NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Ramona Dead and Dying Tree Removal SRA Grant 5GS15132-15-SRA-MVU-0053		
PROJECT LOCATION	Ramona Community Planning Area (SRA), Ramona, CA.	**COUNTY**	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	Ramona West End Fire Safe Council		
CONTACT	Kristi Mansolf 15873 Highway 67 Ramona, CA 92065	**PHONE**	760 445-8545

Project Description:
The purpose of this project is to provide for the removal of 50 dead and dying trees within 100' of homes and within 30' of roads (Evacuation Routes) in the Ramona Community Planning Area on SRA lands. The Ramona Community Planning Area is blessed by majestic oak woodlands, grass lands and native shrub lands interspersed with residential communities that still provide for a wide range of wildlife species. The Ramona Planning Area has been adversely impacted by two recent wildfires, the 2003 Cedar and the 2007 Witch Creek Fires, a prolonged drought and an unprecedented spread of the Golden Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB), resulting in the loss of many large, drought weakened, very majestic, native oaks, and drought impacted non-native pines and eucalyptus that are now contributing to the dead fuel loading within residential communities. The intent of this project is to reduce a potential fire's intensity thus providing enhanced suppression opportunities, and a decrease in the threat of fire originating within the urbanized areas and spreading to adjacent wildlands.

This project proposes the cutting and removal of up to 50 trees by a qualified contractor. The bole and major limbs of the oaks will be cut into rounds and debarked to prevent the spread of GSOB. The removed bark will be chipped and spread to dry on site. The home owner will have the option of surrendering the debarked oak rounds to the contractor who will be able to move and sell the debarked OAK wood rounds as fuelwood or keep the debarked rounds on site (30' or more from their residence and out buildings) for their own use as fuelwood. The limb and branch wood will be chipped and dispersed on site by the contractor. The other dead species will be cut into rounds and the limb and branch wood chipped and spread on site. Again the home owner will have the option of keeping the rounds (storing them 30' or more from their residence and out buildings) or giving them to the contractor who will remove the rounds and sell them as fuelwood. Total area impacted on approximately 21 privately owned properties totals 1.26 acres. There will be no ground disturbing activities associated with this project.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 1530. 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 reviewing and approving an environmental analysis completed by a California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) #787, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based an Environmental Review completed by the RPF that included a greenhouse gas emission calculation.

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 RPF and approved by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE MVU Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
NOV 14 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

11/10/16

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