



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Shelter Cove 1 SFB		
PROJECT LOCATION	East half of Section 3 in Township 5 South and Range 1 East, Humboldt Base & Meridian	COUNTY	Humboldt
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Jason Butcher - SRA VMP Forester I		
ADDRESS	Humboldt - Del Norte Unit 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540	PHONE	707-726-1258

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project proposes to construct a 15 acre shaded fuel break along the northern edge of a rural residential community of Shelter Cove. Shelter Cove is an isolated community on the Northern California coastline located nearly due west of Garberville and highway 101. Creating a shaded fuel break will alter the volume, type, and continuity of vegetation which will change the behavior of a potential wildfire entering the zone. Brush, shrubs, and small trees will be removed in order to eliminate fire ladder fuels and increase spacing between tree crowns. The reduced fuel zone will lessen the chance of a fire to carry through the area and increase the likelihood that crews would be able to extinguish or hold a fire from spreading. This project will allow crews to utilize hand tools, weed eaters, chainsaws, and chippers, to reduce hazardous fuels with a combination of treatments. Treatments may include weed whacking, brush removal, limb removal, chipping, lop and scatter, and the removal of small trees within the Shaded Fuel Break. Eight inches is the maximum tree diameter at breast height (DBH) to be removed. Remaining trees will be limbed to reduce ladder fuels. The vegetation type in the project vicinity consists of dense trees and shrubs interspersed with small grassy areas. Dominant species include tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), grand fir (*Abies grandes*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) blue blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*), Evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*) and various seasonal and perennial grasses.

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

This project fits under a Class 4 Categorical Exemptions described in CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Sections 15304) pertaining 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 Humboldt - Del Norte Unit, 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 10 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 2/10/16
 Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection