



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Nelson Bug Kill Tree Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Placer County APN: 071-122-019-000 and 071-131-007-000. Located in Section 16&21, T 13N., R 08E., MDB&M	<b>COUNTY</b>	Placer
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Cal Fire – NEU, Steve Garcia		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	13760 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA. 95603	<b>PHONE</b>	(530) 889-0111 x-139

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project consists of cutting and onsite chipping of one acre of dead pine trees that died due to beetle infestation and drought. The site is a former cattle ranch that seeded with ponderosa pine 40 to 50 years ago. These young pine trees eventually became overstocked and competed for space, nutrients and water. The current beetle infestation and drought caused the total collapse of the young stand of pine. At minimum, 90-95% of the trees have died. Approximately 100 trees would be removed and would occur over a 10 day period. Tree diameters range from 12 to 22 inches DBH and are 50-80 feet tall. The landscape is gently rolling high productivity soils that consist of dry land grass pastures in the lower flats and pine timber with scattered oaks and brush on the slopes. The entire region is heavily populated and resembles the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Parcels range in size from 5-50 acres and contain residential structures. The specific site where cutting will occur is flat ground adjacent to steeper slopes to the north and west.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 – 14 CCR§ 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 involves the use of hand tools and a track chipper to reorient understory vegetation. The resulting condition will be only slightly and temporarily altered from the existing conditions of the land and qualifies under 14 CCR§ 15304 Minor Alterations to Land. A CAL FIRE Registered Professional Forester has conducted an environmental review of the project and determined, pursuant to 14 CCR § 15300.2 (a), (b), (c) and (f) that no cumulative impacts will occur and no historical resources or unusual circumstances exist which would prevent the use of a Categorical Exemption.

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 NEU Headquarters in Auburn, California.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 22 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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

6/17/16

Date