



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Returning Redwoods Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grant NOE		
PROJECT LOCATION	Legal Description: Township 17 North, Range 15 West, Section 5		
	Township 15 North, Range 16 West, Section 34		
	Township 17 North, Range 16 West, Section 11		
	Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian.		
COUNTY	Mendocino		
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Louis Sciocchetti, Forester II	707-961-1494 (Office)	
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit 17501 North Highway 101 Willis, CA 95490	PHONE	707-391-6750 (Cellular)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the establishment of three progeny sites containing coastal redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) for comparative analysis and demonstration purposes. This process will identify the best adapted cultivar (tissue culture) and seedling lines for returning redwoods to grasslands that historically had redwood forests. The three sites will be established in grassy open areas within Mendocino County on properties owned and managed by Soper-Wheeler Company, Mendocino Redwood Company, and one site on Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Individual trees selected for analysis will be sourced from superior phenotypes that grow in drier, harsher type climates within the coastal redwood range. The planted areas will be fenced & gated against animal browse & grass will be mowed annually. The project will be maintained for 4-years. Returning redwoods to converted grasslands will contribute a significant carbon sink to the north coast region, assisting in the statewide goal to reduce Green House Gas emissions.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4; 14 CCR §15304
- 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 proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The California Natural Diversity Data Base 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 Area 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

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2018

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date: 1/4/18
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection