



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	South Division Fire Preparedness Exercise		
PROJECT LOCATION	Corte Madera Ranch, 4.5 miles south-southwest of the town of Pine Valley.		
	NW ¼ of Section 23, T 18S, R 4E, SBBM	COUNTY	San Diego
	USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Descanso, CA		
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Pete Scully		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE – Monte Vista Headquarters		
	Pre-Fire/Resource Management Office		
	2249 Jamacha Rd	PHONE	(619) 590-3100
	El Cajon, CA 92019		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this proposed project is to provide a venue for CAL FIRE hand crews to participate in hand line construction training as part of the Departments required annual fire preparedness exercise. To accomplish this, 9 assigned CAL FIRE hand crews will each construct a four foot wide hand line of approximately 400' in length within a designated area to simulate fire line construction. This will result in approximately one-third acre of disturbance each year for a cumulative total of 1.5 acres over the five year scope of this project. Construction of these hand lines will be accomplished over a one day period each year, using hand tools and chain saws. Removed vegetation and debris will be lopped and scattered over the adjacent brush and previously cut lines. Brush stubs will be cut to within 4" of ground level and/or removed and scattered onto adjacent areas. Hand lines will be spaced to insure an intervening area of vegetation is left intact between cut lines. No trees will be cut or removed. The proposed hand line will be flagged prior to the start of construction. Hand lines will be constructed perpendicular to the slope to reduce runoff potential. Water bars will be constructed diagonally across the trail at appropriate distances as determined by slope in order to divert surface runoff into vegetated cover to minimize erosion.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15302 (f) 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 within the description of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines pertaining to minor alterations to land. After completing an environmental impact analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, CNDDB search, informal consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and archaeological review completed by CAL FIRE Archaeological staff.

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 MVU Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

MAR 10 2014

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Duane Shintaku 3/6/14
 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection