

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	Groveland B Fuels Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	11700 Merrell Rd, Groveland, CA 95321	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Roger Petersen, Unit Forester CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit		
ADDRESS	785 Mountain Ranch Rd, San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	(209) 754-3831

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will include fuels reduction treatment activities at the Groveland B CAL FIRE Forest Fire Station in the city of Groveland. Vegetation consists of mixed conifer and oak overstory, with an understory of sparse conifer regeneration and limited brush component mixed with grass. The project area is at approximately 3000 feet in elevation and consists of generally gentle slopes less than 30%; a small area exhibits 40-45% slope, but will receive minimal manual treatment only. Treatment activities will consist of manual fuels reduction activities and prescribed fire application, both broadcast and pile burning. Existing roads will be utilized as control lines where feasible. Where existing road features are not present, hand line will be constructed by hand crews to fully encompass the perimeter of the burn. No live trees greater than 12-inches dbh will be removed. Any removed trees will be treated via piling and burning or chipping from an existing road or parking pad. No heavy equipment, including chipping machinery, will leave a road or parking surface. The project is intended to reduce wildfire risk for the fire station and community of Groveland.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and 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 portions of 14 CCR § 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. The broadcast burn activities will be relatively small and will last for approximately one to two days and other manual treatments for approximately eight days per year. No ground disturbing activities are proposed, and no special status species or plants have been detected within the project area. The drainage features in the area will not be adversely affected by project activities. A CAL FIRE State Archaeologist was consulted, and the project will have no adverse impacts to cultural resources.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that 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 forest resources, 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 Department is kept on file at the Tuolumne-Calaveras Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

 Mike Van Loken Sels, Southern Region Chief Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

7/25/2025

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