



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FILED
03/07/2023

Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 255
San Rafael, CA 94903

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By **J. Gilardi, Deputy**
21-2023 -021

Date: March 02, 2023
Project Title: POSADA DEL SOL FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT
Project Location: Loma Verde Open Space Preserve, adjacent to Posada del Sol and Cielo Lane, Novato, California
Assessor's Parcel: 160-020-45, 160-020-46, 160-020-47, 160-020-48, 160-020-49

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing to implement a fire fuel reduction project adjacent to homes within an approximate 3.5-acre area at Loma Verde Open Space Preserve (Loma Verde). The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of rapid wildfire spread in the undeveloped portions of Loma Verde by reducing ladder fuels and encouraging forest health and fire resiliency. The treatments areas would include a defensible space zone within 100 feet of habitable structures which would include limbing of live native vegetation including native coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) and California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) that are within 8 feet of the ground and less than 6 inches in diameter and remove dead and downed trees less than 8-inches in diameter, and a French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) removal zone which also would occur in the defensible space zone and would extend up to 200 feet to manage broader populations of broom. The treatments would involve mechanical tools including chainsaws, handsaws, weed wrenches, and loppers. All plant material removed as part of the proposed project would be hauled off site for disposal and/or stacked onsite to decompose in-place. The proposed project would be implemented in March to December 2023 by contracted landscape companies, Marin County Fire Department Tam Crew or Fire Foundry Crew. The MCOSD would complete surveys for nesting birds, bats, and woodrat nests prior to project implementation. 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 project area is located on hillsides and erosion control measures such as installation of straw wattles would be utilized if needed to prevent soil disturbance during the rainy season. The proposed project would be funded by Marin County Parks Measure A 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 of fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation with the purpose of reducing the risk of rapid wildfire spread. 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 erosion control measures such as installation of 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 dominant native tree canopy that would remain intact 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 project would not affect historical buildings or other historical resources. Fuel reduction activities have not been conducted in the project area during the past 5 years, however the adjacent private parcel conducts regular landscaping maintenance including mowing, tree trimming and removal, and mechanical removal of invasive species. In consideration of these past fuel reduction activities relative to the existing environmental setting, 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

Michelle Julene, Senior Regulatory Open Space Planner
Marin County Parks and Open Space District
(415) 444-6740 (office cell)
mjulene@marincounty.org

POSTED: 03/07/2023 TO: 04/07/2023



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – PROJECT LOCATION

POSADA DEL SOL FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

March 06, 2023

