NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Hazardous Fuels Reduction for Pinehurst and Miramonte Foothill Communities		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 12,13,14,20,21,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,and 35, T14S, R27E, MDBM	**COUNTY**	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jeff Gletne		
ADDRESS	10480 Road 261 Terra Bella, CA 93270	**PHONE**	559-359-1501

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The four year drought and resultant bark beetle infestation have hit the communities of Pinehurst and Miramonte very hard. Totaling more than 10,000 State Responsibility Area (SRA) acres, ranging from 3,000 to over 5,000 foot elevations, these communities have just under 1,000 residents and over 600 habitable and community structures. Tree mortality approaches 90% in these areas.

The goals of the project are to reduce the hazardous trees and fuels threatening habitable structures, community infrastructure, and ingress and egress routes on approximately 970 acres, thereby making these communities more fire safe.

The initial focus will be on falling dead and dying hazard trees within 200 feet of all ingress/egress roads. The resulting slash will be treated primarily by mastication, although piling and burning, chipping, removing, or lopping may also be used. Some brush and other ladder fuels may be treated in conjunction with the slash treatments. Material treated by mastication or chipping will be left on site. Logs will generally be left for landowners to utilize and/or dispose of.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] 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

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption pertaining to minor alterations to land as identified in the CEQA Guidelines. After completing an environmental analysis, it has been determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, a CNDDB and RareFind, and BIOS search, greenhouse gas emission calculations, and an archaeological review completed by CAL FIRE Resource Management staff.

Field review by RPF Gletne 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 Headquarters in Fresno.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JUL 06 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director — Date 7/5/16
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection