

**CONFORMED COPY**

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Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder

**Notice of Exemption**

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
U.S. Mail: Street Address:  
PO Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95812

**From:**

Mendocino County Planning & Building  
860 North Bush Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Contact: Nash Gonzalez  
Phone: 707-234-6650

County Clerk:  
County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Lead Agency (if different from above)  
Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency &  
Mitigation, County Executive Office  
County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Contact: Travis Killmer  
Phone: 707-234-6050

Project Title: Implementation of Defensible Space for Homes & Access Routes

Project Applicant: County of Mendocino, County Executive Office, Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency & Mitigation

Project Location - Specific: County Wide

Project Location - City: Various Communities Project Location - County: Mendocino County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The project will maintain defensible space around homes and along access routes through the strategic treatment of hazardous vegetation. The project is intended to reduce the likelihood that life or property will be lost in the case of wildfire, both because homes and roadsides will be less likely to ignite and because firefighters will have more opportunity to safely deploy and stage their resources. Treatments will vary based on conditions present and location-specific objectives but will generally include removing excess vegetation, including brush and small-diameter trees, to increase horizontal spacing and eliminate vertical continuity of fuels. Roadside fuel reduction will generally occur up to 50 feet from either side of the road. All work will be completed using manual treatment methods (no off-road heavy equipment or ground disturbance proposed). Hand crews will employ chainsaws, pole saws, weed whackers, and hand tools to remove small trees, brush, and surface/ground fuels. Live trees (10 inches in diameter or less) will be removed when appropriate. Larger trees will be pruned to provide for a minimum vertical clearance of up to 10 feet above ground level. Slash and debris created by this project will be chipped and scattered on site. Chippers will not leave the roadway. Work will not be done within 30' away from any potentially fish-bearing stream or 15' of any other potential waterways. No more than 600 acres will be treated countywide annually under this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Mendocino County Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21070(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(a) Existing Facilities and Section 15304(i) Minor Alterations to Land

Statutory Exemption. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt: This project fits under portions of two Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1-Existing Facilities. This includes treatment areas where vegetation removal will be conducted to maintain fuel breaks, fire roads, and road corridors.


Class 4 -Minor Alterations to Land. This includes treatment areas where vegetation treatment does not involve the removal of mature, healthy, or scenic trees. These treatments have negligible or no permanent effects on the landscape and will not result in the taking of rare, endangered, or threatened species of plants or animals. No exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The County has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or 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 or traffic, tribal cultural resources, utilities, and service system.

Lead Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Travis Killmer, Chief Recovery and Resiliency Officer, Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-234-6032

**If filed by applicant:**

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature:  Date: 8/3/2023 Title: Chief Recovery and Resiliency Officer

Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_