



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE Old Railroad Grade Shaded Fuel Break

PROJECT LOCATION West half of Section 23 & the Southwest 1/4 of Section 14 in the Township 7 North, Range 1 East, Humboldt B&M **COUNTY** Humboldt

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

CONTACT Len Nielson, SRA VMP Forester I

ADDRESS Humboldt – Del Norte Unit **PHONE** 707-726-1258
 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Construct a shaded fuel break for approximately 1.4 miles of road length within fifty feet of the road prism (approximately 17 acres). This project is to allow crews to utilize chainsaws, chippers and handtools to clear brush and small trees along the roadway that leads from the town of Fieldbrook to the South Fork of Little River. The project will provide approximately 60 homes in the community of Fieldbrook with increased fire protection for both egress and ingress for a frequently used road. Hazardous fuel loading will be greatly reduced. The resulting hazardous fuels will be treated by a combination of chipping, and lop and scatter material to within eighteen inches of the ground. The project area is made up of various brush species as well as several tree species which include Alder, White fir, Douglas fir and pine trees. The project area will remove brush and small trees to allow trees to be spaced at a target of fourteen by fourteen foot spacing. The maximum tree diameter for removal is 8 inches. Remaining trees will be limbed to reduce ladder fuels. The project area will result in an increase in fire protection along the Old Railroad Grade Road. These fuel management activities will reduce the volume of flammable vegetation allowing the community safe access in the event of wildfire. Site disturbance will be limited to minor modification of vegetation.

EXEMPTION STATUS

Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 – Minor alterations to land - minor vegetation removal

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 Section 15304 Minor alterations to land Class 4__

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 CAL FIRE Humboldt – Del Norte Unit, 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED
 APR 09 2014
 STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku 4/8/14
 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection