



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	MHDSF Winter HQ Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of NE ½, NE ¼, Section 9 & W ½, SW ¼, NW ¼, Section 10; T20S, R30E, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian	COUNTY	Tulare
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will involve fuel reduction activities on 30 acres of state and 50 acres of adjoining private property. The project location ranges in elevation from 3,680-4,400 feet. The vegetation type of the project area is an oak woodland forest community. The overstory consists of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*). The understory consists of white leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), deerbrush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), and western poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Project work will reduce hazardous fuel loads by removal of underbrush, and dead, dying and diseased vegetation. Project activities will be completed by hand crews and include thinning of brush and shrubs; thinning and limbing of small trees; removal of dead material; piling and burning of cut biomass material. No heavy equipment will be used during this project.

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 Class 4, §15304, Minor Alterations to Land, Categorical Exemption to CEQA.

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 MHDSF Winter Headquarters, 44316 Bear Creek Road, Springville, CA 93265.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

Mike Van Loben Sels

8/10/2026

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