

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Sierra Vista Fuels Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Township 4 North, Range 12 East, Section 2, MDBM Sierra Vista Lookout Road, Mountain Ranch, CA	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Mallory Scaccianoce		
ADDRESS	785 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	209-754-3831

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sierra Vista Fuels Reduction Notice of Exemption project is located at Sierra Vista Lookout Road with the cross street of West Murray Creek Road. The project area is approximately 4 miles northeast of San Andreas, CA. This project consists of reducing fuels along Sierra Vista Lookout Road and near the tower/lookout to allow trucks and equipment access to the tower location for maintenance and infrastructure restoration. Sierra Vista is at an elevation of approximately 2,785 feet. The vegetation is primarily grass and brush with scattered oak and pine trees.

Near the towers on top of the ridge, two flat spots have been identified that will have brush removal. The road is approximately one mile long and the total area on top of the ridge that will have brush removal totals less than one acre in size. This project will be done by crews bucking and limbing 5 feet on either side of the road. Broadcast of the material will be done by using either a tracked chipper or tow behind chipper. Tracked chipper will remain on the road during operation. There will be no impact to the ground other than foot traffic. The reduction of fuels 5 feet along the road will allow trucks and equipment better driving conditions to the tower. There will be no heavy equipment used off the roadway during the project implementation.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Minor Alterations to Land § 15304 -Class 4
- 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

This project fits under portions of 14 CCR §15304; Minor Alterations to Land. The project does not include any ground disturbance or removal of trees. The project is not anticipated to have any adverse impacts on biological resources or waters of the state. A CAL FIRE State Associate Archaeologist was consulted, and the project will not have any adverse impacts to cultural resources.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department 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, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

 Mike Van Loben Sels, Southern Region Chief Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 4/23/2025