



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Sherwood Corridor Roadside Fuel Reduction, Phase II		
PROJECT LOCATION	T18N; R14W; Sections 2, 11 - 13 T19N; R14W; Sec 6 - 8, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 35 T20N; R14W; Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31 T20N; R15W; Sec 13, 24, and 25; MDB&M	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 17.2 miles of Sherwood Road, a well-used public road. The project area contains mixed conifer/hardwood woodlands, open grasslands and areas with a dense understory of woody shrubs and small trees. Vegetation will be thinned and pruned within the road right-of-way (between 30 and 50 feet from the centerline) with the option to extend thinning to 100 feet from the centerline given heavy fuel loads and landowner approval totaling up to 367 acres. Work will primarily be completed using manual treatment methods (no off-road heavy equipment or ground disturbance proposed) with the potential to masticate ladder fuels in select areas. An excavator with a masticator head (swing-boom mechanics) would be parked on the existing roadway and reach into the right-of-way to treat above-ground vegetation. Hand crews will employ 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 14 feet. Dead/dying or hazard trees of any size that pose a safety hazard to the roadway, people, or other infrastructure will be removed. Slash and debris created by this project will either be chipped or lop-and-scattered, and logs will be bucked and left on site. Chippers and masticators will not leave the roadway. Any material to be chipped will be transported by hand to the parked equipment. This project includes long-term maintenance of fuel loading and hazard tree removal as necessary.

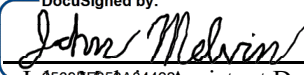
EXEMPTION STATUS

- 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, 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
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 7/25/2023