



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Acorn Sugarloaf Fuel Break Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sections 2 & 3, T10S, R23E and Sections 25, 26, 34, 35, T9S, R23E MDB&M	COUNTY	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing Acorn Sugarloaf shaded fuel break is located in Eastern Fresno County between 3,500' and 4,500' in the ponderosa pine belt. This project includes 229 acres of private land where the pine overstory has sustained up to 100% mortality rendering the fuel break ineffective. This project proposes to perform maintenance on the existing understory where required and remove the dead tree overstory to restore functionality to the fuel break. 34 new fuel break acres will be added to this project on an E-W trending ridge bisecting the northern portion of the project loop. These new acres are composed primarily of brush which shall be 90% removed and they are included in the 229 total project acres. Dead and dying trees or trees likely to die within one year as certified by an RPF will be felled. Logs are anticipated to be decked, utilized by property owners, or disposed of. Understory vegetation and residual slash from tree felling shall be masticated, chipped, or piled for burning by hand or tractor. Mastication is anticipated to be the primary vegetation disposal method. Care shall be taken where feasible to retain oak and conifer regeneration reflective of the surrounding species distribution.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4 15304 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 is exempt under CEQA Categorical Exemption 15304 Minor Alterations to Land. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which 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, 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, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Fresno Kings Unit Headquarters (Attention: Environmental Coordinator) in Sanger, CA. This project as proposed shall not have a significant impact on the environment.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 25 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

	8/22/16
Helge Eng Deputy Director	Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	