



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019048281

PROJECT TITLE	Vegetation Clearance and Re-Occurring Prescribed Fire Training AEU/Pilot Hill		
PROJECT LOCATION	CAL FIRE's Pilot Hill Lookout, Pilot Hill, CA Township 11N; Range 8E; Sec. 12 MDBM, Pilot Hill Quad	COUNTY	El Dorado
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Patrick McDaniel, Vegetation Management Forester - Forester I		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit 2840 Mount Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709	PHONE	530-647-5288

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves field training exercises for CAL FIRE and cooperating Fire Department employees. A fuelbreak will be constructed around CAL FIRE's Pilot Hill Lookout through targeted thinning and pruning of Ponderosa and Foothill Pine, and removal of shrub species. A total of approximately 7 acres shall be treated on state property in an area which has been treated multiple times over the years under CAL FIRE ownership. Once completed, this fuel break will be maintained on an annual basis through the use prescribed fire with the main carrier of the fire being annual grasses and forbs which are expected to repopulate the site after shrubs and select trees are removed. Most of the returning tree and / or shrub species regrowth are expected to be consumed, thereby maintaining the fuel break in functional status. Minimal soil disturbance will occur because of the proposed project. No watercourses exist on or adjacent to the proposed project. An NDDDB run detected no known occurrences or habitat of threatened, rare or endangered species known to occur in or adjacent to the project area. No activity will take place on any steep pitches over 50% in slope or when soils are saturated. The area shall be maintained using similar treatments in the future. AEU's Environmental Coordinator will survey the project area each year prior to training to confirm the presence or absence of threatened and/or endangered species.

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


This project fits under the description for a Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. CALFIRE staff conducted an environmental review to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included an on-the-ground field inspection by the project forester, consultation with a CALFIRE State Archaeologist familiar with the property and consultation via email with representatives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board. 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 AEU Unit Headquarters in Camino.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 15 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 4/12/19
 Matthew Rieschman, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection