

PROJECT TITLE	Lakewood Pines Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	T6N, R13E, Portion of Sections 26 MDBM	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of constructing, maintaining and improving fuel breaks. The project area is located in the center of Calaveras County along Independence Road off Railroad Flat road, approximately 1/2 mile north of the city of Railroad Flat. The project area elevation is approximately 2,550 feet above sea level. Vegetation type is in the conifer transitional belt and consists of Ponderosa Pine and Chaparral vegetation types. Major tree species include native oaks, Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), Canyon and Interior Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis* and *wislizenii*), along with Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Sugar Pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), and Incense Cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*). Brush species include manzanita, toyon, ceanothus, poison oak, and bear clover. The project consists of fuel reduction and removals of fuel ladders. Project will consist of pre-commercial thinning trees to reduce crown densities to a level that will not carry a crown fire. Trees will be selected to create an open canopy and improve forest health and vigor. Trees with cavities will be left to maintain wildlife structure. Understory treatments will consist of removal of ground and ladder fuels by pruning and removal of selected vegetation. The project area is approximately 9.9 acres in size. Vegetation removal will consist of hand cutting and piling for burning during a safe burn windows or chipping and broadcasting chips at location. Heavy equipment will not be used and vehicles shall be confined to existing roads. Trees up to 12 inches DBH may be removed to achieve the necessary spacing needed for achieving a functional fuel break. Any tree posing a threat to life and safety shall be removed. Grass, forbs and other low-lying ground vegetation will not be targeted for removal. The primary goal is to disrupt the horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels in order to provide a safe and feasible means of defense against the high probability of vegetation fire within the wildland urban interface.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 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 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The Class of Exemption to be used is 14 CCR 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 will occur as a result of this project. The project consists of constructing, maintaining and improving fuel breaks. A query of the CNDDB did not reveal the presence of sensitive species. Protection measures for watercourses are consistent with The California Forest Practice Rules. Protection measures for archaeological sites are consistent with the Best Management Practices of the industry and impacts are not expected. An archeological survey has been conducted and a confidential report has been submitted to Cal Fire for review. All burning will be done in accordance with a permit for the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 28 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Helge Eng, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

6/27/16

Date