



**State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Diablo Range District  
15751 Tesla Road  
Livermore, CA 94550

**PROJECT TITLE:** Cienega to San Juan Canyon Corridor Prescribed Burn Complex

**LOCATION:** Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area

**COUNTY:** San Benito

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Implement vegetation treatments, prescribed fire, and fire line rehabilitation as needed on up to 12 treatment plots (approximately 655 acres) in Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (HHSVRA) to re-introduce an appropriate fire return interval to native vegetation, reduce fuel load, maintain safe ingress and egress routes between San Juan Canyon Road and Cienega Road, and increase wildfire resilience. Work will:

- Utilize existing trails and roads for fire lines;
- As needed, use hand tools to cut up to 1,800 meters of new line consisting of bare mineral soil up to 1 meter wide with vegetation cleared up to 10-meters wide and rehab/revegetate after burning;
- Clear a 10 meter radius from the base of Coulter Pines and thin out oaks and other hardwood trees under 6 inches DBH if they are growing in dense patches;
- Use chainsaws, chippers, masticators, dozers, excavators, bobcats, and burn piles to cut and process targeted vegetation under 6 inches DBH;
- Scatter wood chips to no more than two (2) inches deep and not within fifty (50) meters of the interior of the fire line;
- Use trained fuels crews, under the direction of a certified prescribed fire Burn Boss, to implement the broadcast prescribed fire work, in accordance with the signed Burn Plan; and
- Following the burn, use hand tools to recontour fire lines to original grade and cover bare ground with cut vegetation, straw, or hydroseed material, and revegetate with locally sourced native plant materials, in accordance with a site-specific restoration plan developed by a trained Resource Advisor.

Burn prescription plans will be written, and burn plots will be mapped, in coordination with natural and cultural resource specialists in such a way to avoid impacts to resources. Rare plant populations observed within the plot will be mapped and monitored closely for responses to guide future treatments. One (1) or several plots may be burned in any given year, and plots may be reburned at an average of once every five (5) years based on analysis of species composition data.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Diablo Range District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption

*Class:* 1

*Section:* 15301

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities and/or topographical features, involving

negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels and is included in the Departmental List of Exempt Activities as prescribed burns to maintain native vegetation.

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Clinton Elsholz 12/22/22  
Clinton Elsholz DATE  
State Park District Superintendent (Acting)  
Diablo Range District