

 = This YRS. Planned burn

 = Additional area planned for this YRS. trees will be ringed prior to burn

 = proposed dozen line