



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	De Portola Road Hazardous Fuel Reduction		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	43885 Avenida Felecita Temecula, CA 92592 APN: 927570009 Section 12, R2W, T8S	<b>COUNTY</b>	Riverside
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Nochella Funes, Forester I	<b>PHONE</b>	(951) 659-3335
<b>ADDRESS</b>	P.O Box 2097, Idyllwild, CA, 92549		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project goal is to mitigate the impact that a wildland fire would have on the city of Temecula. The priority of this project is to reduce the accumulation of heavy fuel loads located in a ten-acre parcel at the intersection of De Portola Road and Avenida Felecita in Temecula, CA that is owned by the State of California. The dangerous accumulation of one hour fuels has been determined by CALFIRE Riverside/Riverside County Fire to pose a threat to the surrounding community of this parcel. The treatment area is composed primarily of non-native annual grasses, Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*) and intermixed forbs, alongside Avenida Felecita runs a row of Peruvian Pepper Trees (*Shinus molle*). Work will include but not be limited to removing overgrown vegetation and dead surface fuels by methods of cutting, removing, chipping on-site, and/or mowing. Equipment use will include hand tools (ie. rakes); mechanized hand equipment such as weed eaters, chainsaws, and pole saws; and limited heavy equipment. Heavy equipment use will include but not be limited to the use of a skid steer, a tracked chipper, and/or a towed chipper. Towed chipper will be limited to roadway access. This type of maintenance work will reduce dangerous fuel loads, improve the safety of the surrounding community, improve effectiveness of fire suppression activities, reduce the rate of fire spread and reduce the overall work and disturbance necessary to maintain fuel loadings at safe levels.


**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- 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 meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption “15304 Minor Alterations to Land” - “Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes”. The project is small in size and will enhance vegetation health, increase general fire safety and improve aesthetics while creating minimal ground disturbance which will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources or the environment. Field reviews conducted by CAL FIRE staff have confirmed that no impacts will occur which would prevent 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, Riverside Unit, and 25380 Franklin Dr., Idyllwild CA 92549.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

  
 Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

4/24/2020  
 Date