



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Merry Mountain Fuel Reduction	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Portions of Sections 2, 3 T19N R07E, MDB&M	<b>COUNTY:</b> BUTTE
<b>PUBLIC AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)	
<b>CONTACT</b>	CAL FIRE Headquarters	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	1416 9 <sup>th</sup> St. Sacramento, CA 95814	<b>PHONE</b> 916-653-9447 office 916-212-6451 cell

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves the hand clearing and machine mastication of brush, small trees (trees less than 10" in diameter) and dead woody debris (snags less than 10" in diameter) in areas of the Merry Mountain subdivision to reduce the fire hazard and create a fuel break. Fuels will be chipped, masticated, lopped and scattered, or hand piled for burning later in the season when moisture levels are sufficiently high enough to allow for safe disposal and minimal risk for escape. The project area is approximately 145.8 acres in size. The proposed work period for this project is scheduled for late Winter to early Spring 2020, with a goal of completing this work prior to the beginning of fire season. The burning of piles will take place in mid to late Fall 2020. Equipment used by the contractor(s) may include the following: chainsaws, pole saws, pruning shears, small rubber track masticator, and fire suppression tools. The project should be completed by late Fall 2020, but there may be some remnant pile burning in Spring 2021. This project is funded by the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Grant Agreement Number 5GG17125). CAL FIRE Butte Ranger Unit shall be involved with this project by inspecting the project area after the completion of operations. The Ranger Unit personnel shall validate that the Fuels Treatment work has been satisfactorily completed and authorize the release of grant funds to pay contractors for projected area that has been treated.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
Class 7 §15307 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources  
& Class 8 §15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
- 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 within the definitions of the above-listed three Categorical Exemptions authorized in the CEQA Guidelines. Field review and office research conducted by the department confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. I have 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 Headquarters - 1416 9<sup>th</sup> St. Sacramento, CA 95814.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 14 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

  
MATHEW REISCHMAN,

2/7/20  
DATE

Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection & Improvement  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection