

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE Aldercroft FireWise and Lupin Lodge Vegetation Treatment Project, FHG # 8GG22611

PROJECT LOCATION T009S R001W, Sections 04, 09, and 10 **COUNTY** Santa Clara

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE is providing funding to Santa Clara County FireSafe Council under Forest Health Grant# 8GG22611 to implement proposed treatments that would improve forest health and increase fire resilience by manually thinning underbrush and small trees. Additionally, the project includes the removal of eucalyptus trees, a non-native species, using manual treatments and cut stump herbicide application to promote the establishment of native plant communities. The proposed treatment area covers approximately 27.4 acres within the Aldercroft Heights area, including approximately 2.6 acres of eucalyptus removal. The Lupin Lodge portion of the project encompasses approximately 14.8 acres of the Lupin Lodge parcel. Both treatment areas are located within Santa Clara County and together, total approximately 42.2 acres of treatment.

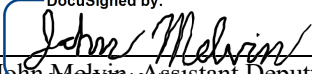
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4 – 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 proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4). Class 4 is applicable to projects that consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor alterations to vegetation proposed by the project involve manual vegetation removal and cut stump herbicide application to remove eucalyptus within 42.2 acres and chipping and removal or scattering of biomass. Although tree removal would occur, it would be limited to trees where removal is necessary for forestry purposes to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health, consistent with the criteria of qualifying projects under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4). The evaluation of potential impacts of the project has been conducted and exceptions to the exemption based on location, cumulative impact, a reasonable possibility of significant effects to the environment due to unusual circumstances, scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources do not apply to the project.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

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| DocuSigned by:  John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection | 9/6/2024 Date |
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