

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

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|-------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| PROJECT TITLE | East Dunne Escape Route | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle: Mt. Sizer. T9S R3E S12; T9S R4E Sections 4,5,6, and 7; and T8S R4E Sections 00 and 33. | COUNTY | Santa Clara |
| LEAD AGENCY | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) | | |
| CONTACT ADDRESS | Edgar Orre Santa Clara Unit 15670 Monterey Rd. Morgan Hill CA, 95037 | PHONE | 408-206-3704 |

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Santa Clara Unit is proposing fuel reduction treatments along a 9-mile stretch of East Dunne Avenue in Santa Clara County, California. This project proposes additional fuel reduction treatments that would augment existing mowing work by Santa Clara County in the road right-of-way. Project work would consist of mowing, chipping, cutting with a chainsaw, and weed whacking. Chipped material depth would not exceed 3 to 6 inches. Upon each entry for necessary maintenance, hand crews would utilize chainsaws and/or other various mechanized hand tools to remove selected trees 6" in diameter and under, understory vegetation, dead or downed material, and hazard trees, and prune trees and woody vegetation. Mowing and chipping treatments would operate only from existing roads and turnouts and shall not operate in areas identified for protection. The treatment activities will improve safety, visibility, and reduce potential ignition sources along the road. Where landowner permission is obtained, treatment may occur up to 30 feet from the edge of the road or road turnouts.

Project implementation will serve to enhance fire resiliency by reducing ladder fuels, creating shaded fuel breaks, and improving escape routes. Additionally, reducing competition in the understory and treating hazard trees where feasible will create a healthier and more vigorous forest in these locations increasing forest resiliency and preparing these areas for future changing climate conditions.

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 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land.

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 CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit Headquarters, 15670 Monterey Rd. Morgan Hill, CA, 95037.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:


11/14/2023

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George Morris III, Northern Region Chief
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date