

# CEQA – Notice of Exemption

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## Santa Barbara County Fire Department

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Tepusquet VMP Roadside Clearing	COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Tepusquet Canyon, Suey Canyon, Colson Canyon, Ruiz Canyon	CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC)	
<b>CONTACT</b>	Fred Tan	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	4410 Cathedral Oaks Road Santa Barbara, CA 93101	<b>PHONE</b> 805-681-5500

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** - This project will include 32.5 miles of roadside treatments along Tepusquet Rd., Colson Canyon Rd., Ruiz Canyon Rd., Blazing Saddle Dr. and Autumn Rd. in addition to several unnamed private access roads. The removal of hazardous vegetation approximately 40 feet from both sides of the roads will result in a total of 214 acres of fuel reduction. These roads are typical back country roads meandering through canyon bottoms and traversing mid-slope and ridge top topography. The road treatments will create fire safe road corridors and will act as effective fuel breaks for the affected communities.

No heavy equipment is authorized under this document. A query of the National Diversity Database will be performed for each project to check for the presence of endangered plants and/or animals. DFW will be consulted for input as necessary on individual projects.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption    Type/Section:
- 15301 Existing Facilities
  - 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
  - 15308 Actions Taken for Protection of Environment
- 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

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4- Minor Alterations to Land. The project also involves maintenance of existing roadside defensible space. A biological assessment has concluded that no listed species shall be adversely impacted by project activities. The limited nature of this project's footprint in relation to the amount of identical habitat available in the surrounding area further reduces the likely hood of any species (T & E or otherwise) being adversely affected by potential habitat modification due to the fuels reduction activities. SBC staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which 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, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at SBC Fire GIS, 4570 Hollister Ave, Santa Barbara 93110.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Rob Hazard, Fire Marshal  
Santa Barbara County Fire Department

4/26/2022

Date