

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: PO Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95812

From: County of Mendocino
Executive Office
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482
Contact: Christy Gard
Phone: 707-463-4441

County Clerk:
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Fee Exempt per Government Code section 27383

Project Title: Orr Springs Road Fuels Reduction Project

Project Applicant: County of Mendocino

Project Location - Specific: See attached Project Map (Map 1), Alignment 1 (Eastern)(Exhibit 1), and Alignment 2 (Western) (Exhibit 2).

Project Location - City: Ukiah and Comptche Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: See Attachment A – Exemption Findings

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21070(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: PRC Section 21080.49(b)

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment A – Exemption Findings

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Christy Gard Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-463-4441

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: Julia Krog Date: 10/2/2025 Title: Director of Planning & Building

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

ATTACHMENT A

EXEMPTION FINDINGS

Project Title: Orr Springs Road Fuel Reduction Project

Project Location: Two alignments along Orr Springs Road: Ukiah to Orr Springs, and Comptche-Ukiah Roads

Project Map: Project Map Alignments 1 and 2 (see Map 1)

Project Location Coordinates:

Alignment 1, Ukiah to Orr Springs:
Eastern terminus: 39.178514, -123.5917277
Western terminus: 39.299118, -123.364231

Alignment 2, Comptche to Mendocino:
Eastern terminus: 39.264614, -123.5917277
Western terminus: 39.279759, -123.734906

APNs and Legal Descriptions:

Alignment 1 (Eastern) (Exhibit 1)
Alignment 2 (Western) (Exhibit 2)

County: Mendocino

Lead Agency: County of Mendocino

Contact: Christy Gard, gardc@mendocinocounty.gov, (707) 510-5513

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The goals of the project are to establish emergency ingress and egress routes by creating a shaded fuel break 30 feet from the road edge. Benefits of this project will also include preservation of biodiversity, improvement of forest health and increased forest resilience by removing excess fuel loads. Improvements to road visibility will benefit residents of the project area and traffic on Orr Springs and Comptche-Ukiah Roads during emergencies.

The project area is within 30 feet of the road in two alignments. Alignment 1 is from Ukiah to Orr Springs and Alignment 2 is Comptche to Ukiah. Project specifications prescribe the removal of shrubs and trees 10 inches in diameter at four and half feet above the ground and smaller. Trees larger than 10 inches in diameter will be pruned to 6 feet above the ground, and 15 feet above the paved surface of the road. Work will be completed using manual and manual-mechanical treatment methods (no ground disturbing activities are proposed). Cut material will be dragged by hand to a chipper. Chips will be broadcast on-site or hauled to an appropriate location. Hand crews will use

Orr Springs Road Fuel Reduction Project

chainsaws, pole-saws, hand tools, and all broadcast chipping will be done from established roads away from drainages and watercourses. Operations will comply with local traffic control requirements defined by the Mendocino Department of Transportation.

Exemption Status:

Statutory Exemption Type/Section:21080.49(b)

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project qualifies for a Statutory Exemption under Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)¹, as this is a Statutory project proposed to be carried out or approved by the County of Mendocino, which is a public agency.

The planned activities proposed for this project comply with Public Resources Code Section 21080.49(b)² which describes a “project consisting of ‘defensible space’ fire clearance of up to 100 feet, as measured from the center line of the roadway, for a public roadway identified as an egress and evacuation route for a subdivision or community of 30 or more dwelling units, to remove flammable vegetation or trees of less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height.” The County of Mendocino has identified that the Comptche Community contains “approximately 50 homes and 5 commercial buildings” in the Mendocino Community Evacuation Plan³, thus meeting the requirements for this Statutory Exemption.

An archeological record check was completed, though no ground disturbing operations are proposed for this project. Sites that require avoidance have been identified and excluded from the project area.

References

1. CA SB 375 – Grove (S): An act to add Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 2089.01) to Chapter 1.5 of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code, and to amend Sections 21080 and 30600 of the Public Resources Code, relating to wildfire prevention, CA SB 375. (2025). <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB375/2025>
2. CA SB 131 – Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review (S) – (): An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 50245) to Chapter 6.5 of Part 1 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Sections 21080.1, 21080.47, 21080.51, 21094.5.5, and 21167.6 of, and to add Sections 21060.4, 21064.8, 21067.5, 21080.085, 21080.44, 21080.48, 21080.49, 21080.55, 21080.57, 21080.69, 21080.70, and 21083.03 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to public resources, and making an appropriation therefor, to take effect immediately, bill related to the budget, CA SB 131. (2025). <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB131/2025>
3. Mendocino County Evacuation Plan. Category Five Professional Consultants, Inc. (2020). <https://www.mendocinocog.org/files/cbb6532a3/%2307c+EvacuationPlan071520.pdf>

EXHIBIT 1

APNS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

Alignment 1 (Eastern)

Project operations will occur only within 30 feet of the road on parcels listed in this document, depending on their consent to participate in the project.

Alignment 1, Ukiah to Orr Springs

Eastern terminus: 39.178514, -123.5917277

Western terminus: 39.299118, -123.364231

Proposed APNs

14927016	14932006	15204001	15221013	15603002	15611035
14927017	14932007	15204002	15221014	15603007	15611036
14927033	14932008	15204005	15221015	15603008	16917003
14927034	14932011	15204013	15222003	15604005	16917005
14927035	15015022	15204015	15222004	15604011	16917006
14927036	15201008	15204018	15224003	15606017	16917022
14931002	15201011	15204019	15224004	15606018	16917027
14931006	15201012	15219002	15224005	15611003	16917028
14931007	15201013	15219006	15224006	15611011	16917029
14931008	15201015	15221002	15224010	15611017	16917030
14932001	15201016	15221005	15224011	15611019	16917031
14932004	15202008	15221009	15224012	15611022	149310RW
14932005	15203008	15221012	15226002	15611024	152040RW
					169170RW

Legal Descriptions

T16N R13W sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36

T16N R14W sections 13, 24

T15N R112W sections 6, 7

T15N R13W sections 1, 2, 3, 12

MDBM

USGS Quads Ukiah and Orrs Springs

EXHIBIT 2

APNS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

Alignment 2 (Western)

Project operations will occur only within 30 feet of the road on parcels listed in this document, depending on their consent to participate in the project.

Alignment 2, Comptche to Mendocino

Eastern terminus: 39.264614, -0123.5917

Western terminus: 39.279759, -123.734906

Proposed APNs

2109012	12120007	12121033	12125043	12501028	12507001
2109017	12121003	12121034	12125044	12502008	12507003
2109020	12121004	12125004	12125047	12504003	12507013
2109022	12121008	12125018	12125048	12504015	12508031
2109031	12121009	12125020	12125049	12504049	12508032
2109032	12121017	12125026	12125050	12504050	12508033
2109033	12121019	12125027	12125051	12505003	12508034
2109049	12121020	12125032	12501007	12505006	12508035
12119001	12121021	12125034	12501009	12505008	12508037
12119007	12121022	12125037	12501010	12505009	021090RW
12119008	12121024	12125039	12501024	12505010	121150RW
12120003	12121031	12125041	12501025	12505012	121210RW
12120004	12121032	12125042	12501026	12505016	121250RW
					125050RW
					125080RW

