



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Temporary Housing Gravel Expansion for Ponderosa Firefighter Crews		
PROJECT LOCATION	CAL FIRE Training Center: 4501 State Highway 104, Ione, CA 95640	COUNTY	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Megan Scheeline, Unit Forester CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit 2840 Mt. Danaher Rd., Camino, CA 95709	PHONE	530-644-2435

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit has five firefighter hand crews that must move out of their temporary housing location at a California Conservation Corps facility before October 15, 2023. The Unit does not have an alternate facility to house the firefighter crews so they will move into existing portable barracks at the CAL FIRE Training Center located at 4501 State Highway 104, Ione, CA. With the addition of 60 people being housed at the Training Center, an expansion of the gravel parking area is necessary to accommodate personal vehicles, crew buses, and gear storage.

The 450-foot-long gravel area adjacent to the existing portable barracks will be extended by approximately 90 feet to allow placement of carport structures, conex boxes for gear storage, and overflow vehicle parking. The project area is less than one acre. The dirt area where the gravel expansion will occur is compacted, highly disturbed, and has been used for training, equipment storage, and parking for many years. The project area is relatively flat and will require minor grading before gravel is placed on the surface.

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

This project fits the description for a Class 4, §15304: Minor Alterations to Land Exemption to CEQA. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor grading of a highly disturbed, compacted dirt area and spreading gravel on the surface, followed by construction of temporary carport structures. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, energy, 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 wildfire.

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9/21/2023

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