

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From (Public Agency):
San Rafael Fire Department
1375 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

County Clerk County of: Marin
Marin Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 234,
San Rafael, CA 94903

Project Title: San Rafael Zone New and Expanded Fuel Reduction Projects

Project Applicant: San Rafael Fire Department

Project Location – Specific: Within 200 feet from structures within the San Rafael Fire Department jurisdiction.

Project Location – City:
City of San Rafael

Project Location – County:
Marin County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the proposed project is to establish and maintain defensible space zones as well as to enhance and expand existing defensible space zones in and around the residential communities of the City of San Rafael. By creating or enhancing fuel reduction areas, the proposed project would reduce fire intensity and rate of spread near homes, make evacuations safer for residences, minimize loss of critical infrastructure, and provide firefighters better access to the fire's edge if a wildfire were to occur.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Rafael Fire Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Rafael Fire Department

Exempt Status (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code (PRC)
sections 21080.49(c) and 21080.49(d)

Reasons why project is exempt:

These projects are statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code (PRC) sections 21080.49(c) and 21080.49(d). A project exempt in accordance with PRC section 21080.49(c) involves establishment or enhancement of residential home hardening or defensible space for wildfire risk reduction within 200 feet of a legal structure located in a high or very high wildfire hazard zone, and under section 21080.49(d), consists of a fuel break that extends up to 200 feet from

structures¹, including the clearance of flammable vegetation and trees less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height. The proposed project would remove hazardous accumulated ground, ladder fuels, and hazard trees within up to 200 feet of structures in the San Rafael Zone to create, maintain, or enhance fuel breaks and defensible space. The scope of the proposed project shown in Figure 1 is consistent with a fuel break and enhanced defensible space that extends up to 200 feet from structures.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Kristina Estudillo

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

(415) 458-5048

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: Kristina Estudillo Date: October 15, 2026 Title: Principal Planner

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

¹ Defined as that which is built or constructed or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner (California Wildland-Urban Interface Code 2025, Section 202(ae)).

Figure 1 Project Location

