

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



TO: County Clerk
County of Riverside

4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA 92501

FROM: Idyllwild Fire Protection District
Po Box 656
54160 Maranatha Dr, Idyllwild, CA 92549

Attn: Jim LaMont

SUBJECT: Filing of **Notice of Exemption** in compliance with Section 15304.

Project Title and File No.: Idyllwild Right of Way Fuel Reduction 23-WP-RRU-58300485

Project Location: Idyllwild Fire Protection District, 54160 Maranatha Dr, Idyllwild, CA 92549,
(include County) Riverside County.

Project Description: The Idyllwild Fire Protection District will implement a project identified in the San Jacinto Mountains Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The District's project name is the Idyllwild Public Easements and Right-of-Ways, the project description is identify and remove fuels from public easements and rights-of way, including walking paths and utility easements. The District has identified 269 acres of easements and right-of-ways that need to be evaluated and treated. Reducing fuel loading will ensure safe evacuation routes during a wildfire. Some areas in the District have a significant ground and ladder fuel load increasing the potential for devastating crown fires. The brush fields adjacent to and intermixed with the timber component can easily transfer a fire front into the timber. This reduction in fuel will also provide for firefighter safety during suppression operations on a wildfire.

Approving Public Agency: Idyllwild Fire Protection District
54160 Maranatha Dr
Idyllwild, CA 92549

Approval Date: 01-09-2024
Resolution No. 536

Project Applicant: Idyllwild Fire Protection District
54160 Maranatha Dr
Idyllwild, CA 92549

Exempt Status:

(check one)

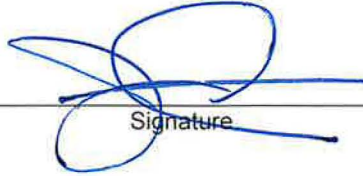
- Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Statutory Exemption:
- Categorical Exemption Section 15304
- General Rule Exemption (Section 15061(b)(3))

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project will consist of removing surface and ladder fuels to create a shaded fuel break condition. The project will remove hazardous fuels through hand crews from public easements and rights-of-ways, including walking paths and utility easements. The project will not involve the removal of mature or scenic trees. Stand health will be improved by removing dead, dying, and suppressed trees and brush, and increasing growing space for mature, healthy dominant and co- dominant trees. Sensitive species will not be impacted by the proposed project. The project was designed to avoid adverse impacts to watercourses. Chipping and removal of woody material and scattering of woody material will leave a layer of organic material that will provide for excellent erosion control. The project was carefully designed to avoid adverse impacts to archaeological resources. The project was designed to

reduce hazardous fuel loading in a strategic location that will make the community more resilient regarding wildfires.

Review by Idyllwild Fire Protection Staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The District has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the District is kept on file at the Idyllwild Fire Protection District office.

Jim LaMont
Battalion Chief
Name and Title



Signature

6.4.25
Date