

City of St. Helena  
1480 Main Street  
St. Helena, California 94574

## Notice of Exemption from CEQA

To: ☒ County Clerk Recorder  
County of Napa

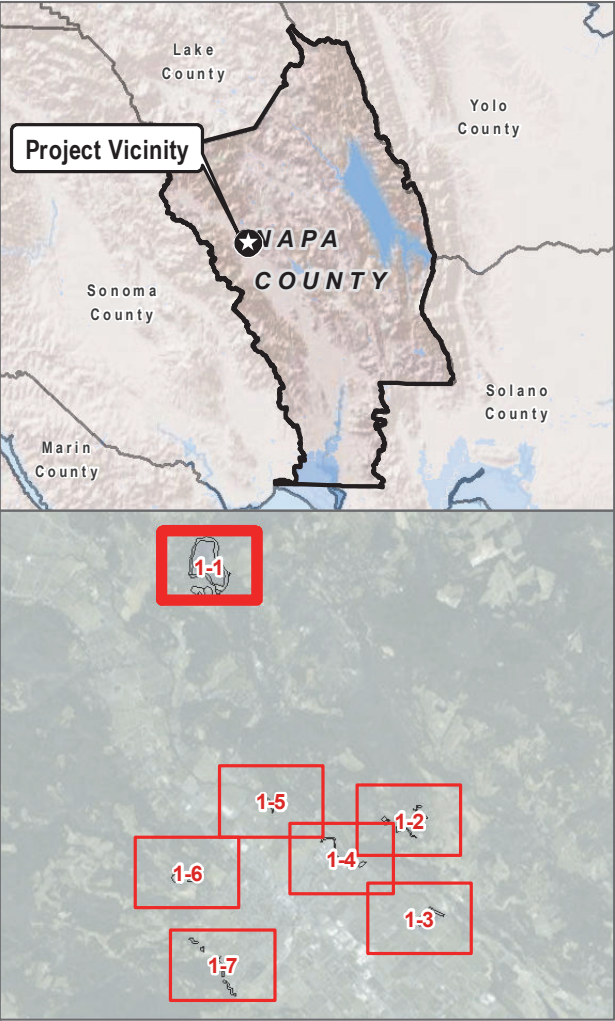
☐ Office of Planning & Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

| Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | File                                  |
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| City of St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | N/A                                   |
| Project Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | APN (s)                               |
| City of St. Helena, Napa County, California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  | Multiple (see attached)               |
| Public Agency Approving Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | Person or Agency Carrying out Project |
| City of St. Helena                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | City of St. Helena                    |
| Project Description (including purpose and beneficiaries of project)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                       |
| <p>The City of St. Helena proposes to implement the Defensible Space and Fuels Management Plan, which identifies defensible space creation through fuel management activities as well as restoration efforts. The St. Helena Fuels Assessment and Treatment Plan area consists of seven project locations; six are located around the City center and one is located at the Bell Canyon Reservoir and water treatment plant. Proposed treatment activities would be designed to manage the wildfire-impacted vegetation on the hillsides surrounding the Bell Canyon Reservoir, with an attention to managing invasive vegetation and minimizing the risk of erosion on the slopes surrounding the reservoir. The treatment areas include: the Bell Canyon Reservoir, the Stonebridge water treatment plant and water tanks located south of the reservoir, the Valve House, sections of Big Rock Road, Pope Street, and Pratt Avenue, and areas from the Glass Fire Edge Fantesca Winery to Spring Street (Figures 1.1-1.7). All of the treatment sites encompass an area of approximately 50 acres. Proposed treatments would remove hazard trees, reduce ladder fuels, dead, dying, and diseased fuels, and brush in the project area. Vegetation management activities would be conducted using hand crews with weed whips, chain saws, and hand tools. Cut woody material would be chipped, and chipped material would be spread back onto the treatment site where possible. Chipped material would not be spread into riparian areas or within 15 feet of a building. Certain treatment sites like the Bell Canyon Water Treatment Plant would be more suitable for mechanical equipment use including a mini- excavator. No grading or new access roads would be required to facilitate proposed vegetation management activities. Fuel reduction treatments would occur within 150 feet of water infrastructure access roads. Proposed vegetation treatments would reduce wildfire risk in the area and increase community resilience by improving the safety of the roads and surrounding structures (including 1881 Big Rock Road from Howell Mountain Road to Brittany Lane, Old Howell Mountain Road, Pope Street, and Pratt Avenue) and abutting local streets as evacuation routes as well as transportation routes or potential staging areas for emergency personnel and equipment during a wildfire. Additionally, proposed treatments would result in improved ecosystem health and vigor by clearing out dead/dying/diseased plant material and refuse. Furthermore, the project would increase visibility along the project roadways and access roads, which would assist emergency personnel when responding to vehicle accidents or other roadside incidents; around the city and at the critical water facilities (including the reservoir and water treatment plant).</p> |  |                                       |
| Exempt Status (check one / Indicate type and State CEQA Guidelines section number):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |                                       |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                  |                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: Article 19, CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (c) road maintenance; 15301(h) maintenance of existing landscaping native growth; 15304(i) Class 4 minor alteration to Land, including Fuel Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                  |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                  |                         |
| <b>Reasons why Project is Exempt:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                  |                         |
| <p>The project would involve minor alterations to existing vegetation to reduce fuel loads within the City of St. Helena and the Bell Canyon Reservoir. Proposed treatments would improve access along the city roads and critical water infrastructure roads for use as evacuation routes or potential staging areas for emergency responders and equipment during a wildfire. Project will require minor vegetation removal adjacent to the roads and structures. Vegetation treatment prescriptions are in line with standard practices and will be approved by the City of St. Helena prior to implementation. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion or sedimentation of surface waters.</p> <p>Resource avoidance measures consistent with those identified in the Archaeological Assessment and Biological Resources Analysis completed for the project would be implemented to ensure the project would not result in impacts to the environment.</p> |                                  |                         |
| <b>County Contact Person</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Title</b>                     | <b>Telephone Number</b> |
| Mandy Kellogg                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Administrative Services Director | (707) 968-2649          |
| <b>Signature</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                  | <b>Date</b>             |

