



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Legget Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T24N, R17W, Sec. 27, 34; T23N, R17W, Sec. 2, 3, 10-15, 24, 29, 30; T23N, R16W, Sec. 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27; T23N, R15W, Sec. 19; 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		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	VMP Environmental Scientist 802 North Main Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437	<b>PHONE</b>	707-972-9837

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Legget Valley Fire Department, in collaboration with CAL FIRE, will implement a shaded fuel break along 30 miles of private access roads in the Leggett community. Road conditions vary from single-lane dirt roads with no turnouts to paved double-lane roads with shoulders, traversing 10%–90% slopes across diverse soils. The vegetation consists of a forest structure mixed with a brush and grassland component, including uneven aged stands of 70–300-year-old Douglas fir, redwood, and white fir intermixed with similar age live oak, black oak, white oak and tanoak. Brush species include ceanothus, poison oak, and pampas grass. Fuel reduction activities will consist of thinning the understory (i.e., dead ground fuels and brush) and removing dead and hazard tree material within 50’ of road edges using manual, and mechanical (masticators limited to slopes <50%), treatment methods and pile burning. Hand crews will employ chainsaws (tree falling, bucking, brushing), pole saws, string trimmers, and hand tools. Live trees (≤10” DBH) will be thinned maintaining a 12’x12’ spacing and 30% crown cover, and larger trees will be pruned to provide for a vertical clearance of 14 feet. Approximately 70% of vegetation will be retained on slopes >65% for stability. Dead and dying trees greater than 10” DBH within 50’ of roads may be removed if they pose a risk to public safety. Biomass will be chipped, lopped and scattered, or pile burned. Vehicles and equipment will access the treatment areas using existing permanent and seasonal roads. This project includes long-term maintenance of the shaded fuel break and hazard tree removal as needed.

**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: George Morris III, Northern Region Chief	4/21/2025 Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	