



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Doyle Springs Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Doyle Springs Portion of Section 7 and 8, T20, R31E . MDBM	COUNTY	Tulare
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	David Shy, Division Chief – Pre Fire		
ADDRESS	Tulare Unit ,1968 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia CA 93292	PHONE	559-732-5954

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will consist of a fuel reduction zone to protect the community of Doyle Springs. The reduction zone will consist of approximately 180 ac. of limbing trees, clearing brush and dead trees. The majority of brush and dead trees surrounding the community of Doyle Springs will be removed. This area has been decimated by drought and bark beetle attack. The majority of the overstory trees are dead and will be removed. Until these trees are removed they pose a safety hazard. They increase the fire danger in the area and put people and property in danger from falling limbs and trees. All dead trees may be removed and the slash will be treated by either pile burning, chipping or removed off site to be disposed of. Some healthy trees less than 6" DBH may be removed in order to space out the remaining trees. An attempt to retain all healthy trees shall be imposed. Healthy trees > 6" DBH shall be limbed up to 15' in height or to 2/3 of the height of the tree if the tree is less than 25' in height. All work will be done by CAL FIRE hand and engine crews. Chips generated will be left on site for use by the community. A fire break shall be constructed around the chip pile to ensure that if the pile was to catch fire it will be contained to the pile with no extension into the wildland. The chip pile may be spread out and used as dust abatement for the area. Chipping work will be confined to this area and to the existing roads to minimize ground disturbance. Heavy equipment may be used to skid logs out of the fuel reduction zone area to where they can be treated. This activity supports the current Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is in place as well as the Unit's Fire Plan. The vegetation that is to be removed will consist of dead trees, down trees, limbs, blackberries, and various brush species. This fuel reduction zone will help protect home within the SRA.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: 15304 Class 4 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 Categorical Exemption as described under 14CCR§15304 Minor Alteration to Land. CNDDDB, archeological and field reviews have been conducted for this project. No known species of concern were identified within or adjacent to the project area. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff 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 utilities and service systems.

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 3/21/16
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection