



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Battalion 4 Fire Stations Fuel Reduction Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T23N; R17W; Section 3; Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian T21N; R15W; Section 1; Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian	<b>COUNTY</b>	Mendocino
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Monica Morris VMP Environmental Scientist	<b>PHONE</b>	707-972-9837
<b>ADDRESS</b>	802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this project is to reduce wildfire risk on 32 acres of State property at two Fire Stations through fuel reduction treatments as well as minor infrastructure improvements. The stations are in Battalion 4 of the Mendocino Unit in Leggett and Laytonville, both along Highway 101. Leggett Station (22 acres) and Laytonville Station (10 acres) are located within Douglas-fir/mixed hardwood forest interspersed with ponderosa pine, true oaks, grassy openings, and shrubs. Both properties contain multiple buildings for CAL FIRE staff in a wildland interface and serves as housing for fire fighters. Annual vegetation management activities are necessary to maintain the grounds in a manner that reduces vegetative fuels around buildings to lower fire risk and remove trees or portions of trees that pose a fire and/or safety risk to structures, property, and human life. Fuel reduction activities involve the use of hand crews, chainsaws (tree falling, bucking, and brushing), pole saws, chippers, heavy equipment with masticator attachments, and pile and broadcast burning. Live trees and dead/dying trees, 12-inches in diameter or less, may be removed when appropriate to improve spacing or forest health, and logs will be bucked and left on site. Larger trees may be pruned to provide for a vertical clearance of up to 14 feet. These activities also serve as training opportunities for unit fire fighters such as chainsaw operations, putting live fire on the ground, constructing fire line, and simulating mop-up operations. This project includes long term fuel reduction and hazard tree removal as needed. In addition, both stations require trench work and pad foundations for additional infrastructure. Leggett Station requires a permanent backup generator, PPE washer-extractor, and electric gate. Pads for the generator and extractor will be located adjacent to the barracks facility and require minor trenching. Trenching to the gate will extend from the apron of the driveway to nearest power source, approximately 75'L. Laytonville Station also requires a permanent generator, necessitating a small pad foundation and trench work between facilities. Generator pads will be approximately 17'L x 10'W x 8"D. Trenching will be approximately 6"W x 18"D.


**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4/15304 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 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 activities entail understory brush removal, 12-inches DBH or less tree removal, thinning, pruning, chipping, mastication, pile burning, and dead/tree removal to improve access and reduce volume of flammable vegetation. As such, CAL FIRE 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. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, 802 N. Main Street. Attn. VMP Coordinator.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

Signed by:  <small>28E8C5BCF01E4BC...</small>	4/10/2025
George Morris III, Northern Region Chief      Date California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	