

Notice of Exemption from CEQA

To: County Clerk Recorder
 County of Santa Clara

Office of Planning & Research
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title	File
Moody-El Monte Evacuation Route	N/A jlog
Project Location	APN (s)
Moody Road, Tapa Road, Summit Woods Road, Loma Drive, Prospect Ave, Stonebrook Drive El Monte Road, I280-El Monte interchange ramps, Los Altos Hills, CA	Multiple
Public Agency Approving Project	Person or Agency Carrying out Project
Los Altos Hills County Fire District	Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, Los Altos Hills County Fire District
Project Description (including purpose and beneficiaries of project)	
<p>This The Moody - El Monte evacuation route project will treat portions of nine roads along the evacuation Route. These include Moody Road, Tapa Way, Summit Wood Road, La Loma Drive, Prospect Avenue, Stonebrook Drive, El Monte Road, and the I280 – El Monte Road Cloverleaf/Interchange. The Western end of the project is located at the intersection of Moody Road and Page Mill Road (37.360812, -122.170053). The Eastern end of the project is located at the intersection of Summerhill Avenue and El Monte Road. (37.365639, -122.115522).</p> <p>The length of the project is approximate and will encompass the following streets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Moody Road</u> - 2.8 linear miles, which equates to 5.6 mile when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.360801, -122.170057 to 37.358520, -122.129449) 2. <u>Tapa Way</u> - 0.2 linear mile, which equates to 0.4 miles when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.357273, -122.134789 to 37.355382, -122.132834) 3. <u>Summit Woods Road</u> - 0.4 linear miles, which equates to 0.8 mile when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.355382, -122.132834 to 37.353662, -122.131296) 4. <u>La Loma Drive</u> - 0.3 linear miles. Which accounts to 0.6 miles when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.353662, -122.131296 to 37.354473, -122.127912) 5. <u>Prospect Avenue</u> - 0.4 linear miles. Which accounts to 0.8 miles when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.354473, -122.127912 to 37.354133, -122.121722) 6. <u>Stonebrook Drive</u> - 0.4 linear miles. Which accounts to 0.8 miles when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.354137, -122.121745 to 37.3596813, -122.1220280) 7. <u>El Monte Road</u> - 1.1 linear miles. Which accounts to 2.2 miles when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. (37.358520, -122.129382 to 37.365614, -122.115531) 8. <u>I280 Cloverleaf at El Monte Road</u> - 2.1 linear miles. Which accounts to 4.2 miles when accounting for treatment on both sides of the road. 9. The <u>total treatment</u> of the project is approximately 7.75 miles in length which equates to 15.5 miles of treatment when accounting for both sides of the route. <p>Hand crews will use chainsaws and other mechanized and non-mechanized hand tools to remove understory vegetation and dead or downed material, prune trees and woody vegetation, and remove small, immature trees (less than 8 inches in diameter). Blue Gum Eucalyptus trees of up to 12 inches in diameter may be removed. Mowers and chippers may also be used, but only on existing roadways and established turn outs. All noninvasive treated material will be chipped and scattered in the Project area up to a depth of 3 inches. Remaining material will be removed and disposed of off-site.</p>	

Vegetation fuel reduction will primarily occur on public right of way controlled by the County of Santa Clara, Caltrans or the Town of Los Altos Hills, within 50 feet of the centerline of the road, within 30 feet of structures adjacent to roadways in the Project area, or within 100 feet of structures if necessary to address extra hazardous fire conditions. With appropriate landowner permission as necessary outside the public right of way, the Project will also include fuel reduction on private property adjacent to Project roadways within 30 feet of structures or within 100 feet of structures if necessary to address extra hazardous fire conditions.

Exempt Status (check one / Indicate type and State CEQA Guidelines section number):

Statutory Exemption:

Categorical Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines § 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4); and CEQA Guidelines § 15301 – Existing Facilities (Class 1)

Other:


Reasons why Project is Exempt:

The Project meets the requirements of the Class 4 Categorical Exemption (minor alterations to land, CEQA Guidelines Section 15304), which expressly exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and vegetation, and fuel management activities within 30 or 100 feet of structures. The Project also meets the requirements of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption (existing facilities), which expressly exempts the maintenance of existing public or private facilities including streets, and the maintenance of existing landscaping or native growth.

Project implementation will result in minor alterations to the land, including fuel management activities, that will not significantly impact a scenic vista, scenic resources, or the existing visual character or quality of public views, biological and/or cultural resources, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees for any purpose. Project implementation also involves maintenance of existing roadways, landscaping, and native growth. Vegetation treatment prescriptions are consistent with industry best practices for vegetation management and defensible space and will be approved by LAHCFD prior to implementation.

All work will occur within or immediately adjacent to an established roadway, within 30 feet of structures, or within 100 feet of structures if necessary to address extra hazardous fire conditions. Project activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion or sedimentation of surface waters. Project activities will not damage scenic resources within officially designated state scenic highways.

There is no reasonable possibility that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances that would preclude the use of a categorical exemption for this Project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by staff is kept on file with the District.

County Contact Person	Title	Telephone Number
J. Logan	General Manager, LAHCFD	(650) 400-2220
Signature		Date
 <small>J. Logan (Jan 31, 2025 14:17 PST)</small>		Jan 31, 2025