Legal Description

T17N R16W sections 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34

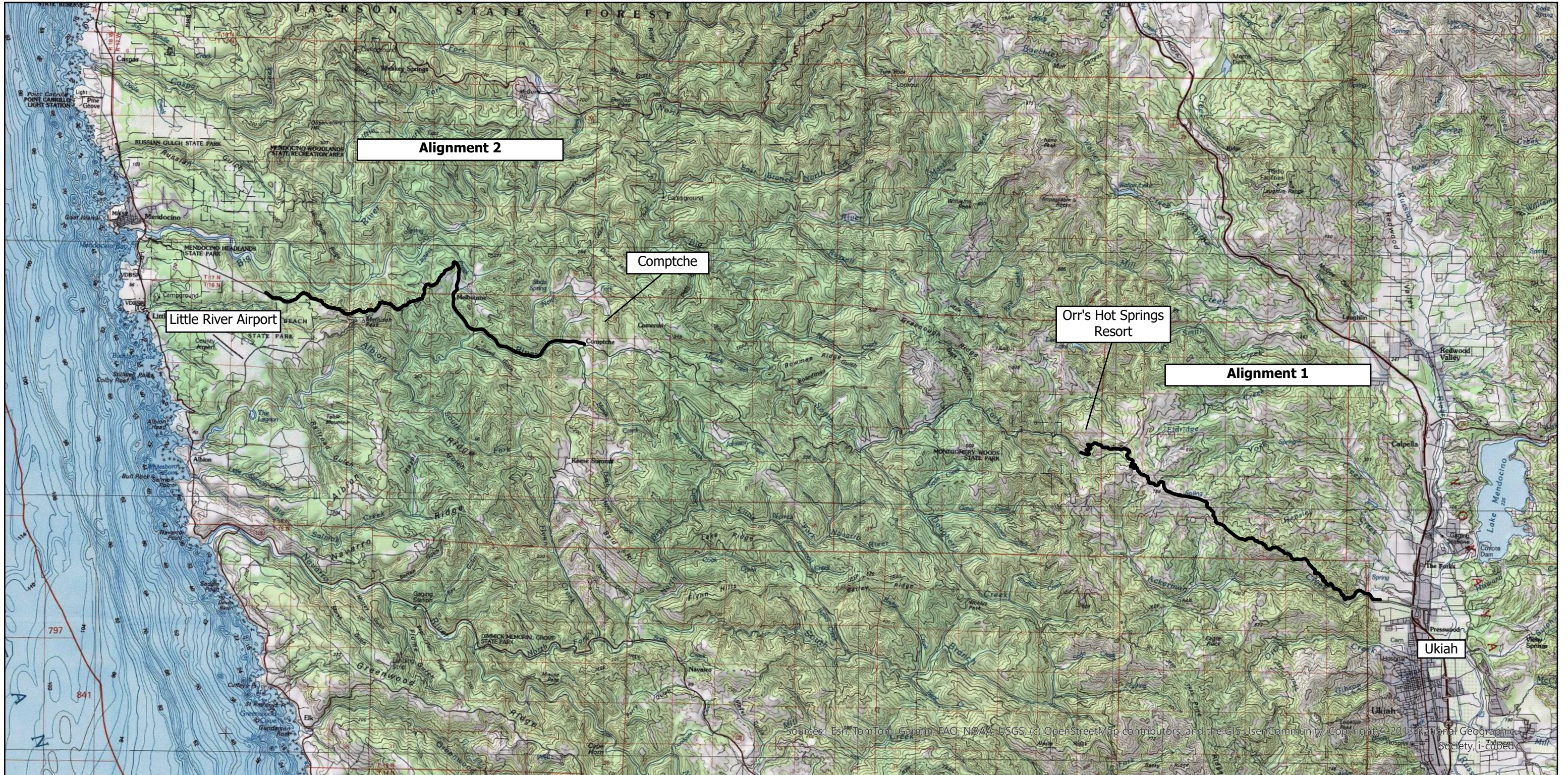
T17N R17W section 36

T16N R17W sections 1,2,3

T16N R16W sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12

MDBM

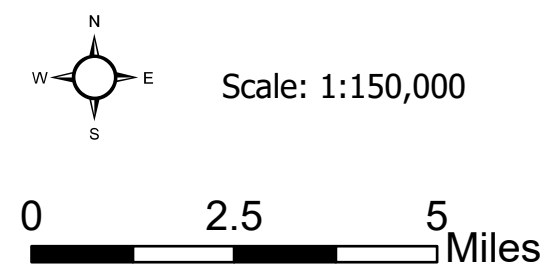
USGS Quads Mathison Peak and Comptche



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

Orr Springs Road Fuel Reduction Project
Project Map
 County of Mendocino

Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian
 USGS Quads: Matheson Peak and Comptche, Orrs Springs and Ukiah



Legend
 Project Area - 30ft from road edge