



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE:	Elkhorn-Las Lomas Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Las Lomas, 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) 333-4600

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is 128 acres and the fuels treatment will remove up to 74 acres of Tasmanian blue gum trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*). A Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) will cut down the trees and treat the stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth. Tree biomass will be reduced through a combination of chipping and processing logs into biochar and/or firewood to be stored offsite. Vehicles and heavy equipment will utilize the existing road network used by neighboring agricultural areas and previous ranching operations at the site. All stumps will be cut as low as possible and left in the ground to decompose over time.

EXEMPTION STATUS

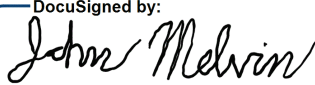
- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 15304
Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

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 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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7/30/2023

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection