

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Brickyard Training and Fuels Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	8624 CA-124, Ione, CA 95640	COUNTY	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Ryan Wimmer, Forester II		
ADDRESS	4501 CA-104 Ione, CA 95640	PHONE	(209) 274-9375

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE proposes equipment operator training exercises and fuels treatment activities as part of this project. The project area occurs on 199 acres of semi-industrial private property that is zoned for mineral resource utilization, approximately one mile south of Ione, CA. The purpose is to provide a suitable location for public employees to learn and demonstrate proficiency in the operation of mechanized equipment in support of emergency incidents. Co-benefits include modification of hazardous accumulations of flammable vegetation that contributes to dangerous fire behavior. Project activities will greatly enhance public and first responder safety during emergency operations. Elevation ranges between 320-400 feet above mean sea level. Terrain within the project area is variable with slopes generally less than 25% and no unstable soils are identified. Vegetation is characterized by scrub oak woodland, chamise, manzanita, and gray pine. Project activities include use of mechanized equipment and crews to reduce horizontal and vertical continuity of vegetation. Treated material will be chipped or piled for burning. Piles will be burned by crews when safe climatic conditions exist. Equipment limitation zones (ELZ) are identified to protect beneficial uses of water. Known cultural resource sites and occurrences of listed species will be avoided. Portions of the project area have treatments prescribed adjacent to public roadways where tractors may not be utilized. The project requires nearly 25 days to complete initially and approximately 10 days annually to maintain in perpetuity. The project area will be monitored during maintenance status to assess treatment efficacy and ensure effective fuels management is achieved. No significant impacts are anticipated during the implementation of proposed project activities.

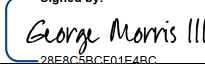
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: **15304 Class 4
Minor Alteration 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

This project fits under portions of CCR Title 14 § 15304 Class 4 Minor Alteration to Land. Vegetation proposed for treatment includes brush and trees smaller than 10-inches diameter at breast-height. Mature, healthy, and scenic trees are not proposed for treatment unless they pose a threat to public safety. Standing dead trees may be removed if they do not possess features which are beneficial to listed wildlife species. 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 CAL FIRE Ione Training Center: 4501 CA-104, Ione, CA 95640 ATTN: CEQA Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Signed by:  <small>28E8C5BCE01E48C</small>	4/30/2025
George Morris III, Northern Region Chief Date California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	