



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Merced City College- Insect Infested Tree Removal and Road Brushing

PROJECT LOCATION 5222 Oak Road Midpines CA 95345. SE ¼ of Section 36,
 T4S, R18E, MDBM **COUNTY** Mariposa

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CONTACT Guy Anderson
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 5366 Highway 49 South **PHONE** (2909) 742-1907
 Mariposa, CA 95338

Project Description: CAL FIRE is proposing to remove insect-infested trees and brush a seasonal road within a 180-acre property owned by Merced Community College District. This project has three objectives: remove dead trees that contribute to fuel loading in the Midpines area of Mariposa County, provide a site to teach a tree falling class to CAL FIRE personnel and provide fuel wood for low income senior citizens in Mariposa County. There are about 64 dead ponderosa pines on the property. The dead trees will be felled as part of a class curriculum for tree falling certification. After the dead trees have been felled, hand crews from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and CAL FIRE personnel will cut the boles of the trees into firewood-sized rounds. The firewood will be hand loaded on to a 2-axle 3-ton dump truck and hauled to a Mariposa County property. The firewood will be donated to Mariposa County for distribution to low income senior citizens. The remaining slash from the dead trees will be left on site, lopped and scattered for fire hazard reduction per forest practice rules. To access the dead trees a 250-foot road segment will have to be brushed. All vehicles will remain on roads. The cut brush will be chipped. The chips will be spread along the road segment for erosion control. The project is expected to commence in December 2013 or January 2014 and be completed in three weeks.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 14CCR§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 California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15304. This project can be classified as a class 4 minor alteration of the land categorical exemption. No large healthy, scenic, mature trees are to be removed. Little or no ground disturbance will occur as a result of this project.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 CAL FIRE Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

DEC 03 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku 12/3/13
 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection