



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Sherwood Corridor Ingress and Egress Roadside Fuel Reduction Project, Phase 3		
PROJECT LOCATION	T18N; R14W; Sections 3, 9 - 11, and 14 - 16 T19N; R14W; Sections 7, 9, 10, 14 - 23, 27, and 28 Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian.	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Julie Rhoads VMP Forester I	PHONE	707-671-3357
ADDRESS	802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to improve ingress and egress safety, reduce wildfire risk, and aid in fire suppression activities through fuel reduction treatments along 25 miles of both public and private roads over 515 acres within the following areas: 1) roads within the Spring Creek subdivision including Condor, Eagle, Timber, and Timber Ct.; 2) roads within the Sylvandale subdivision including Habbit Hill, Troll Ridge, Timberline, and Middle; 3) roads within the Gates subdivision including First Gate, Second Gate, Third Gate, Willowbrook, Redwood Creek, Pinecrest, Metzler Ridge, Skyview, Live Oak, and Big John; and 4) the Ridge to Primrose Emergency Access Route (EAR). Vegetation will be thinned and pruned within the road right-of-way between 30 and 50 feet (from the centerline) with the option to extend thinning to 100 feet given heavy fuel loads and landowner approval. The project area contains mixed conifer/hardwood woodlands and areas with a dense understory of woody shrubs and small trees. There are grassy openings interspersed throughout the treatment area. Fuel reduction activities involve the use of hand crews, chainsaws (tree falling, bucking, and brushing), pole saws, chippers, heavy equipment with masticator attachments, and pile burning. Live trees (10 inches in diameter or less) may be removed when appropriate to improve spacing or forest health. Slash and debris created by this project will either be chipped/masticated, lop-and-scattered, or piled for burning. Chippers and masticators will enter the project area to implement treatments. Larger trees will be pruned to provide for a vertical clearance of up to 14 feet. Dead and dying trees greater than 10 inches may be removed if they pose a risk to public safety. This project includes long term fuel reduction and hazard tree removal as needed.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/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 fuel management activities entail understory brush removal, 10 "DBH or less tree removal, thinning, pruning, chipping, from an existing roadway, and dead/tree removal to improve access for fire engines and reduce volume of flammable vegetation. As such, CAL FIRE 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, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities, and service systems, or to wildfire. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, 802 N. Main Street. Attn. VMP Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

5/8/2024

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