



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Angels Camp Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sections 19, 29, 30, & 33; T.3N., R.13E.; MDBM.	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Roger Petersen, Unit Forester CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit		PHONE (209) 754-3831
ADDRESS	785 Mountain Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will reduce hazardous fuel loading and create a 300-foot wide shaded fuel break around the community of angels camp in calaveras county. The project area is approximately 70 acres in size. The project area ranges in elevation from approximately 1,400 to 1,560 feet in elevation. The objective of the project is to reduce hazardous fuel loading and create a shaded fuel break around the community of angels camp. The project area is in an urban interface setting. Vegetation at the site would best be described as oak woodland. Overstory tree species consist primarily of grey pine, blue oak, valley oak, and interior live oak, with an understory of common manzanita, ceanothus, toyon, buckeye, yerba santa, blackberry, and poison oak. Surface and ladder fuels will be reduced or modified by mastication and hand cutting: chipping may be used where mastication is infeasible due to site constraints. Mastication may be conducted by a variety of track laying and/or wheeled tractors. Hand work will be conducted by hand crews using chainsaws and other hand tools. Trees less than 12-inches in diameter at breast height (dbh), surface fuels, and ladder fuels will be removed to achieve a target residual tree spacing of 25 to 30-feet between stems. Residual trees will be pruned to a height of approximately 8-to-10-feet above ground level. Dead trees of any size may be treated. Masticated or chipped material will be left on site. The reduction in vegetation will create an open and parklike shaded fuel break condition that will minimize fire behavior and create a stand structure that is resistant to stand replacing fires.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type and 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 fits under portions of 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land. The project will consist of removing surface and ladder fuels to create a shaded fuel break condition. The project is located in an urban interface area. The project will create an open and park like condition. The project will not involve the removal of mature or scenic trees. Stand health will be improved by removing dead, dying, and suppressed trees and brush, and increasing growing space for mature, healthy dominant and co- dominant trees. Sensitive species will not be impacted by the proposed project. The project was designed to avoid adverse impacts to watercourses. Mastication and chipping will leave a layer of organic material that will provide for excellent erosion control. The project was carefully designed to avoid adverse impacts to archaeological resources. The project was designed to reduce hazardous fuel loading in a strategic location that will make the community more resilient regarding wildfires.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, 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/traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

Mike Van Loben Sels

1/15/2026

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

Date