



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Ryan Creek Conservation Easement

**PROJECT LOCATION** Located at the southeastern perimeter of the City of Eureka **COUNTY** Humboldt

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

**CONTACT** Jeff Calvert, Forest Legacy Coordinator, For III

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**Project Description** Ryan Creek Conservation Easement will provide is a working-forest conservation easement on 5500 acres of Site I and Site II redwood soils located at the southeastern perimeter of the City of Eureka, in Humboldt County. The purpose of the conservation easement is to preclude future subdivision and development but allow continued timber production. The property is immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the Eureka Community Forest. Both the community forest and this project will allow for trail-use and other forms of recreation and sustainable management.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 17 §15317 Open Space Contracts or Easements  
Class 25 §15325 Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources
- 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**

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 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. This project fits under two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 17 (Open Space Contracts or Easements) and Class 25 (Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources). Acquisition as a Conservation Easement through the State and Federal Forest Legacy Programs will protect the area from the encroachment of residential development pressure facing Humboldt County today. The Ryan Creek Project provides significant wildlife habitat for several threatened and special concern species. This protection will allow continued traditional forestry activities while affording some limited public recreational and educational opportunities.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



*Duane Shintaku* 9/24/14  
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Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection