

2019060234

CEQA Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
820 Bay Avenue, Suite 136
Capitola, CA 95010

Clerk of the Board
701 Ocean Street, Rm 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Project Title: Santa Cruz County-Wide Neighborhood Chipping Program for Fuel Load Reduction and Defensible Space

Project Locations -- General: The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas of Santa Cruz County

Project Locations -- City: Unincorporated Project Locations - County: Santa Cruz County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: This program will provide chipping services for residents who have removed vegetation from around structures and roadside areas which complies with State-mandated defensible space requirements. All chipped material will be left on site. The program will only direct funding to process woody material that has been cut and staged at roadside areas and will not provide funding to remove any vegetation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: RCDSCC

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15304 Class 4)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is categorically exempt pursuant to Sec. 15304 Minor Alterations to Land for the following reasons: The program will solely fund the chipping of woody material that has been cleared and staged at roadside areas. Processed material will be left on site to be used as mulch. Clearing of vegetation will occur prior to project initiation. All fuel management activities preceding the project will occur within 100 feet of structures (fuel clearance required by CAL FIRE), no healthy, mature, or scenic trees will be removed, no take of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species will occur, and there will be no significant impacts to surface waters. For the reasons stated above, this project shall be exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Lizzy Eichorn

Telephone: (831) 464-2950 ext. 28

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 5/17/19 Title: Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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MAY 23 2019

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