

**CEQA # 14370**  
**District Project # 2025-07**



**State of California – The Natural Resources Agency**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Bay Area District  
845 Casa Grande Road  
Petaluma, CA 94954

**PROJECT TITLE:** SDC Open Space Prescribed Burns

**LOCATION:** Sonoma Developmental Center Open Space    **COUNTY:** Sonoma

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Project proposes prescribed burns in a mosaic of grasslands and oak woodlands in the Sonoma Developmental Center Open Space area east and west of Arnold Drive to reduce wildfire risk, restore the historic role of fire, improve biodiversity, and support long-term stewardship of the area. Work will occur in areas where vegetation was killed in the 2017 wildfires, in grasslands and woodlands that would benefit from the reintroduction of beneficial fire, and on non-system trails and service roads in grasslands. Shrubs and tree limbs will be trimmed near control lines and in burn units and may be piled and burned to meet burn objectives. Existing fire roads, trails, and non-system routes will be used as boundaries and fire line will be constructed as necessary to protect resources, infrastructure, and other utilities.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Bay Area District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption                      *Class: 1 & 4*                      *Section: 15301 & 15304*

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, and/or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, and/or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. Project consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

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Bay Area District

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DocuSigned by:  
*Matthew Allen*

Matthew Allen, District Superintendent, Bay Area District

9/17/2025

DATE