



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Porter Gulch Fuel Reduction		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Portions of Rancho Shoquel Augmentation, T10S, R1W, MDBM	<b>COUNTY</b>	Santa Cruz
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

*The proposed project will create approximately 15 acres of shaded fuel break along the upper portions of Porter Gulch Road and ridge lines surrounding Porter Gulch. Handcrews from Ben Lomond Conservation Camp will remove small diameter trees, shrubs and limbs to reduce continuity of fuels within 20 – 50 feet of roadsides and 50 to 100 feet along ridge lines. No trees greater than 12 inches DBH will be removed. Generally only trees less than 6 inches DBH will be removed; limbs will be pruned to a height of 6 – 10 feet. All cut material will be either chipped or lopped and scattered on site. Invasive species treated having mature seed will be cut and laid within existing areas of infestation, lopped to a height of 12 inches or less. It is anticipated this project will be conducted during the spring and summer months.*

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- 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**

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. No activity is proposed that is listed as a limitation under CCR 15300.2 (a-f).

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 San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director      Date 5/31/13  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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JUN -3 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE