

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

**PROJECT TITLE** Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, “Saving San Diego's Last Mixed Conifer Forest” – Palomar Mountain Vegetation Program (Cleveland National Forest)

**PROJECT LOCATION** Cleveland National Forest – Palomar Ranger District **COUNTY** San Diego

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

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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County to conduct vegetation management activities within the Palomar Mountain area to maintain the efficacy of existing fuelbreak systems. Treatments include hand cutting of brush and trees, prescribed fire, mastication or crushing of brush, and herbicide application. A limited amount of grazing by goats to help maintain desired fuel conditions may also be utilized. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA, if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under the Palomar Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest NEPA Palomar Mountain Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, signed June 16, 2020.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/cleveland/landmanagement/projects>

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	10/17/2024 _____ Date
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