



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Lafetra SFA Grant Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Sec 7 & 8, T4S, R2E, SBBM	<b>COUNTY</b>	Riverside
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Tim Morin, RPF #2505		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	1230 Tourmaline Ave., Mentone, CA 92359	<b>PHONE</b>	909-332-0534

Project description: the Lafetra parcel is located on private property, near the Vista Grande fire station, west of HWY 243 and approximately 7.5 miles southeast of Banning and 7.5 miles northwest of Idyllwild, CA. The project is located on a rural 34 acre private ownership surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. The area has been identified and listed on the national list in the federal register as a community at risk from wildfires and is a natural fire "chimney" that exposes the unincorporated area known as Poppet Flats and Twin Pines to fire risk. The objective of the project is to reduce the amount of flammable woody material on this parcel. No large trees have been marked for removal on this project as it consists of scrub oak, white thorn and manzanita, throughout. The intent of this project is to reduce the fuel load by approximately 50%, as well as limit the vertical and horizontal continuity of the fuel. Highway 243 is one of three evacuation routes for the community of Idyllwild and Pine Cove. The fuel reduction activities will predominantly involve the use of a masticator head for mowing grasses, brush, and small trees. The target is to remove 30-50% of the vegetation in a mosaic pattern. The project will likely use mastication and hand crews with chainsaws performing thinning of young growth trees, pruning limbs of residual trees, clearing of brush concentrations, and elimination of existing and created fuels. Hand crews will be used for cutting, piling, and chipping in areas not accessible to equipment.

The area contains dense chaparral (mainly scrub oak and whitethorn) with some isolated conifers and hardwoods beginning to emerge. Slopes are average 30%, but can exceed 60% in site specific areas. There is one class II watercourse where water is typically absent. Equipment shall not be used on slopes over 40% and will not operate within 75'-100' of the class II watercourse. All resulting material will be chipped on site and left to control soil erosion and weed invasion at a depth not to exceed six inches (6").

**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**

Field review confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. In addition, the RPF 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 RPF will be kept on file at the Idyllwild CAL FIRE office.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      8/23/13  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection      Date