| Location                                         | APN (s)                                      | Location                   | APN(s)                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bell Canyon Tanks                                | 021420005000<br>021420019000<br>021420020000 | 2800 Spring Street         | 009391008000<br>009391020000                                                 |
| Bell Canyon Valve House-Hazard Tree Removal Area | 021420019000                                 | Barn at 2798 Spring Street | 009391020000<br>027020022000                                                 |
| Bell Canyon Water Treatment Plant                | 021420005000<br>021420020000                 | Newton Vineyard            | 009450010000                                                                 |
| Bell Reservoir Restoration Area                  | 021420006000<br>021420010000<br>021420011000 | Rustin                     | 009391020000<br>009544016000<br>009544018000<br>027020022000                 |
| 1104 Brittany Lane                               | 025070043000<br>025420002000<br>025420003000 | Napa River at Pope Street  | 009030038000<br>009030039000<br>009030056000<br>009030058000<br>009030059000 |
| 1451 Big Rock Road                               | 025420004000<br>025420005000<br>025420007000 | Stonebridge                | 009070024000<br>009070026000<br>009070027000<br>009070042000                 |
| 1694 Big Rock Road Water Tanks                   | 025070025000<br>025420023000                 | Napa River at Pratt Avenue | 009030036000<br>025100001000<br>025100004000                                 |

|                                   |                                                                                                                              |                                  |                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020 Old Howell Mountain Road     | 025070037000                                                                                                                 | St. Helena Water Treatment Plant | 009120065000<br>030240008000<br>030240009000<br>030240013000                                 |
| Big Rock Road Roadside            | 025070046000<br>025420007000<br>025420008000<br>025420020000<br>025420023000<br>025420024000<br>025430007000<br>025430008000 | Elmhurst Station                 | 009131013000                                                                                 |
| Old Howell Mountain Road Roadside | 025070025000<br>025420023000<br>025420024000                                                                                 | Homes Pump House                 | 009131013000<br>009131018000<br>009131019000<br>009131029000<br>009131041000<br>009131042000 |
| 1510-1620 Sylvanner Avenue        | 009531012000<br>009544016000<br>027020022000                                                                                 | Homes Station Pump House         | 009131013000                                                                                 |
| 1558 Sylvanner Avenue             | 009450007000<br>009450008000<br>009531011000<br>009531012000<br>027020022000                                                 | Tank 2                           | 009131038000<br>022190002000<br>022190007000                                                 |
| 2499 Madrona Avenue               | 009450003000<br>009450007000                                                                                                 |                                  |                                                                                              |



 Project Boundary

SOURCE: Bing Maps 2021

**FIGURE 1-1**  
City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map  
St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project



SOURCE: Bing Maps 2021

**FIGURE 1-2**  
City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map  
St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project



SOURCE: Bing Maps 2021

**FIGURE 1-3**  
City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map  
St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project



SOURCE: Bing Maps 2021

**FIGURE 1-4**  
City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map  
St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project



FIGURE 1-5

City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map

St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project



FIGURE 1-6

City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map

St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project



SOURCE: Bing Maps 2021

**FIGURE 1-7**  
City of Saint Helena Defensible Space and Fuel Management Project Location Map  
St. Helena Defensible Space and Fuels Management Project