

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Happy Valley Camp Training		
PROJECT LOCATION	Quads: Olinda & Cottonwood Portions of; T31N, R5W, Sections 35,36 MDBN T30N, R5W, Section 1, 2 MDBM	COUNTY	Shasta
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit		
ADDRESS	875 Cypress Ave., Redding, CA 96001	PHONE	(530) 225-2418

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit (SHU) is planning a variety of vegetation removal training activities on approximately 376-acre area in Shasta County, California. The project area is 6 miles South of Redding, 5 miles Northwest of Anderson, and West of Hwy 273 between Canyon Rd and Happy Valley Rd. Additionally, it is approximately 1 mile Southwest of the confluence of Clear Creek and the Sacramento River. This project will improve the protection of property surrounding the project area, which experiences fires on an annual basis. It will provide CAL FIRE Crews training opportunities. The fuel reduction work will be completed with hand work during fire line construction, hose lay training in steeper terrain, as well as falling and bucking, physical conditioning and hiking will also occur on the project. Topographically the project area is on the Westside of the Valley, approximately 1.5 miles west of the Sacramento River, with an average elevation range of 450-650ft. The vegetation within and surrounding the project area is comprised of oak woodland with a Grey Pine overstory, dense shrub thickets and grass. Firefighting hand and engine crews will cut brush and trees less than 10 inches DBH. Trees larger than 10 inches DBH may be cut if approved by a Registered Professional Forester for forest health reasons; these trees will be limbed, bucked and left in place. Overstory and larger trees will be retained. Proposed handline activity will create trails, and brush piles to be chipped or for burning when fuel and weather conditions can support burning to meet project objectives. Much of the project's acreage will only see use from personnel practicing the creation of handline or crew hikes for physical training.

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

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed activities involves tree and brush removal, chipping, and burning to reduce wildfire threat. Although this project will modify some structural aspects of the vegetation, it will not convert the vegetation type or result in the removal of otherwise "healthy, mature, and scenic trees."

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 875 Cypress Ave., Redding, CA 96001.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

11/8/2023

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