



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Rancho Navarro & Holmes Ranch Roadway Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Rancho Navarro: Portion of Tramway & Biscuit Drive Roads, T 15 N, R 16 W, Secs 1,2 & 12; T 16 N, R 16 W, Sec 36;		COUNTY Mendocino
	Holmes Ranch: Portion of Holmes Ranch & Smith Hill Roads, T 15 N, R 15 W, Secs 27,28,33,34; Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian		
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit 17501 North Highway 101 Willis, CA 95490	PHONE	707-391-6750 (Cellular)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of mechanical mastication of understory fuels, brush & small trees, along both sides of primary roadways serving the Rancho Navarro & Holmes Ranch rural subdivisions. Operation will occur within easements controlled by each Homeowners Association, extending from 30-ft on either side of road centerlines. This project will improve roadways for use as safe evacuation routes through the creation of defensible space. Treated areas may also be used as primary or secondary fire control lines in the event of a major wildfire. The treated area is estimated at approximately 19-acres. Trees greater than than 8-in DBH shall only be removed if they are dead or dying. No heavy equipment ground disturbance will occur as the masticator will operate from roadways. Vegetation treated will be reduced to chips and spread on site.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4; 15304 Minor Alteration 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

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption, consisting of "minor public/private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature & scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes". The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) was searched and no rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species were identified on the project site that will be negatively impacted by this project. The CAL FIRE SRA Archaeologist has been consulted and has determined that this project is exempt from further archaeological review.

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 Mendocino Unit, Resource Management, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willis, CA 95490, Attn. Environmental Coordinator

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 15 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 3/10/16
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection