

**CEQA #**  
District Project #2024-10



**State of California – The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Bay Area District  
845 Casa Grande Road  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**PROJECT TITLE:** Mount Tam RX Burn

**LOCATION:** Mount Tamalpais State Park      **COUNTY:** Marin

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:**

Prescribed broadcast and pile burning in forest understory areas in the vicinity of the Mountain Theater (Cushing Memorial Theater) and in grassland areas along Ridgecrest Boulevard and Deer Park Fire Road are planned within the boundaries of Mount Tamalpais State Park (MTSP).

- Prescribed burns occurring as part of this project will be conducted in several identified burn units on the upper portions of Mount Tamalpais totaling 185 acres, primarily in grassland areas as well as forested understory in the vicinity of the Mountain Theater (See map attached). Pile burning and manual work to remove small trees and shrubs that are encroaching into grassland areas would take place on an additional 315 acres to promote the longevity resilience of these grasslands. These areas were selected in part due to the long-term efforts undertaken to control encroaching woody vegetation in the grasslands as well as manage fuels and mitigate the spread of sudden oak death in understory areas.
- Burning in these areas will complement this ongoing resource management work, restore the historic role of fire in the mixed hardwood forested habitats within the burn units, and may support the protection of the mountain theater and associated park facilities and infrastructure.
- All prescribed broadcast burns will be conducted according to an approved burn plan, under the direction and supervision of a State Parks or other approved burn boss, in cooperation and/or coordination with the Marin County Fire Department (MCFD). Trained State Parks staff and local prescribed fire partners may assist and/or observe the burns as approved by the burn boss.
- Fireline will be installed/constructed as necessary prior to ignition in a manner that minimizes impacts to areas adjacent to the burn plots.
- Vegetation along roads, trails and handlines may be mowed, cut and processed to the specifications outlined in the burn plan. Some roads and trails may be temporarily closed to the public during and immediately following completion of prescribed burns.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation, Bay Area District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption

*Class: 1,4*

*Section: 15301 and 15304*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** This all falls under the Department of Parks and Recreations list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

Project consists of the maintenance topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

Projects consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

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Bay Area District

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DocuSigned by:  
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Matthew Allen, Deputy District Superintendent, Bay Area District

8/30/2024

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