



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Fuel Reduction and Road Grading on Starr Ranch		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Starr Ranch, 100 Bell Canyon Rd, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679	<b>COUNTY</b>	Orange
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Dave Erickson, Wildland Resources Planner	<b>PHONE</b>	(949) 447-0549
<b>ADDRESS</b>	1 Fire Authority Rd, Irvine, CA 92602		

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Starr Ranch is situated adjacent to national forest on the east, the community of Coto de Caza and Bell Ridge to the west, and along Bell Canyon, which runs north-south along Bell Creek, a tributary to Trabuco Creek, that exits the property onto Orange County Park land to the south. Elevations range from approximately 500' above mean sea level along the creek bed to the highest peak of approximately 1700 feet above mean sea level. Environments on Starr Ranch range from oak woodland to coastal sage scrub with stands of pure cactus habitat as well as sycamore and alder dominated riparian corridors and chaparral habitats at higher elevations. The goal of the project is to reduce hazardous fuels in an area that covers ~ 4,000 acres within California Audubon's Starr Ranch located in unincorporated Orange County, CA. The project will provide a direct benefit to over 500 homes, a university, and a high school adjacent to the project area, as well as over 4,000 homes located in the adjacent communities of Dove Canyon and Coto de Caza. This project will include raising the tree canopy, brushing vegetation, and removing dead and down vegetation from within the preserve. The project will reduce the risks associated with wildfire to the habitable structures by reducing the vegetation within the preserve and adjacent to roads, homes and HOAs. The vegetation in some areas currently encroaches on the roadways, limiting visibility and slowing emergency response. These roads are critical for emergency egress and are often the only way in and out of the communities. The reduction of the vegetation will not only improve emergency access, but will also reduce the fuel load (including ladder fuels) around the densely packed homes and increase defensible space. This fuel reduction project will also improve visibility allowing for faster response and egress times, and will help to reduce a structure fire from spreading to the WUI and threatening additional structures and communities. Project activities will consist of thinning roadside vegetation, trimming, pruning, thinning or skirting the existing vegetation adjacent to homes, and removing hazardous dead or dying vegetation adjacent to roadways and structures. The cut vegetation will be chipped into green waste bins and hauled away to green waste facilities or chipped onsite at predetermined locations.

### 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 meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" - "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes". The project will increase general fire safety, while creating minimal ground disturbance that will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources or the environment. Fuels management activities will reduce the volume of flammable vegetation and will not involve the taking of threatened plant or animal species and work will occur outside of avian nesting season.

Field review by OCFA staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Orange County Fire Authority 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 OCFA is kept on file with the Pre-Fire Management Section at OCFA's Regional Fire Operations Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Rd., Irvine, CA 92602

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director    Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

SEP 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project

**Note:** This report form is intended for use by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) staff to document a limited environmental impact analysis supporting the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) document for a proposed CAL FIRE project. Although the project appears to fit within the descriptions for allowable Categorical Exemptions, this report presents CAL FIRE's review for possible "Exceptions" that would preclude finding the project to be categorically exempt as discussed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. This report will be filed with the CEQA administrative record for this project to document the environmental impact analysis conducted by the Department.

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Project Name: Starr Ranch Vegetation Management  
Project Number:  
Program Type: SRA  
CAL FIRE Unit: ORC  
County: Orange  
Acres: Project Area occurs within ~ 4,000 acres  
Legal Location: Sections 18, 19, 29, 30, 31, 32, T06S, R06W; Sections 24, 25, 36, T06S, R07W; Section 6, T07S, R06W; Section 1, T07S, R07W, MDB&M  
Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Canada Gobernadora and Santiago Peak Quads  
☒ Project Vicinity Map Attached ☒ Project Location Map Attached ☒ Photos Attached

### Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:

Would the project result in:

- alterations to a watercourse (DFG - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)
- conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)
- demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)
- soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB - SWPPP)
- fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)
- other:

YES

☐  
☐  
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NO

☒  
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☒

Discuss any above-listed topic item checked Yes and consultation with agencies:

### Project Description and Environmental Setting (Describe the project activities, project site and its surroundings, its location, and the environmental setting):

Starr Ranch is situated adjacent to national forest on the east, the community of Coto de Caza and Bell Ridge to the west, and along Bell Canyon, which runs north-south along Bell Creek, a tributary to Trabuco Creek, that exits the property onto Orange County Park land to the south. Elevations range from approximately 500' above mean sea level along the creek bed to the highest peak of approximately 1700 feet above mean sea level. Environments on Starr Ranch range from oak woodland to coastal sage scrub with stands of pure cactus habitat as well as sycamore and alder dominated riparian corridors and chaparral habitats at higher elevations. The goal of the project is to reduce hazardous fuels in an area that covers ~ 4,000 acres within California Audubon's Starr Ranch located in unincorporated Orange County, CA. The project will provide a direct benefit to over 500 homes, a university, and a high school adjacent to the project area, as well as over 4,000 homes located in the adjacent communities of Dove Canyon and Coto de Caza. This project will include raising the tree canopy, brushing vegetation, and removing dead and down vegetation from within the preserve. The project will reduce the risks associated with wildfire to the habitable structures by reducing the vegetation within the preserve and adjacent to roads, homes and HOAs. The vegetation in some areas currently encroaches on the roadways, limiting visibility and slowing emergency response. These roads are critical for emergency egress and are often the only way in and out of the communities. The reduction of the vegetation will not only improve emergency access, but will also reduce the fuel load (including ladder fuels) around the densely packed homes and increase defensible space. This fuel reduction project will also improve visibility allowing for faster response and egress times, and will help to reduce a structure fire from spreading to the WUI and threatening additional structures and communities. Project activities will consist of thinning roadside vegetation, trimming, pruning, thinning or skirting the existing vegetation adjacent to homes, and removing hazardous dead or dying vegetation

adjacent to roadways and structures. The cut vegetation will be chipped into green waste bins and hauled away to green waste facilities or chipped onsite at predetermined locations.

## Environmental Impact Analysis

### Aesthetics

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The overall aesthetic appeal of the area will be improved by the work as described. The project activities will not alter the aesthetics by thinning the vegetation in order to reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity, while decreasing the total fuel load. Removal of existing vegetation will create an area that will be more resistant to wildfire.

### Agriculture and Forest Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☒ Yes ☐ No Would any trees be felled? If yes, discuss protection of nesting birds and compliance with FPRs.  
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project convert any prime or unique farmland?  
☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project result in the conversion of forest land/timberland to non-forest use?  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

No healthy, mature, and scenic trees will be removed unless they are hazardous to life and/or property. If the tree is to be removed, it will be done outside of avian nesting season. No impacts to Agriculture or Forest Resources are expected to result from this project.

### Air Quality

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☒ Yes ☐ No The local Air Quality Management District guidelines for dust abatement and other air quality concerns were reviewed for this project.  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mechanized equipment such as chainsaws, graders, and chippers will be used to accomplish this project. All equipment types are permitted by the Air Quality Management District. Dust will be abated through the use of a water tender working in conjunction with the grader or dozer. Use of the chipper and vehicles will not affect air quality of any significance. The limited duration and limited scope of this project and adherence to APCD requirements will result in no significant impact on air quality.

### Biological Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project potentially effect biological resources?  
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current CNDDDB review completed? Results discussed below:  
☒ Yes ☐ No Was a biological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A query of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) was conducted on June 4, 2019 to identify State and Federally listed species that might be present in the project area. The query was based on a 5-mile search. The query was further filtered to rule out species that don't have a listing status such as endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate, or a California Rare Plant Rank of 3.2 or less, or CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC) and Fully Protected (FP). The search yielded 25 species. Of the 25-species identified, 15 may be present in the project area. The project is designed avoid impacts to these species. Species evaluations are documented below.

Coastal sage scrub habitat is a component of the habitat at Starr Ranch. Both the cactus wren and coastal California gnatcatcher have the potential to occupy this type of habitat. This project will avoid impacts to these species by working outside of nesting season, leaving habitat intact post project, and avoiding any treatments to cactus. The coast horned lizard uses coastal sage scrub habitat as well and this species will be avoided as crews will be working outside its nesting season (May-June). Its habitat will also remain post project, as the road grading will occur within the original road prism and road brushing will consist of removing ~50% of roadside vegetation 5-10' from the road edge to create a mosaic pattern to enhance the road as a shaded fuel break.

Some of the canyons at Starr Ranch are dominated by riparian corridors with oaks, alders, cottonwoods, and willows. The western spadefoot toad, two striped gartersnake, and arroyo chub may occur in these riparian and aquatic habitats. However, the project work will not be conducted in the riparian corridors or stream beds and these areas and impacts to these species will be avoided.

Impacts to nocturnal species, such as the long eared owl and pallid bat, will be avoided because the project will only occur during daylight hours and works will not occur during nesting season. Working outside of the nesting season and not removing healthy mature trees will also avoid impacts to species such as the golden eagle, northern harrier, and white-tailed kite, which are all known to occur at Starr Ranch.

Project design will avoid plants, such as the thread-leaved brodiaea, intermediate mariposa-lily, and the San Miguel savory because the road brushing will avoid removing forbs, and focus on thinning shrubs to create a mosaic along the roadside to enhance the road as a shaded fuel break. Brushing of roads will not consist of scraping the soil or altering habitat for the plant species, as the crews will be breaking up the fuel continuity and leaving brush standing behind.

The American badger will be avoided as well, as its open herbaceous shrubby habitat will remain intact during the project. The vegetation management will occur within 5-10' of the original road prism, with ~50% vegetation removal.

Name	Taxonomic Group	Fed Status	Cal Status	CNPS Rare Plant Rank	CDFW Status	Habitat
western spadefoot ( <i>Spea hammondi</i> )	Amphibians	None	None		SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.
coastal cactus wren ( <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis</i> )	Birds	None	None		SSC	Southern California coastal sage scrub. Wrens require tall opuntia cactus for nesting and roosting.
coastal California gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> )	Birds	Threatened	None		SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in Southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.
golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	Birds	None	None		FP	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas.
long-eared owl ( <i>Asio otus</i> )	Birds	None	None		SSC	Riparian bottomlands grown to tall willows and cottonwoods; also, belts of live oak paralleling stream courses. Require adjacent open land, productive of mice and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, or magpies for breeding.
northern harrier ( <i>Circus hudsonius</i> )	Birds	None	None		SSC	Coastal salt & freshwater marsh. Nest and forage in grasslands, from salt grass in desert sink to mountain cienagas. Nests on ground in shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge; nest built of a large mound of sticks in wet areas.

white-tailed kite ( <i>Elanus leucurus</i> )	Birds	None	None		FP	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.
arroyo chub ( <i>Gila orcuttii</i> )	Fish	None	None		SSC	Native to streams from Malibu Creek to San Luis Rey River basin. Introduced into streams in Santa Clara, Ventura, Santa Ynez, Mojave & San Diego river basins. Slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms. Feeds heavily on aquatic vegetation and associated invertebrates.
American badger ( <i>Taxidea taxus</i> )	Mammals	None	None		SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.
pallid bat ( <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> )	Mammals	None	None		SSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.
coast horned lizard ( <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> )	Reptiles	None	None		SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.
two-striped gartersnake ( <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> )	Reptiles	None	None		SSC	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.
San Miguel savory ( <i>Clinopodium chandleri</i> )	Dicots	None	None	1B.2		Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Rocky, gabbroic or metavolcanic substrate. 120-975 m.
intermediate mariposa-lily ( <i>Calochortus weedii</i> var. <i>intermedius</i> )	Monocots	None	None	1B.2		Coastal scrub, chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Dry, rocky calcareous slopes and rock outcrops. 60-1575 m.
thread-leaved brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> )	Monocots	Threatened	Endangered	1B.1		Chaparral (openings), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Usually associated with annual grassland and vernal pools; often surrounded by shrubland habitats. Occurs in openings on clay soils. 15-1030 m.

**Cultural Resources**

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was a current archaeological records check completed? Results discussed below:
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was a CAL FIRE Staff or Contract Archaeologist consulted? Results discussed below:
- ☒ Yes ☐ No Was an archaeological survey of the project area completed? Results discussed below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project effect any historic buildings or archaeological site?
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Archaeological surveys were conducted by CAL FIRE Archaeologist Herb Dallas on September 18th and 19th, 2018, October 23rd, 2018, November 1, 2018, and April 2, 2019. No Native American archaeological or cultural sites were identified in the project area during the Native American consultation. Mr. Dallas conducted a light-medium survey of the project area that was mostly concentrated to a survey along existing roads and structures. The survey found prehistoric flakes in the project area, but no prehistoric site was found during the survey. Metates and a mortar were found not in-situ, from an unknown location, in the project area. One historic homestead site was found and recorded. Protection measures will consist of avoidance of known or discovered sites to avoid damages to the site and grading will be avoided in the area of the historic site.

**Geology and Soils**

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

It was determined that this project will not result in any significant impact to geology or soils because the road grading falls into a Class 4 categorical exemption and the vegetation removal intensity is low and soil disturbance minimal, as the vegetation removal will occur only along current established roadways and within 100' of buildings. The maintenance of the road will require temporary soil disturbance within existing road bed. Proper storm water Best Management Practices are implemented to avoid any erosion during project implementation.

The project area is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the proposed project. The project will not result in significant impacts on geology or soils.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project generate significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would these GHG emissions result in a significant impact on the environment? Discuss below:
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? Discuss below:

No significant impacts from GHGs are expected as a result of the proposed project. Emissions of GHGs will occur during equipment operation through the burning of gas & diesel fuel in internal combustion engines. The total quantity of GHGs released during equipment operation is estimated at 14.46 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. A detailed GHG calculation is presented at the end of this document. Cut vegetation will be hauled to pre-designated locations and chipped. The chipper/tow vehicle, chainsaws, water truck, and haul truck all meet state and federal emission requirements and will not generate significant GHG emissions that would impact the environment. Carbon contained in the vegetation that will be chipped will be sequestered in chip form and slowly released as the chips decompose.

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

There are no known hazardous materials within the project site. Crews will be working with heavy equipment (graders, dozers, skid steer), chainsaws and chippers to remove and chip brush and dead woody material. All crew members shall be supervised and will wear the proper PPE. Refueling of the heavy equipment and chainsaws will be conducted following refueling protocols so that there is no potential to contaminate soil and or transport in a watercourse. The following fueling protocols will be used: use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw, dispensing fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition when performing construction activities, no smoking during fueling, use a funnel or a flexible hose when pouring fuel into the saw, and never attempting to fuel a running or HOT saw or equipment.



**Hydrology and Water Quality**

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ Yes ☒ No Will the project potentially affect any watercourse or body of water?  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will not affect any watercourse or body of water. Vegetation will be cut along roadways only, removed, hauled to pre-determined chipping locations, chipped into piles, or used onsite. Grading will be done on existing roads and improvements will be made to improve hydraulic flow across the roads to reduce erosion and create more sustainable roadbeds.

**Land Use and Planning**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will not have an effect on current land use planning.

**Mineral Resources**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will have no anticipated changes to current mineral resources.

**Noise**

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will utilize heavy equipment, chainsaws and chippers to facilitate the fuel reduction project. Operations will be conducted between regular working hours of 0800 and 1600 Monday through Saturday. Noise thresholds should remain below levels of concern and the project site is in a wilderness setting, far from homes.

**Population and Housing**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

No new roads or access to areas will be created; therefore this project will have no effect on population or housing.

**Public Services**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will aid in a safe and timely response of emergency equipment into areas of concern enhancing the protection the communities in the area, as well as allowing for safer egress of residents of the area.

**Recreation**

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

A more fire safe environment will maintain and increase recreational value of the area.

**Transportation/Traffic**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project should increase visibility along roadways and should result in safer ingress and egress for emergency vehicles and evacuating residents.

**Utilities and Service Systems**

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.  
☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

This project will not have an effect on utilities and/or service systems.

**Changes Made to Avoid Environmental Impacts:** None.

**Mandatory Findings of Significance:**

**YES** **NO**  
☐ ☒

(a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probably future projects)

☐ ☒

(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

☐ ☒

**Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption (discuss why the project is exempt, cite exemption number(s), and describe how the project fits the class):**

This project meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" - "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes". The project will increase ingress/egress safety zones, aesthetic, has minimal ground disturbance and will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources nor the environment. Field reviews conducted by OCFA staff have confirmed that no impacts will occur, which justifies the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. OCFA 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. OCFA has determined this project would not impact the environment.

**Conclusion:**

☒ After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, OCFA has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes and no exceptions exist at the project site which would preclude the use of this exemption. OCFA considered the possibility of (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed at the State Clearinghouse.

☐ After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the description for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, CAL FIRE has determined that the project does not fit within the description for the various exemption classes or has found that exceptions exist at the project site which precludes the use of a Categorical Exemption for this project. Additional environmental review will be conducted and the appropriate CEQA document used may be a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration.



**Starr Ranch Fuel Reduction Project**  
**Estimative Green House Gas (GHG) Emission Calculation Table**  
 Number of estimated crew days for project: 30 days

**A. Staff vehicle**

30 days X 48 miles/day = 1440 miles; 15 miles/gal = 96 gal gas

**B. Equipment operations****1. Crew bus (2)**

total of 24 miles/day; 10 miles/gal= 2.4 gal/day; 30days X 2.4 gal/day = 72 gal diesel

**2. Truck**

total of 12 miles/day; 12 miles/gal = 1 gal/day; 30 days X 1 gal/day = 30 gal diesel

**3. Chipper**

1 gal/hr/chipper = 5 gal/day; 30 days X 5 gal/day = 150 gal diesel

**4. Chainsaws**

4 chainsaws/crew X 1 gal/chainsaw/day = 2 gal/day; 30 days X 2 gal/day = 60 gal gas

**5. Pole saws**

2 pole saws/crew X 0.5 gal/chainsaw/day = 1 gal/day; 30 days X 1 gal/day = 30 gal gas

**6. Grader**

1 grader/day x 5 gal/hr= 30 gal/day; 30 days x 30gal/day = 900 gal diesel

**7. Grader Transport**

1 grader transport/project; 10 miles/gal; 100 miles/project= 10 gal/project= 10 gal diesel

**8. Grader Tender**

Total of 40 miles/day; 12 miles/gal = 3.33 gal/day; 30 days x 3.33 gal/day = 100 gal diesel

**9. Water Tender**

1 water tender/project; 10 miles/gal; 100 miles/project= 10 gal/project= 10 gal diesel

Total gasoline: 96 + 60 + 30 = 186 gallons of gasoline

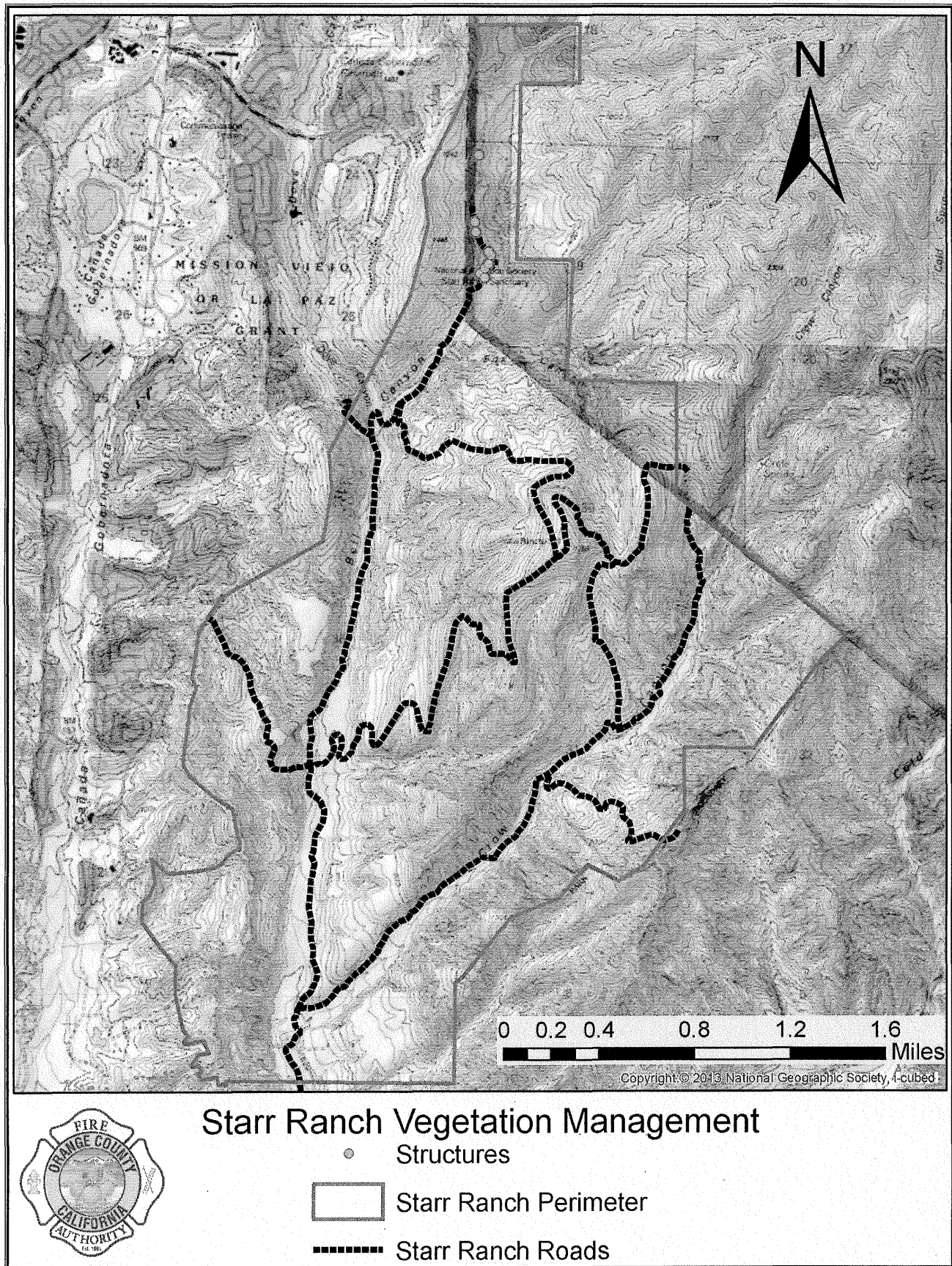
Total diesel: 72 + 30 + 150 + 900 + 10 + 10+100 = 1,275 gallons of diesel

Gasoline GHG: 186 X 8.18 = 1521.48 kg/gal/1000 = 1.52 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e

Diesel GHG: 1,275 X 10.15 = 12,941.25 kg/gal/1000 = 12.94 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e

Total estimated GHG emissions/project : 1.52 + 12.94 = 14.46 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e

Table1. Estimate of Green House Gas (GHG) Emission Calculation Table





Picture 1: General view of onsite vegetation along the entrance to Bell Canyon Rd. Picture taken from the north end of the project looking west.





Picture 2: General view of onsite vegetation and road condition along North Perusker Rd. Picture taken looking south east.



Picture 3: General view of onsite vegetation and road condition along North Perusker Rd. Picture taken looking south.





Picture 4: General view of onsite vegetation and road condition along North Perusker Rd. Picture taken looking east.





Picture 5: General view of onsite vegetation and road condition along North Perusker Rd. Picture taken looking south.



Picture 6: General view of onsite vegetation and road condition along Bell Canyon Rd. Picture taken looking south.





Picture 7: General view of onsite vegetation, with fallen branches across the road, and road condition along Fox Rd. Picture taken looking east.



Picture 8: General view of onsite vegetation, with fallen branches across the road, and road condition along Fox Rd. Picture taken looking southeast.