



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	San Juan Canyon Road Shaded Fuel Break & Residential Chipping		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Portions of Unsectioned Land in T13S/R04E & T13S/R05E MDBM, Rancho Cienega Del Gabilan Land Grant, San Juan Bautista, CA	<b>COUNTY</b>	San Benito
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	2221 Garden Road Monterey, CA 93940	<b>PHONE</b>	(831) 333-2600

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will utilize hand crews to create a shaded fuel break along portions of San Juan Canyon Road, Hillside Road, the Pioneer Park access road, Quinn Canyon subdivision roads, and a portion of Holthouse Road. The shaded fuel break covers approximately 67 acres. The project is near San Juan Bautista in San Benito County. The project width will vary depending on county right of way and landowner permissions, extending 20 – 40 feet from the edge of both sides of the aforementioned roads. Some roadside areas will not be treated due to cut banks, light fuels or landowner requirements. The objectives will be to disrupt the horizontal continuity of surface fuels and vertical continuity resulting from ladder fuels. All vegetation less than 4 inches diameter will be removed. The lower limbs of trees 4 inches diameter and greater will be removed to a height of 6 – 10 feet. Cut material will be chipped on site. It is anticipated this project will be conducted periodically over several weeks, beginning in the spring of 2016.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, 4 §15301 Existing Facilities, §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 portions of Class 1 and Class 4 Categorical Exemptions described in the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15301, 15304) pertaining to existing structures and minor alterations to land, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and is exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

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's San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

  
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director      Date: 6/27/16  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 28 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE