



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019018207

PROJECT TITLE	Tierra Del Sol Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 25 and 36, T 17S, R 6E and Sections 1 and 12, T 18S, R 6E, SBBM	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Cheyenne Borello	PHONE	(619) 590-3123
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE – Monte Vista Headquarters 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019		

Project Description:

The project will establish and maintain a north-south fuel break along the southern portion of the Tecate Divide near the communities of Live Oak Springs to the west and Boulevard to the east. This fuel break will be approximately 100 feet wide on both sides of Tierra Del Sol Road for a total width of approximately 200 feet, beginning at the San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railroad on the south to Highway 94 on the north for a total length of approximately 3.5 miles and will result in the treatment of approximately 89 acres.

Treatment will include reducing the existing fuel loading of mixed chaparral vegetation by approximately 80%. Native vegetation targeted for removal will include: chamise, red shank, California buckwheat, and big basin sage brush that commonly occur within the project area. Broadleaf species present within the project include manzanita, ceanothus, silk tassel, sumac, and scrub oak. These broad leaf species will be retained to present a mosaic effect but may be thinned where necessary to obtain 80% reduction target. Pencil Cholla, Spanish bayonet, Ephedra and annual grasses and forbs will be left untreated. Shrub vegetation will be cut at ground level and root structures left in place to reduce the potential for erosion. The project work will be implemented by hand crews using manual methods: cutting, trimming, and pruning with chain saws and hand tools and with no removal of root structures. Depending on the time of year and availability of hand crews and engine crews, the cut material will be piled and burned during the winter months or chipped and spread on-site, not to exceed three inches in depth.

EXEMPTION STATUS

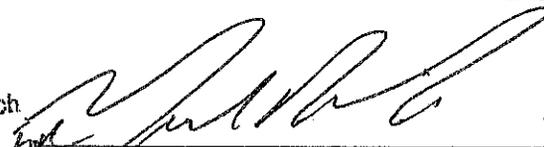
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project is consistent with portions of Class 4 Categorical Exemption pertaining to minor alterations to land as identified in the CEQA Guidelines. After completing an environmental analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. 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 retained on file at CAL FIRE MVU Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research


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

1/14/19
 Date

JAN 14 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE