



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Howard Forest Helitack Base Property Acquisition		
PROJECT LOCATION	16735 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE seeks to acquire approximately 35 acres located at 16735 N. Highway 101 outside Willits, Mendocino County California. The acquisition will transfer ownership interests of land from the private ownership to the State of California under the jurisdiction of CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE is considering expanding its nearby Helitack facility on this property, but CAL FIRE has not approved any development or use of the site. Future actions, including development of the property, will undergo complete environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).


EXEMPTION STATUS

- Common Sense Exemption §15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption
- 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 acquisition activity is exempt under the commonsense exemption at California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15061, subdivision (b)(3). This exemption states, a project is exempt from CEQA "[w]here it can be seen that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." The land acquisition agreements that transfer the ownership to the State do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Any future approval of any use of the site is conditioned upon full CEQA compliance per California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Section 15004, Subdivision (b)(2)(A), which states prior to completion of CEQA compliance regarding the use of a site, "agencies may designate a preferred site for CEQA review and may enter into land acquisition agreements when the agency has conditioned the agency's future use of the site on CEQA compliance."

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