NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	GREEN VALLEY HIGHLANDS SHADED FUEL BREAK		
PROJECT LOCATION	T5N, R3W, Sec. 22, Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian (38° 15.878, -122° 10.762)	**COUNTY**	Solano County
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Ben Nicholls CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit HQ 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena CA 94574	**PHONE**	707-967-1408

Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is planning the creation of a 12 acre shaded fuel break along the northwest side of the Green Valley Highlands neighborhood in Solano County on land owned by the Vallejo Water District. The purpose of the fuel break will be to stop or slow a potential fire coming from the west of the neighborhood. It will be a place where crews could more effectively combat a fire and will improve the effectiveness of air tanker drops, thereby improving protection of the community in the event of a wildfire.

Vegetation in the project area is dominated by oaks (Quercus spp.), madrones (Arbutus menziesii), and bay laurel (Umbellularia californica). The understory is overgrown with shrub-like trees beneath mature specimens, constituting ladder fuels and contributing to a high fuel load. Project activities will target removal of shrubs and trees less than 6 inches diameter, resulting in a more open stand of healthier, well-spaced trees. The fuel break will be approximately 200 feet wide and approximately 2,600 feet long. Material will be removed by hand crews, and will be piled and burned for disposal.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] 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 portions of Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Field review by CAL FIRE staff and Joe Cinek (consultant, RPF #2128) 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 Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

1/15/19

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 22 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE