

Notice of Exemption 21-2024-023

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk County of: Marin
Marin Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 234,
San Rafael, CA 94903

From (Public Agency):
City of San Rafael
1400 Fifth Ave
San Rafael, CA 94901

FILED
JAN 25 2024
SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
BY: [Signature], Deputy

Project Title: San Rafael Zone Open Space Prescribed Herbivory Expansion Project

Project Applicant: City of San Rafael

Project Location – Specific: The proposed project would be conducted within San Rafael open space and Harry A. Barbier Memorial Park, which are owned and managed by the City of San Rafael

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 would be to create fuel reduction areas adjacent to occupied structures in open space areas through goat grazing, with the intention of reducing wildfire intensity and rate of spread in the event of ignition in the wildland or built environment. By creating a contiguous buffer between neighborhoods and open space lands, the proposed project would also provide defensible space for fire suppression crews to safely defend communities from wildfire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of San Rafael

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of San Rafael

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.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 for Minor Alterations to Land. A Class 4 exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The proposed project would involve fuel management through the use of prescribed

POSTED 1/25/2024 **TO** 2/24/2024

herbivory on lands owned and managed by the City of Rafael. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed in June 2021 for the Prescribed Herbivory on San Rafael Open Space - San Rafael Zone Core 05 Project, which approved 12 prescribed herbivory sites, totaling 118.1 acres, for fuel reduction on San Rafael Open Space and Marinwood CSD lands. An NOE was filed in June 2022 for the San Rafael Zone Marinwood and San Rafael Open Space Prescribed Herbivory Project that added two additional sites totaling 22.8 acres to the previously approved 12 prescribed herbivory sites. The proposed project would add 45.7 acres of vegetation treatment by expanding five existing sites and adding one additional prescribed herbivory site to the 14 existing prescribed herbivory sites. The scope of the proposed project, shown in Figure 1, is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation at discrete prescribed herbivory sites.

Additionally, no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed; no work would take place within sensitive habitat, including wetlands or waterways; and no ground disturbance, such as excavation, would take place. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:

~~Athela Giudice~~, City of San Rafael

(415) 485-3092

Laura Simpson

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: *Laura Simpson*

Date: 1/20/24

Title: Interim Community Development Director

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.