NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Los Trancos/Vista Verde Wildfire Risk Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of unsurveyed El Corde De Madera Ranchero	**COUNTY**	San Mateo
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Andrew Hubbs		
ADDRESS	6059 Highway 9 Felton, CA 95018	**PHONE**	(831) 335-6794

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde neighborhoods are rural, SRA, hillside communities of approximately 300 homes with only two public roadways for access. Critical sections of these roadways are substandard and narrow. Houses are perched in steep canyons with brushy chaparral on densely tree-filled parcels.

Given these conditions, the project will:

1) Conduct targeted fuel reduction treatments within a 10 acre area using hand crews to reduce underbrush and chaparral in designated open space areas and the County "right of way" for the subdivision, specifically the Alpine Rd corridor and side streets,

2) Increase and maintain a defensible space zone by focusing on highly flammable and dead brush in partnership with residents through the chipping portion of the project, including 16 neighborhood "chipper days" the entire community in the project area is approximately 148 acres.

3) Remove dead/dying or diseased and non-native trees as part of a comprehensive fuel reduction effort. Three non-native Eucalyptus tree will be removed and an additional 8 to 10 dead, dying and diseased trees may be removed from the community

4) Provide an education component with comprehensive suite of outreach tools targeted to increase public awareness and engagement.

These initiatives are designed to facilitate and accelerate the adoption of Fire Safe and Firewise practices consistent with the ultimate goal of creating a Fire Adapted Community. By removing excessive fuels and creating defensible space, the rate of spread can be drastically reduced if a fire were to start. A slower rate of spread allows fire crews to use a safer method and achieve a better success rate when extinguishing wildland fires in an initial attack.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] 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

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
OCT 17 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

10/13/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection