Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Ventura County
Hall of Administration, Main Plaza
800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009

From: (Public Agency): Ventura County Resource Conservation District
PO Box 147, Somis, CA 93066
(Address)

Project Title: Grazing Non-native Invasive Species for Fire Risk Reduction

Project Applicant: Ventura County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:
Villanova Preparatory School,12096 Ventura Avenue, Ojai, CA 9302

Project Location - City: Ojai Project Location - County: Ventura

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project involves ~60 acres goat and sheep grazing of non-native invasive flashy fuels (predominantly Mutarda nigra, Avena fatua, Centaurea solstitialis, Bromus diandus, and others non-native invasives), surrounding a school and the Ojai community. The purpose of this grazing is to reduce the threat of wildfire and spot fires, by grazing the the non-native invasive flashy fuels mentioned herein. The beneficiaries of this project include all students and faculty at Villanova Preparatory School, as well as all adjacent neighbors. This project will create a fuel break and reduce the risk of ember spotting in this area during dangerous Santa Ana Wind events.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Ventura County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Minor alteration to land, Section 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is exempt because the fields predominantly consist of non-native invasive plants that will be grazed once most plants have gone to seed. Additionally rare plants have not been recorded within the designated grazing areas (CalFlora). Additionally grazing will not occur within riparian areas. This project will reduce the risk of fire spread, protecting communities of people and critical ecosystems. No impacts to hazardous or critical resources and no cumulative effects from successive projects will occur. The District finds that this project does not have the potential to significantly degrade environmental factors, such as aesthetics, agriculture/forestry, long-term air quality, biological/cultural/tribal resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gases, hydrology/water quality, land use, minerals, population, public services, recreation, transportation, or utilities and is therefore, categorically CEQA exempt.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Kevin Mason Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (805)-764-5135

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: Kevin Mason Date: 10/8/2025 Title: Fire Preparedness Coordinator

▪ 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: _____