



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Lockheed Fuel Reduction Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Portions of Sec 20, 21, 28 & 29 T9S, R3W, MDBM	<b>COUNTY</b>	Santa Cruz
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Andrew Hubbs		
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will utilize hand crews to create two conditions of modified fuels; a shaded fuel break in woodland formations and a residual mosaic in brush formations on up to 90 acres along road corridors and strategic ridgelines within the Lockheed Facility in Santa Cruz County. The width of the project area will be variable, depending on topography and fuel loading, but typically will range from 50 to 200 feet. The objectives will be to disrupt the horizontal continuity of surface fuels, vertical continuity resulting from ladder fuels, and increase shrub and understory crown spacing. Woodland formations will be treated with a "thin from below" approach reducing surface and ladder fuels and increasing understory crown spacing by removing a majority of trees up to 12 inches DBH. The lower limbs of "leave" trees will be pruned to a height of 6 – 10 feet. Brush formations will be treated with a residual mosaic approach, leaving scattered shrubs and islands of intact formation comprising approximately 30% of the original cover, with an average spacing of 10 – 20 feet apart. Cut material will generally be chipped and spread uniformly on-site or hauled away. Invasive species treated having mature seed will not be chipped and spread on-site; instead it will be hauled off-site and disposed of properly or cut and laid within exiting areas of infestation, lopped to a height of 12 inches or less. It is anticipated this project will be conducted periodically for several years during the fall, winter and spring months beginning in 2014.

**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**

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. No activity is proposed that is listed as a limitation under CCR 15300.2 (a-f).

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 San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director    Date: 12/19/13  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection