

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Nestldown Ranch Vegetation Treatment Project, FHG # 8GG20604		
PROJECT LOCATION	T009S R001W, Sections 15 and 16	COUNTY	Santa Clara
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Shannon Johnson		
ADDRESS	PO Box 944246	PHONE	916-902-9345
	Sacramento, CA 94244-2460		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to Santa Clara County FireSafe Council under Forest Health Grant Agreement # 8GG20604 to implement treatments that would improve forest health and increase fire resilience by mechanically and manually thinning underbrush and small trees. The proposed treatment area is in Santa Clara County and covers approximately 53.3 acres within the Nestldown Ranch property. Mechanical treatments (i.e., mastication) will occur on 27.4 acres while the remaining 25.9 acres will be treated manually. Biomass from treatments will be masticated, chipped, or lopped and scattered within treatment units.

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 mechanical and manual vegetation removal within 53.3 acres. 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

DocuSigned by: John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	9/30/2024 _____ Date
--	----------------------------