



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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|-------------------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| PROJECT TITLE | Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council Hazard Tree Removal Assistance | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | Sec. 22, 31-34, T2N, R2W; Sec. 1, 8-11, 13-23, 26-30, T2N, R3W; Sec. 4-6, T1N, R2W; Sec. 1, T1N, R3W; Sec. 13-28, 34, T2N, R4W; Sec. 2-3, T1N, R4W | COUNTY | San Bernardino |
| LEAD AGENCY | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) | | |
| CONTACT | Henry Herrera, Unit Forester | | |
| ADDRESS | 3800 N. Sierra Way San Bernardino, CA 92405 | PHONE | (909)475-8091 |

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is comprised of mixed conifer forests at an elevation of approximately 5,000'-6,500' within private lands in the local sphere of influence of the Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council (MRFSC) and Arrowhead Communities Fire Safe Council (ACFSC). Communities that will benefit from this project include Crestline, Green Valley Lake, Arrowbear, Running Springs, Twin Peaks, Skyforest, Rimforest and Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains. This is an area of approximately 70,400 acres surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. There are approximately 32,000 habitable structures in this area. Dead or dying trees due to bark beetles, drought, or other reasons within defensible space, falling distance to habitable structures or other private property will be removed in order to reduce the fire risk and improve forest health. It is estimated that approximately 200 property owners will participate in the program. This project will run through march 1, 2018. This project involves hazardous tree felling, chipping of branches (onsite or haul away), and possible removal of logs from the site resulting from tree felling. Trees will either be climbed and cut into sections which will be lowered to the ground using ropes, cut from the ground, or cut utilizing bucket trucks. All branches will be lopped and/or chipped onsite and/or hauled away. All cutting will be done using chainsaws and contract crews. If tree logs need to be removed from the project site, then the logs will be cut into firewood size lengths and removed by hand to minimize ground disturbance. All trees will be felled in the least ground-disturbing manner feasible. All work vehicles and ground based equipment will stay on existing road prisms, driveways, and developed areas.

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.

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 BDU Headquarters in San Bernardino.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 01 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng 7/28/16

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