



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 275 San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org
(415) 473-6387

FILED

01/27/2026

Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By A. Oxlaj Arevalo Deputy
21-2026-020

DATE: January 26, 2026
PROJECT TITLE: CORTE MADERA RIDGE FUEL BREAK AND FOREST HEALTH PROJECT
PROJECT LOCATION: Blithedale Summit Open Space Preserve. 535 W Blithedale Avenue, Mill Valley, Marin County
ASSESSORS' PARCEL(S): 021-240-14, -34, -36; 021-250-01, -16, -19

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project:

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing to implement a fire fuel reduction project within Blithedale Summit Open Space Preserve, the purpose of which is to maintain and improve an historic fuelbreak area to control rampant invasive broom growth and prevent the succession of oak woodlands into high-density conifer forest. Funding is through the Measure A Wildfire Fuel Reduction funds.

The proposed project area is the vicinity of an existing fire road following a spur ridge between Larkspur and Mill Valley within Blithedale Summit Open Space Preserve, which is owned and maintained by the MCOSD. The fire road is used as an emergency access road and recreation trail, and is maintained as a fuelbreak. Most of the project area is Coast Live Oak Woodland and Forest, with a mix of Madrone Forest, Shrubland, California Bay Woodland, and Redwood Forest comprising the rest of the project area. The project area is mapped within the very high fire hazard severity zone and a Wildland Urban Interface area.

The project area would have an average width of 200 feet and would be approximately one mile in length, totally approximately 18 acres. The proposed project includes the following elements throughout the project area:

- Remove dead plant material
- Remove broom and other non-native invasive vegetation including Monterey pine with no restriction on diameter
- Remove young conifers including and Douglas fir up to a maximum of 9-inches diameter measured at breast-height
- Potential pile burning
- Potential broadcast of chipped plant material
- Potential herbicide treatment

Project implementation is expected to begin in Spring 2026 continuing through the end of 2029. Equipment would include manual tools, including power tools, such as weed wrenches, chainsaws, weed whips, and mechanical equipment including a wood chipper and a masticator. All tools, equipment, and clothing would be clean and free of dirt and vegetative material and treated with a 10 percent bleach solution after working to reduce the spread of sudden oak death. Equipment would access primarily from Summit Drive, with Glen Drive and Crown Road as secondary access points. Staging would be along Corte Madera Ridge Fire Road.

Follow-up treatments would include hand-pulling in certain sections and may include chemical herbicide treatments. Should chemical treatments be applied as part of follow-up treatment, herbicide application would be implemented according to all applicable regulations and only under the recommendation of a certified Pest Control Advisor and according to CA Department of Pesticide Regulations including: no application within 24 hours of a known rain event, all applicators would be supervised directly or individually hold a Qualified Applicators Certificate or license, a "Notice of Herbicide Application" and accompanying map would be posted four days in advance of the application at all main entry points and would remain posted on-site for four days following application in conformance to MCOSD policy.

There are no surface waters or records of special status plant or wildlife in the project area, though northern spotted owl nesting does occur in the vicinity of the project area. Nesting bird surveys would be completed March through July. All mechanical work would be conducted outside of nesting season, between February and July, to avoid noise disturbance to nesting birds. Work buffers would be implemented around nests for dusky-footed woodrats identified in pre-project

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implementation surveys. Targeted vegetation removal would be non-native species forming understory brush, and no native trees larger than 9-inches breast-high diameter would be removed.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Chris Chamberlain, Director and General Manager

Reasons for Exemption: The MCOSD has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following sections of the California Administrative Code:

Section 15301: Existing Facilities. The proposed project consists of the maintenance and minor alteration of an existing public facility involving no expansion of existing or former use. Implementation of the proposed project would improve public safety by implementing fire fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation to improve residential evacuation safety, provide alternate means of ingress for firefighting resources, and reduce wildfire potential.

No endangered, rare, or threatened plant or wildlife species would be impacted because Best Management Practices would be implemented to ensure that nesting birds, bats, and woodrats are not impacted and to reduce the spread of sudden oak death consistent with the MCOSD's Road and Trail Management Plan and Vegetation Biodiversity Management Plan. All mechanical work would be conducted outside of nesting season and would avoid any wood rat nests identified in pre-project implementation surveys. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant erosion or sedimentation into surface waters because there are no surface waters within 500 feet of the project area. Implementation of the project would not affect historical buildings or other historical resources. The project area is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Wildfire fuel reduction work in the project area during the past five years has included wide-area mowing and broom pulling, and tree pruning for fire road access. When past wildfire fuel reduction work is considered along with the proposed project, these activities provide a beneficial effect to the project area in terms of public safety, reducing the amount of flammable vegetation in the project area, and minimizing the fire fuel ladder which protects healthy native trees. For these reasons, implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulative impacts or a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Lead Agency Contact Person

Michelle Julene

Michelle Julene, Senior Regulatory Open Space Planner
Marin County Parks and Open Space District

Michelle.Julene@MarinCounty.gov

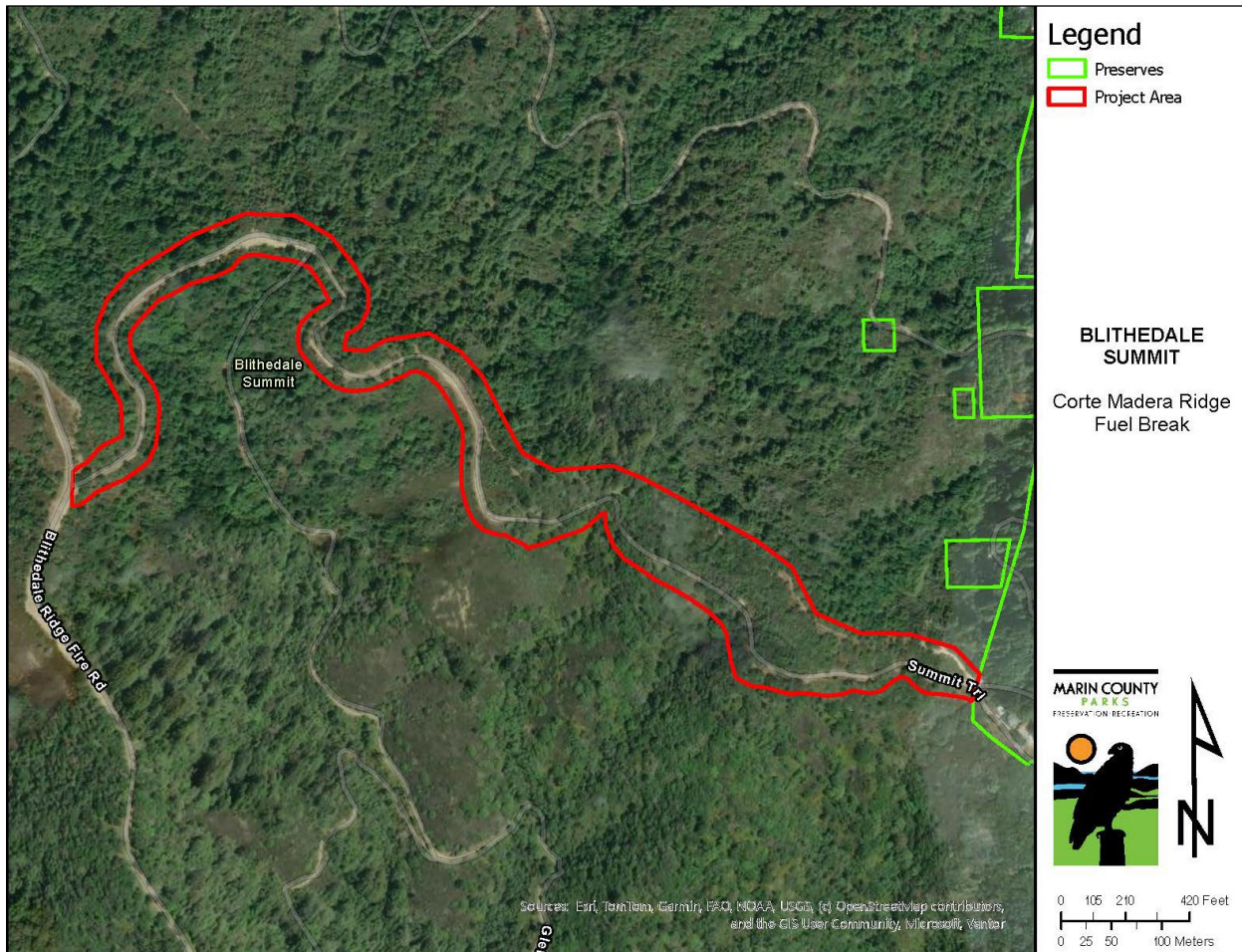
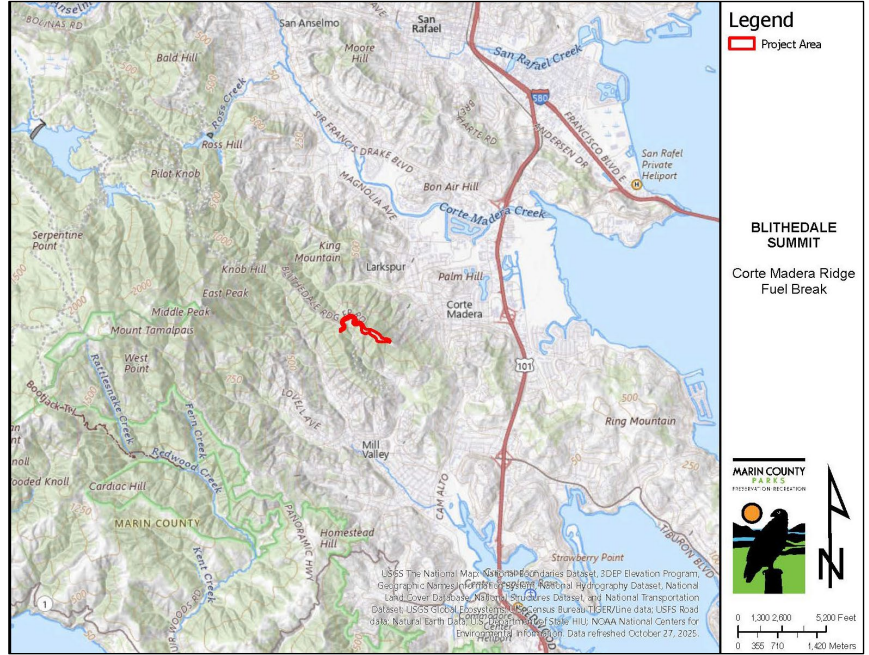
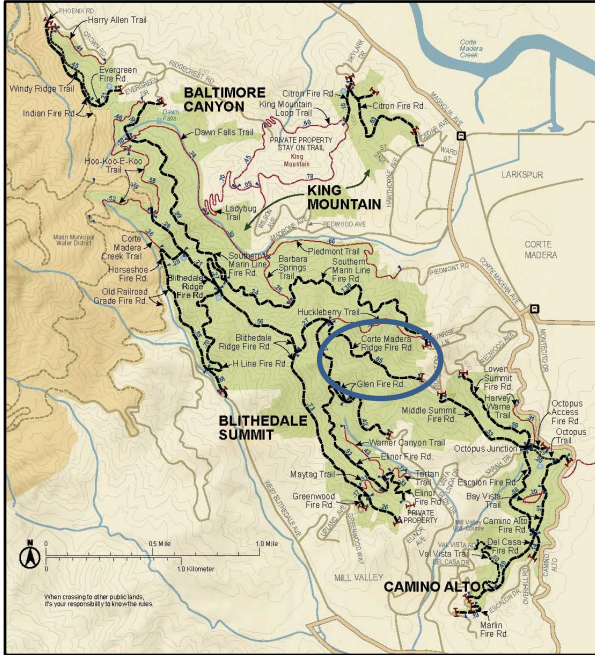
(415)444-6740 – Office Cell



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

BALTIMORE CANYON OPEN SPACE PRESERVE CORTE MADERA RIDGE FUEL BREAK AND FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

January 26, 2026



**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

StartOver

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

21 — 01/27/2026 — 020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 01/27/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Select County/State Agency	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
PROJECT TITLE		

CORTE MADERA RIDGE FUEL BREAK AND FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (415)473-6387
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 1600 LOS GAMOS DR STE 275	CITY SAN RAFAEL	STATE CA
	ZIP CODE 94903	

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227.50	\$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$	0.00

☒ Exempt from fee
 ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
 ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	0.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE MARIN COUNTY CLERK, A.OXLAJ AREVALO, SR. DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
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2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental document filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental document filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- ☐ Collect environmental document filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- ☐ Issue environmental document filing fee cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of environmental document filing fee cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- ☐ Mail environmental document filing fee for **CRP** document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- ☐ Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental document filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- ☐ Issue environmental document filing fee cash receipt to project applicant.
- ☐ Attach copy of environmental document filing fee cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental document filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental document filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall submit the documents below to CDFW on a monthly basis by mail or CDFW's File Transfer Portal (see below):

- A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- CDFW/ASB copies of all cash environmental document filing fee cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- A copy of all NODs and NOEs filed with the county during the preceding month
- A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD and NOE has been filed. If this information is contained on the environmental document filing fee cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain a copy of the environmental document filing fee cash receipt and all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

For access to CDFW's File Transfer Portal, submit email to CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov (Subject line: [County name] FTP account).

Mail to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Accounting Services Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090