

# Notice of Exemption

21-2023-161

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

**From (Public Agency):**  
Southern Marin Fire District  
28 Liberty Ship Way  
Sausalito, CA 94965

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

# FILED

JUL 20 2023

SHELLY SCOTT  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK

By D. Lobato Deputy

**Project Title:** Southern Marin Scott Valley Fuel Reduction

**Project Applicant:** Southern Marin Fire District (SMFD)

**Project Location – Specific:** The proposed clearing runs behind Vasco Ct adjacent to homes on Underhill Road as well as the fire road on Horse Hill Preserve.

**Project Location – City:**  
The City of Mill Valley

**Project Location – County:**  
Marin County

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve defensible space for residents near Vasco nature trail and Horse Hill Preserve. Improving the vegetation clearance along the targeted area would provide better access for first responders and emergency vehicles and adequate time to provide safer evacuation for residents. The proposed project would also improve access by reducing heat, flame, ember, and smoke impingement on roadways/trails and nearby structures for evacuating residents in the event of an approaching wildfire.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** SMFD

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** SMFD

**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: 15304(i). Minor alterations to land for fuel management activities. 15301. Existing Facilities maintenance and minor alterations for vegetation removal along roadways.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The Southern Marin Fire District has determined that the Scott Valley Fuel Reduction Project (project) is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, for Minor Alterations to Land and Section 15301, Class 1, for Existing Facilities. A Class 4 exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. A Class 1 exempt project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing,

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licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The proposed project would involve vegetation thinning and removal within typically 10 feet but up to 30 feet of two areas identified by SMFD as key areas needing work to provide adequate evacuation time and ingress/egress for our first responders. The scope of the proposed project is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation along the routes and maintenance of the existing roadways shown in Figure 1. The areas identified for treatment are located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and are very vulnerable to wildfire. Fuel reduction in this area would ensure safer evacuation for residents and improve access for emergency responders.

The following analysis demonstrates the proposed project would not result in adverse environmental effects, supporting the SMFD's determination that the proposed activities are categorically exempt under CEQA. The proposed project would be conducted in compliance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations and under contractual provisions prohibiting work in violation of applicable regulations and plans.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**


**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**

Madison Mead

(415) 388-8184

**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:  Date: 7/20/2023 Title: Fire Inspector

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Figure 1 Project Location

