



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council-San Jacinto WUI Dead & Dying Tree Removal		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T3S, R1E, Sec. 25, 35, 36; T3S, R2E, Sec. 29-32; T4S, R1E, Sec. 1-3, 10-12; T4S, R2E, Sec. 6-8, 13-14, 26, 35-36; T5S, R2E, Sec. 1-2, 10-14, 23-25, 35-36; T5S, R3E, Sec. 5-8, 17-21, 23, 26-30, 34-35; T6S, R3E, Sec. 3-4, 7-11, 14-16, 22-26, 36; T6S, R4E, Sec. 8-9, 17, 20, 31; T6S, R5E, Sec. 28-29, 33-35; T7S, R3E, Sec. 1; T7S, R4E, Sec. 5-9, 16-17; T7S, R5E, Sec. 1, 3, 9-11, 17; SBBM	<b>COUNTY</b>	Riverside
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Gregg Bratcher, Unit Forester		
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The San Jacinto Mountains Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is located in a densely overgrown forest which has been subject to major tree mortality due to the ongoing drought conditions and resulting epidemic bark beetle infestations, primarily affecting Coulter, Ponderosa, Jeffery and Sugar Pines. This project will assist owners of property within the WUI with the costly removal of standing dead and dying trees that pose a fire and safety hazard to structures. Trees 36 to 48 inches Diameter at Breast Height (dbh) will receive priority consideration for removal as the cost to remove one of these trees runs between \$1,000 to \$1,500 or more. Due to the high cost many property owners do not remove a dead tree. In 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed that this tree die-off worsens wildfire risk across regions of the state. This program would provide 65 percent of the cost for a home owner to remove a tree; the owner would provide a 35 percent share of the cost. If the property owner can show proof that they meet the low income guidelines for Riverside County, then the tree would be removed as a community safety reason at no cost to the owner. This program proposes to help reduce tree removal costs to 80 property owners.

**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 by Tim Morin, RPF #2505, confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. 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 is kept on file at CAL FIRE's RRU Headquarters in Riverside.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 17 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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 Helge Eng, Deputy Director      Date 10/13/16  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection