



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Ponderosa Heights Subdivision Roadside Fuels Reduction (Reoccurring)		
PROJECT LOCATION	T6N, R12E, portions of sections 5 & 6 MDBM	COUNTY	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Thomas J. Tinsley, Unit Forester - Forester II		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit 2840 Mount Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709	PHONE	(530) 647-5203

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves the clearance of roadside vegetation (fuel) on private roads within the Ponderosa Heights subdivision located in the town of Pine Grove in Amador County California. All roadside vegetation greater than 12 inches high and less than 9 inches diameter at breast height (d.b.h) shall be removed within 15 feet of road edge on either side. The fuels reduction shall be done by CAL FIRE Pine Grove Camp crews. All vegetative material generated shall be chipped on-site and blown back onto the cut-bank and road edge. In addition, all trees greater than 9 inches d.b.h within the proposed project area shall be limbed up to a minimum height of 8 feet. All equipment - crew buses, utility vehicles and tow-behind chipper shall remain on the existing road prism. There are approximately 1.45 miles of road in the Ponderosa Heights subdivision which will have fuels reduction work done adjacent to them (approx. 5.3 acres total area). This roadside vegetation clearance shall be re-occurring approximately every three to five years or sooner if needed. This NOE will cover ongoing roadside fuels reduction for approximately 10 years. In 2030, CAL FIRE will re-assess the environmental setting and amend the CEQA file for this project, as appropriate.

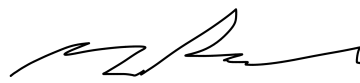
EXEMPTION STATUS

- 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 fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA. CALFIRE staff conducted an environmental review to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included an on-the-ground field inspection by the AEU Unit Forester and South Division Chief on Thursday March 26, 2020. Consultation with a State Archaeologist Stephanie Velasquez occurred on March 11, 2020 via email correspondence. Archaeologist Velasquez given the scope of work considers the proposed project exempt. In addition, consultation/correspondence was sent via email to representatives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board. Neither of these experts (DFW or WQ) expressed any concerns with the proposed 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 AEU Unit Headquarters in Camino.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING


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

4/24/2020
 Date