



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	C-212 Training – Tree Felling		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Banning, CA T 2S R 1E Section 7 and 18 SBB&M	<b>COUNTY</b>	Riverside
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Alberto Gonzalez		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	210 W. San Jacinto Ave. Perris, CA 92570	<b>PHONE</b>	951-238-9593

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) Riverside Unit (RRU) proposes to conduct C-212 Training - Tree Felling training. This training module will assist CAL FIRE's mission to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California. The project area is located on a private parcel that was devastated by the Apple Fire in 2019. The project site spans approximately 4 acres on private property. The project area is highly disturbed after the fire, all trees within the project are dead. The understory of the area is composed non-native grasses, non-native annuals, and scattered native shrubs. Activities of the training will consist of felling of approximately 100-200 dead, dying, and diseased trees for the purposes of B-Faller Certification. Conifer trees will be felled via chainsaw, limbs will be bucked and chipped, chips will be broadcasted onto property at landowner's discretion. Heavy wood rounds will be placed in a landing at landowner's discretion and stumps of felled trees will be flush cut. A skid-steer with bucket attachment will be used to move heavy wood rounds.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and 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 under portions of Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" – "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic tree except for forestry and agricultural purposes." The project is small and will enhance forest health, increase general fire safety, and improve aesthetics while creating minimal ground disturbance. The project will not result in significant negative impacts to biological, environmental, or archeological resources. 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 or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, 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, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE, Riverside Unit, 210 W. San Jacinto Ave., Perris, CA, 92570.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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*David Fulcher*  
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9/25/2023

David Fulcher, Southern Region Chief Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection