NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	MMU Readiness Exercise		
PROJECT LOCATION	34469 Highway 49 Ahwahnee, California 93601	**COUNTY**	Madera
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Guy M. Anderson		
ADDRESS	5366 Highway 49 North Mariposa, CA 95338	**PHONE**	(209) 742-1907

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of an annual firefighter readiness exercise for the Mariposa/Madera/Merced Unit. The readiness exercise will include a staging area approximately 1/4 acre in size where fire engines will park on asphalt, a wildland urban interface (WUI) drill, a progressive hose lay drill, a 2.4 mile hike with wildland firefighting gear along an established hiking trail, and a hand line drill. The WUI drill will consist of parking a fire engine, deploying a charged fire line around a structure, verbally stating the procedure for prep and defend structure defense. The progressive hose lay will extend charged hose uphill 800 feet along a slope of less than 10%. It will not cross any watercourses. The crews will scrape a hand line approximately 3-feet wide by 1500-feet long along a dirt access road. The hand line is located on flat ground and crosses one swale, but does not cross any watercourses. The project area would best be described as blue-oak woodland, with an elevation of 2,360 feet above sea level. The project area is located on Madera County property (Ahwahnee Regional Park). The physical address is 34469 Highway 49, Ahwahnee, California 93601. The readiness exercise will be conducted over a four day period each year. This project will be reevaluated in five years to ensure compliance with CEQA.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] 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 project consists of a training exercise that is short in duration and minor in scope. A query of the CNDDB was conducted. The project area avoids watercourses. The project area was evaluated by a CAL FIRE archaeologist. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the proposed project area. The staging area and hose lay area will not result in any soil disturbance. The hand line area is not visible from the highway, and annual grass is expected to re-grow over the hand line.

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 the Mariposa Madera Merced Unit Headquarters in Mariposa.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
JUN 26 2013
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder 6/21/13

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection