



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Carmel Highlands Western WUI Grant Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Carmel Highlands, CA 93923	COUNTY	Monterey
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters		
ADDRESS	2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940	PHONE	(831) 333-2600

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
 This project will reduce fuel loading on 121 acres along the roads below the locked gates in the community of Carmel Highlands. The project will reduce woody vegetation less than 12" DBH by approximately 60% within 100 feet of a road. Dead, diseased, and dying trees that may impact a road or structure will be removed. All remaining trees near a road will be pruned up to 16 feet or 50% of the live crown (whichever is less) within up to 100 feet of a road, but staying on the roadside of the fences. This will open emergency ingress/egress in the event of an emergency as well as create defensible space for potential fires. The vegetation will be reduced by a combination of hand crews in sensitive areas for resource protection and mechanical means where possible. The hand crews will use chainsaws; the resulting material shall be chipped and used as mulch on the property. The mechanical treatment area will be masticated, with the mulch left on site for soil protection and to control weed invasion.

- 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

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 7/25/13
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection