

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



San Luis Obispo County Fire Department

PROJECT TITLE	Sequoia Riverlands Trust California Valley Prescribed Burn		
PROJECT LOCATION	Highway 58, Soda Lake Road, California Valley	COUNTY	San Luis Obispo
LEAD AGENCY	San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Fire Department		
CONTACT	880 Manzanita Drive	PHONE	805-903-3406
ADDRESS	Los Osos, CA 93402		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SLO County Fire in collaboration with the YTT Northern Chumash Tribe plans to conduct prescribed burning on Sequoia Riverlands Trust conservation lands located in California Valley. The objectives for this project are to increase cultural benefits, biodiversity, and habitat function by implementing prescribed fire. This project will help reduce the number of roadside ignitions and help reduce the spread and intensity of wildfire through the reduction of fuel loading adjacent to traveled roads. This project will also help reduce the spread of invasive non-native plant species and promote native species health and regeneration within the area. Methods will include the use of a mower and hand tools for site prep and ignition devices for broadcast burning beginning in the spring of 2024 and continuing annually based on resource availability. Existing roads and trails will be utilized for control lines to avoid ground disturbing impacts.

An archaeological and biological site review have been completed for this project, records are held at 880 Manzanita Dr, Los Osos, CA 93402. In addition to onsite surveys, a desktop biological review with a minimum one mile buffer was also included for this project area to identify any potential listed plant or animal species present. This included CNDDDB, BIOS, RareFind, CNPS, Calflora, and landowner records. As identified this project will not have a significant effect on sensitive plant and animal species.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
Class 7 15307 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources
- 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 - Minor Alterations to Land, Class 7 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources. Particularly Title 14, Section 757(4)(D) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources, and Section 757(7)(D) Vegetation development, manipulation, or fertilization to increase habitat productivity for fish and wildlife, including controlled burning.

Field review by San Luis Obispo County Fire Department staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The County 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 County Fire Department is kept on file at 880 Manzanita Drive, Los Osos, CA 93402.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Dave Erickson, Forester I

3/21/2024

Name, Title Date

San Luis Obispo County Fire Department