NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Miramonte Access Road		
PROJECT LOCATION	Within portions of Sections 19, 20, 30 T14S R27E MDB&M, near the town of Miramonte.	**COUNTY**	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Edwin Simpson, Forester I CAL FIRE Fresno-Kings Unit Headquarters 210 South Academy Avenue Sanger, CA 93657	**PHONE**	(559) 493-4300

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Miramonte Access Road Project involve maintenance of the existing dirt road accessing the Miramonte Conservation Camp from the north, The project encompasses 56 acres. Vegetation within a 100-foot strip along both sides of the roadway will be treated to reduce fuels. Brush and trees will be selectively removed with chainsaws to eliminate vegetation encroaching into the roadway, remove existing ladder fuels, and to provide crown separation for overstory vegetation. Trees greater than nine inches DBH are not targeted for treatment but may be removed where a danger to firefighter or public safety, or a threat to property or infrastructure exists. Vegetation removed shall be chipped or piled and burned onsite. Residual vegetation shall be spaced no less than 20 feet apart.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4

15301 (c) Existing Facilities
15302 Replacement or Reconstruction
15304 (f) 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 into a class 4 categorical exemption to CEQA (15304 minor alterations to land). The lack of equipment often associated with fuel break installation greatly reduces the potential for environmental impacts. Field review by a CALFIRE unit forester confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. A biological assessment has concluded that no listed species shall be adversely impacted by project activities. The limited nature of this projects footprint in relation to the amount of identical habitat available in the surrounding area further reduces the likely hood of any species (T & E or otherwise) being adversely affected by potential habitat modification due to the fuels reduction activities. No healthy mature scenic trees shall be removed. 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 following approval and implementation of this project. Documentation of the environmental review conducted by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Fresno-Kings Unit Headquarters (Attention: Environmental Coordinator) in Sanger, California. The project as proposed shall not have a significant impact on the environment.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
MAR 27 2014
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

2/24/14

Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection