



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Hopland Station Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	T13N; R11W; Section 00; Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Lane Japp, Forestry Assistant II CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit	PHONE	707-513-8136
ADDRESS	17501 North Highway 101 Willis, CA 95490		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to reduce wildfire risk on approximately 8 acres of State property at the CAL FIRE Hopland Fire Station through fuel reduction treatments. The station is in Battalion 3 of the Mendocino Unit, located along highway 101, approximately two miles north of the town of Hopland. The CAL FIRE Hopland Fire Station is located in and adjacent to an oak woodland hardwood forest interspersed with madrone, a few pines, grassy openings and some shrubs. The property contains multiple buildings for CAL FIRE staff in a wildland interface and serves as housing for firefighters. Annual vegetation management activities are necessary to maintain the grounds in a manner that reduces vegetative fuels around buildings to lower fire risk and remove trees that pose a fire and/or safety risk to structures, property, and human life. Fuel reduction activities involve the use of hand crews, chainsaws (tree falling, bucking, and brushing), pole saws, chippers, heavy equipment, and pile and broadcast burning. Live trees 12-inches in diameter or less, may be removed when appropriate to improve spacing or forest health, and logs will be bucked and pile burned, or left on site. Larger trees may be pruned to provide for a vertical clearance of up to 14 feet. Hazard trees, snags, and dead or dying trees of any size may be removed. These activities also serve as training opportunities for unit fire fighters such as chainsaw operations, putting live fire on the ground, constructing fire lines, and simulating mop-up operations. This project includes long term fuel reduction and hazard tree removal as needed.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/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

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed fuel management activities entail understory brush removal, 12-inches DBH or less tree removal, thinning, pruning, chipping, mastication, pile burning, and dead/tree removal to improve access and reduce volume of flammable vegetation. As such, CAL FIRE 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, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities, and service systems, or to wildfire. No exceptions apply (Section 15300.2) which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit, 802 N. Main Street. Attn. VMP Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Signed by:

George Morris III

6/15/2026

George Morris III, Northern Region Chief Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection