



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Blue Oaks Training Site		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	The project site is located approximately four (4) miles west of Lakeport CA, south of State Highway 175.	<b>COUNTY</b>	LAKE
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Greg Bertelli, Battalion Chief		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE: Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574	<b>PHONE</b>	(707) 967-1400

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will consist of field training for CAL FIRE Heavy Fire Equipment Operators (HFEO) and Inmate Fire Crews. Some burning may be conducted. Prior to each wildland fire season, fire engine operators (Fire Captains and Fire Apparatus Engineers) are required to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of engine operations. There is no such venue for the HFEO. The Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit of CAL FIRE desires to provide an annual proficiency exercise for their HFEOs to ensure that they are ready for the wildland fire season. In addition, this site would be utilized for annual training of inmate firefighters, and provide a drill site for Fire Crew Readiness drills.

The HFEOs will use ICS Type 2 and Type 3 bulldozers to construct mock Fireline on existing dirt roads consistent with standards of the department, as instructed at the CAL FIRE Academy. They will also conduct Fireline suppression repair work to current standards. All ground disturbance areas will be rehabilitated with on-contour brush windrows. All bulldozers will stay on existing roads and trails with no side cast of soil from the road prism. No ground disturbance will occur within 100 feet of any watercourses (Class I, II, III, IV). Some road maintenance will occur on existing roads. Fire crews will utilize chainsaws, Pulaski's, McLeod's, and brush hooks to construct fire line through brush. Fireline suppression repair work will be conducted consistent with current standards of practice as taught in Heavy Fire Equipment Operator classes at the state and region level.

Open burning may be conducted to reduce fuel loading and will be performed in compliance with CAL FIRE and Lake County Air Quality Management District (LCAQMD) policies and procedures.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, Sec. 15301 Class 4, Sec. 15304(b, i)
- 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 two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class1 (Existing Facilities) and Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land). Most of the project activities would occur within previously disturbed areas. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are best described as minor in scope. For Class 1, the existing road system in the area has been used and maintained continuously for several years by the property owner. Some of the roads have been used for



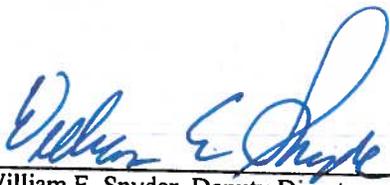
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fire roads in the past, and are part of the Adobe Creek fire road system. The native vegetation has been pushed back from the road in several areas. For Class 4, minor grading and road repair will take place to maintain the viability of using the roads for future access to fire-prone areas. PG&E has a series of high-voltage power line towers across the north end of the project and has developed many spur roads for access to their towers. Current department standards for Fireline suppression repair will be followed to ensure the road system stays in good condition. The field portion of the HFEO training class will occur over a three-day period. It is anticipated that 2 sessions will occur each year.

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 LNU Headquarters in St. Helena.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

 6/6/13  
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 William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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