



# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**Marin County Parks and Open Space District**  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903  
[www.marincountyparks.org](http://www.marincountyparks.org)  
(415) 473-6387

**FILED**

Marin County Clerk  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234  
San Rafael, CA 94903

SHELLY SCOTT  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK  
By **J. Cruz, Deputy**  
21 - 2023 - 270

**Date:** November 22, 2023  
**Project Title:** BLUE RIDGE FIRE ROAD FUEL REDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT  
**Project Location:** Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve, south of Camp Tamarancho, Fairfax, California  
**Assessor's Parcel:** 197-110-08, 197-110-10

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project:** The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing to implement a fire fuel reduction and fire road maintenance project along Blue Ridge Fire Road within Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve (Cascade Canyon). The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of rapid wildfire spread and maintain emergency vehicle access through undeveloped portions of Cascade Canyon by removing vegetation encroaching with the road corridor including Douglas fir, manzanita, and invasive species such as French and Scotch broom. The treatment involves using mechanical tools including chainsaws, handsaws, and loppers to thin vegetative fire fuels from the project area. All plant material removed as part of the proposed project would be chipped or mulched onsite. The proposed project would be implemented in November 2023 to December 2024 by the MCFD Tam Crew. Implementation of the proposed project would occur within seven days of nesting bird and bat surveys yielding negative results and after woodrat nests are vacated. All tools, equipment, and clothing would be clean and free of dirt and vegetative material and treated with a 10 percent bleach solution after working to reduce the spread of sudden oak death. There are no structures or surface waters located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The proposed project would be funded by Marin County Parks or the Marin County Fire Department, with project-related decisions guided by the State of California and County of Marin fire codes and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan to best protect communities in the wildland-urban interface.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Marin County Parks and Open Space District.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:** Max Korten, Director and General Manager

**Reasons for Exemption:** The MCOSD has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following section of the California Administrative Code:

**Section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land:** The proposed project consists a minor alteration to public land regarding the condition of vegetation for fire fuel management purposes. Best Management Practices would be implemented to ensure that nesting birds, bats, and woodrats are not impacted and to reduce the spread of sudden oak death consistent with the MCOSD's Road and Trail Management Plan and Vegetation Biodiversity Management Plan and for these reasons, implementation of the proposed project would not impact endangered, rare, or threatened plan species. The proposed project would not result in erosion or sedimentation of surface waters because there are no surface waters located within or immediately adjacent to the project area and stormwater measures such as straw wattles would be utilized if needed to prevent soil disturbance during the rainy season. The project area is not located within a state scenic highway and given the dense vegetation within the project area, implementation of the proposed project would not negatively affect scenic resources. The project area is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect historical buildings or other historical resources. No significant fuel reduction activities have occurred in the project area during the past 5 years, so implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulative impacts or result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

*Michelle Julene*

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POSTED 11/22/2023 TO 12/22/2023



# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – PROJECT LOCATION

## Blue Ridge Fire Road Fuel Reduction and Maintenance Project Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve

November 22, 2023

