



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Butte Unit Wildland-Urban Interface Firefighting Drill

PROJECT LOCATION Section 5, Township 21 North, Range 3 East, MDBM **COUNTY** Butte

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project activities will include cutting practice fire lines using hand and power tools and clearing the lines to bare ground. The project site is an undeveloped 40-acre parcel adjacent to rural homes. A flat ridge with open areas bisects the parcel. A steep, brushy slope leading to a class II watercourse is located on the southeast side of the project area. Blue oak, live oak, grey pine, manzanita, toyon, ceanothus, poison oak, and annual grass are the dominant plant species. The geology is a lava cap with areas of very shallow soil in many places. There is an access road that runs along the ridge. The area was burned in the 2008 Humboldt fire and a dozer line was installed along the road. A majority of the practice hand lines will be cut on the steep, brushy slope. Erosion control facilities will be constructed concurrently with line construction. No cutting will occur within 50' of the watercourse. The exercise will occur over a one-day period. Less than one acre of bare ground will be exposed as a part of fireline construction.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 Section 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

This project fits under portions of a Categorical Exemption to CEQA: Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. This firefighting drill will result in minor alteration of vegetation. Minimal ground disturbance is anticipated as work will be limited in scope. The project as proposed will not have significant impact on humans or the environment.

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 the Butte Fire Center, 6640 Steiffer Road, Magalia, CA 95954.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
 JUN 14 2016
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 6/13/16
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection