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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Strengthening the California Schoolyard Forest System
PROJECT LOCATION	San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, & Los Angeles Counties
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
CONTACT	Sacramento Headquarters
ADDRESS	715 P. Street Sacramento, CA 95814
PHONE	(916) 214-5420

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will improve, expand, and coordinate urban forestry throughout the Southern California region and statewide by advancing the goals of the California Schoolyard Forest System (CASFS). The project will employ many strategies including providing professional development and technical assistance services to school districts. As part of this effort, we will create a sub-grant program to provide funding for five school districts that participate in these programs to implement "Schoolyard Forest Action Plans." One requirement of these sub-grants will be that each district plant a pilot schoolyard forest - a small grove of climate-adapted trees, designed to nurture and protect students from extreme heat and to build social and environmental resilience. Pilot sites will be determined based on need, site constraints, and readiness. A minimum of 50 trees will be planted across 5 urban school sites.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/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 meets the requirements of Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Minor Alterations to Land) Section 15304. Project implementation will result in alterations to the land that are best described as minor in scope. It has been concluded that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant adverse environmental impacts will occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, 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 and traffic, utilities and service systems, or wildfire risk. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Headquarters in Sacramento.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
Walter Passmore
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11/10/2025

Walter Passmore, State Urban Forester Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection