



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE:	Ranchita Canyon Truck Trail		
PROJECT LOCATION	Areas of San Miguel and Parkfield, CA	COUNTY	Monterey
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Tim Montgomery		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE San Benito – Monterey Unit (BEU) Headquarters 2221 Garden Rd, Monterey, CA 93940	PHONE	(831) 601-6547

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves recurring maintenance and repair of the 8-mile Ranchita Canyon Truck Trail and fuel break, following Ranchita Canyon Road, on the border between San Luis Obispo County and Monterey County. The truck trail serves as an ingress and egress route during wildland fires for residents and emergency responders. The project is on private property located in the southern end of the Diablo Mountain Range. Ranchita Truck trail is a one lane gravel and native surface road that serves as an access route through the Diablo Range from Parkfield to San Miguel. The project area is approximately 373 acres.

The project will reduce woody vegetation less than 12" DBH within 10 feet of a road or structure in oak woodland areas, which is the primary vegetation type in the project area. Vegetation will be reduced by approximately 80-100% within and up to 200 feet of a road or structure in areas with dense and decadent brush; which occur in the northeast portion of the project area near the town of Parkfield. Dead, diseased, and dying trees that may impact a road or structure will be felled and consumed using pile burning to reduce the fuel load; lop and scatter will be allowed where fuel loading is light. All remaining trees near a road or structure will be pruned up to 16 feet or 50% of the live crown (whichever is less) within 200 feet of a road or structure. The vegetation will be reduced by a combination of hand crews and mechanical means.

EXEMPTION STATUS

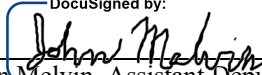
- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: 15304(f) Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 14 CCR §15304 Minor Alterations to Land. After consulting with responsible agencies, conducting archaeological and biological research and implementing archeological and biological surveys, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact 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/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, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE BEU Headquarters in Monterey.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

 John Melstetter, Assistant Deputy Director Date: 3/17/2023
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection