

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
PO Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95812

From:

Mendocino County Planning and Building
860 N. Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
Contact: Julia Krog, Director
Phone: 707-234-6650

County Clerk:
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Fee Exempt per Government Code section 27383

Project Title: Defensible Space Fuels Reduction Along Highway 101 and Highway 20 Evacuation Routes

Project Applicant: County of Mendocino

Project Location - Specific: Township, Range & Section: T16N R12W Sec. 16, 15, 14, 13, T16N R11W Sec. 18, 17, 20, 21, 28, 27, 34, 35, T12N R11W Sec. 25, 24, 23, 14, 11, 2, T13N R11W Sec. 34,33, 32, 29, T17N R13W Sec. 4, 5, T18N R13W Sec. 32, 33, 29, 20, 19, 7, T18N R14W Sec. 1, 12, T20N R14W Sec. 6, T21N R14W Sec. 31, 30, T21N R15W Sec. 12, 1, T22N R15W Sec. 27, 22, 16, 9, T23N R15W Sec. 19, 20, T23N R16W Sec. 19, 20, T23N R17W Sec. 24, 13, 14, 11, T24N R17W Sec. 6, 7, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian (M.D.B.M.), Mile Markers: Highway 20: 33.3 – 44.114, South Highway 101: 0.103 – 9.2, North Highway 101: 42.36 to 45.99, 47.88 to 49.01, 64 to 66, 69.61 to 70.44, 73.7 to 74.35, 76.16 to 77.45, 81.15 to 81.3, 85.5 to 87.37, 88.33 to 90.40, 100.64 to 106.5

Project Location - City: County wide Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will be managed by CALFIRE and implemented collaboratively with Caltrans. The objective is to reduce hazardous fuel profiles along community evacuation routes (Highways 101 & 20). This project will use prescribed fire and other means to reduce vegetation biomass in the project area, to create defensible space fire clearance up to 100 feet on either side of the roadway centerline. This work will exclude any trees 12 inches or greater in diameter as measured at chest height. Work will occur along the Highway shoulders, along the center median, around on and off ramps (including cloverleaves), and around turnouts; total area includes approximately 660 acres. Containment lines will be established, reestablished or maintained as necessary for this defensible space. Work will occur annually, during times when CALFIRE determines the conditions to be appropriate.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: MENDOCINO COUNTY

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: CALFIRE, Caltrans

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21070(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: PRC section 21080.49(b)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA statutory exemption under PRC section 21080.49(b): "A project consisting of "defensible space" fire clearance up to 100 feet, as measured from the center line of the roadway, for a public roadway identified as an egress and evacuation route for a subdivision or community of 30 or more dwelling units, to remove flammable vegetation or trees of less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height".

The purpose of this project is to reduce hazardous fuel profiles along Highways 101 & 20, both of which are designated community evacuation routes by the 2020 Mendocino County Evacuation Plan and would be evacuation routes for more than 30 dwelling units. The work will not extend beyond 100' from the roadway centerline in either direction, and it will exclude removal of trees 12 inches or greater in diameter as measured at chest height.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Julia Krog, Director

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-234-6650

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: *Julia Krog* Date: 5/12/2026 Title: DIRECTOR

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: _____