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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council Regional Fire Safe Project – Wrightwood, Mt. Baldy, and Lytle Creek		
PROJECT LOCATION	Wrightwood, Mt. Baldy, and Lytle Creek	**COUNTY**	San Bernardino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	David Haas		
ADDRESS	3800 N. Sierra Way San Bernardino, CA 92405	**PHONE**	(909) 881-6900

The intent of this project is to assist residents of the Wrightwood, Lytle Creek, and Mt. Baldy communities in creating defensible space and removing fire hazards in compliance with defensible space/hazard abatement regulations. The proposed project would include the removal of vegetation, hazardous trees, debris, and other materials within 100 ft. of structures. Removal of vegetation will occur manually; cut material will be left in place, piled for firewood, chipped and spread back on site, and/or hauled away. Ground vegetation to be removed will primarily consist of shrubs, leaves, pine needles, weeds, and downed branches. Trees may be pruned to allow for the passage of emergency response vehicles and as necessary to maintain defensible space standards (e.g., recommended distance from chimneys/stovepipes or other trees). Dead, dying, diseased, and hazardous live trees will be removed. All trees will be felled in the least ground-disturbing manner feasible. Project implementation is expected to begin immediately. The number of parcels completed within the project area will be determined based on funding availability. Work may be done during nesting bird season if nesting surveys are performed prior to commencement of operations, as described below. Equipment necessary for project implementation includes chainsaws, hand tools (shovels, Mcleods, pulaskis, etc.), and chippers. Heavy equipment (i.e., chipper) and vehicles will use existing improved and/or disturbed areas such as roads, driveways, and pullouts. If tree logs need to be removed from the project site, then the logs will be cut into carry-able size lengths and removed by hand to minimize ground disturbance. Maintenance will occur as necessary to maintain the standards listed above and may occur as frequently as an annual basis. Maintenance needs will be determined in coordination with CAL FIRE.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4, §15304
- ☐ 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), 14 CCR §15304. The project primarily consists of the removal of vegetation and hazardous trees necessary to meet defensible space and hazard abatement requirements and is minor in scope and limited to within 100 ft. of structures. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a "Notice of Exemption" for this project. It has been concluded that no significant adverse environmental impacts 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 and planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, or wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the CAL FIRE staff is kept on file at CAL FIRE's San Bernardino Unit Headquarters in San Bernardino, CA.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
Mike Van Loben Sels
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12/10/2025

Mike van Loben Sels, Southern Region Chief Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection