



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council-San Jacinto WUI Fuels Reduction

PROJECT LOCATION	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	COUNTY Riverside
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LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The San Jacinto Mountains Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is located in a densely overgrown forest where years of drought, bark beetle infestation, and seasonal dry winds known as Santa Ana severely increase the potential of a catastrophic wildfire. Norm Walker, Retired U.S.F.S. Division Chief, San Bernardino National Forest, provided the following description of the local communities: *"The communities within the WUI are old established communities. There are no practical means of widening roads, establishing 'green belts' of manicured lawns, or building block walls between the community and wildland. While these fire safe features are part of new communities that are bordered by National Forest, we can only work with what we have."*

This project will assist owners of property within the WUI who need hazardous fuels reduction on their properties, primarily the reduction of the surface and ladder fuels and thinning out dense tree stands. This program would provide 65 percent of the cost of the hazardous fuels reduction and the owner would provide a 35 percent share of the cost. The project consists of cutting understory vegetation, chipping woody debris and haul away of vegetation to meet defensible space requirements.

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

15304 (i): Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.



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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 Perris, CA.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

NOV 08 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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

11/3/16

Date