



**City of Solvang
Notice of Exemption**

TO:

- Clerk-Recorder
County of Santa Barbara
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Project File

FROM: City of Solvang, 411 Second Street, Solvang, CA 93463

PROJECT TITLE: Hans Christian Anderson Park Fuel Reduction

PROJECT ADDRESS: 633 Chalk Hill Road

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.: 137-670-001

PROJECT LOCATION: City of Solvang

COUNTY OF: Santa Barbara

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project is a collaboration the city of Solvang and the California Conservation Corps with the objective of reducing hazardous fuel profiles within Hans Christian Anderson Park, a 50 acre park surrounded by single family homes, and other high density residential uses. The proposed project includes brush and other non-native vegetation removal along Adobe Creek to improve habitat for native plant species, and generally increase resilience to potential wildfire threat within the City's largest public park.

This proposed project includes use of equipment and hand clearing proposes to reduce vegetation, brush, dead trees, and other biomass in the project area (Attachment X). Preparatory work may be done with hand tools. Work will be completed wholly within property owned by the City of Solvang in areas identified by both the City and Santa Barbara County Fire Department as potential areas that can elevate fire danger. The project will be implemented and managed by City of Solvang. Proposed scope of work does not include any tree removals or alteration of existing stream within Adobe Creek. Work is anticipated to begin end of March and run through middle of April depending on vegetation curing rates and environmental conditions.

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: City of Solvang

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: City of Solvang

EXEMPT STATUS: (check one)

- Ministerial Project (Section 2180(b)(1); 15268)
- Categorical Exemption (Section 15304)
- Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))



- Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Statutory Exemption (Code / Section _____)
- The project clearly will not have a significant effect on the environment (15061(b)(3))

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: CEQA provides several “categorical exemptions” which are applicable to categories of projects and activities that the Lead Agency (the City of Solvang) has determined generally do not pose a risk of significant impacts on the environment.

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption “Minor Alterations to Land” (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed fuel management reduction activities entail understory brush removal, thinning, pruning, chipping from an existing roadway, and dead vegetation removal to make the area more fire resilient. The City of Solvang has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities, and service systems, or to wildfire.

The City further considered whether the project is subject to any of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption found at CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2. This section prohibits the use of a categorical exemption under the following circumstances:

- a) *Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*
- b) *Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*
- c) *Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*
- d) *Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.*
- e) *Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.*

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- f) *Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

The proposed fire reduction activities does not have a cumulative impacts, significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, affect a designated scenic highway, nor is the site considered a hazardous waste site or a historical resources.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Rafael Castillo, AICP **PHONE:** (805) 688-5575

DEPARTMENT: Planning & Building Department

ADDRESS: 411 Second Street
Solvang, CA 93463

SIGNATURE:  _____

Date: 03/20/2025 _____

Title: Planning and Building Manager

Signed by Lead Agency



Project Location

