

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE Foster Ranch Fire Prevention and Fuel-break Training

PROJECT LOCATION T21N, R3E, Section 5, Hamlin Canyon **COUNTY** Butte

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CONTACT Kenneth Kendrick, *CAL FIRE*

ADDRESS 176 Nelson Avenue Oroville, CA 95954 **PHONE** 1-530-282-2255

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE /Butte County Fire seeks to develop and promote on an annual basis Fire Protection training opportunities under direction of the Unit Training Bureau. The project consists of hand cutting, piling, and burning of brush and fire killed trees 12 inches dbh and smaller on lands damaged as a result of the Butte Lightning Complex fires of 2008. This project will maintain an existing fuel-break and allow maintenance of an existing road for better ingress/egress of firefighting resources. Any project operation would lie within the footprint of individual areas (from 1 to 2 acres) for a total project size of 8 acres within previously burned over and rehabilitated landscapes. All cutting, piling, and burning work will be done by hand labor, with any dozer activity to be restricted to currently existing road and fire-line. There will not be any new road or fire-line construction.

EXEMPTION STATUS

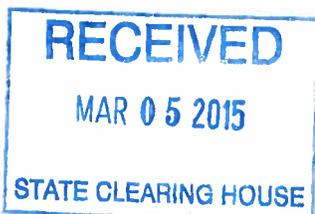
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alteration to Land
Class 1 15301 Existing Facilities (c)
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of two classes of Categorical Exemption to CEQA: Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land), and Class 1 (Existing Facilities). The project is intended to be a pre-season training function for wildland suppression, fuel break creation, and investigation of fire origin and cause. It will also serve a maintenance function for roads and firelines, & utilizing burning on existing previously constructed facilities or structures. The areas of potential disturbance are limited and best described as minor in scope.

Field review by CAL FIRE unit 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 the Butte Unit Headquarters, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 3/5/15
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection