

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Ridge Road EAR		
PROJECT LOCATION	T18N; R14W; Sections 3, 9, and 10 Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Julie Rhoads, Forester I CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit -VMP 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	PHONE	707-671-3357

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to improve ingress and egress safety, reduce wildfire risk, and aid in fire suppression activities through fuel reduction treatments. This project aims to reduce roadside fuels along 1.1 miles of a privately owned section of Ridge Road which is on the west side of the community of Brooktrails and northeast of Willits, CA. The treatment area extends from the road centerline out to 100 feet on either side of the road. This amounts to approximately 27 acres of fuels reduction treatment area. Work will be completed using equipment and manual treatment methods, with the potential to masticate ladder fuels in select areas. An excavator with a masticator head (swing-boom mechanics) would be used off-road to treat above-ground vegetation. Hand crews will employ chippers, chainsaws, pole saws, weed-whackers, and hand tools to remove small trees, brush, and surface/ground fuels. Live trees (less than 10" in diameter) will be removed to improve tree spacing. Larger trees will be pruned to provide for a minimum vertical clearance of 10.5 feet. Slash and debris created by this project will either be chipped, lop-and-scattered, or piled for burning.

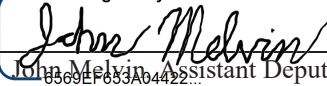
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4/15304 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

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed fuel management activities entail understory brush removal, 10" DBH or less tree removal, thinning, pruning, chipping, from an existing roadway, and dead/tree removal to improve access for fire engines and reduce volume of flammable vegetation. As such, CAL FIRE has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, and 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/traffic, utilities, and service systems, or to wildfire. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, 802 N. Main Street. Attn. VMP Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date 6/28/2023
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection