



# 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**

03/07/2023

**SHELLY SCOTT**  
**MARIN COUNTY CLERK**  
By **J. Gilardi, Deputy**  
21- 2023 -022

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

**Date:** March 06, 2023  
**Project Title:** BUCK'S LANDING FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT  
**Project Location:** Buck's Landing County Park, along North San Pedro Avenue, San Rafael, California  
**Assessor's Parcel:** 186-010-16, 186-010-20

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project:** Marin County Parks (MCP) is proposing to implement a fire fuel reduction project adjacent to homes, park infrastructures, and public road right-of-way within Buck's Landing County Park (Buck's Landing) in an approximate 20.83-acre area. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of rapid wildfire spread in the undeveloped portions of Buck's Landing by removing invasive plant species including French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), portions of native live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) that are within 8 feet of the ground and less than 6 inches in diameter, and dead and down vegetation less than 8-inches in diameter. The proposed project would remove understory ladder fuel vegetation, such as French broom, low-hanging limbs, and dead/down wood near roadways, parking lots, and the private parcels. Canopy and dominant tree species, all natives, would be left intact, leaving scenic views unaltered. The treatment involves using mechanical tools including chainsaws, handsaws, and loppers to remove all French broom and targeted portions of native vegetation from the project area. All plant material removed as part of the proposed project would be chipped onsite and/or hauled off site for disposal. The proposed project would be implemented in March to December 2023 by contracted landscape companies, Marin County Fire Department (MCFD) Tam Crew or Fire Foundry Crew. MCP 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. Most of the proposed project would occur on hillslopes and some work would occur on lower uplands adjacent to Gallinas Creek. Erosion control Best Management Practices including placement of straw wattles would be utilized if needed to prevent soil disturbance during the rainy season and to minimize the potential for sedimentation to enter Gallinas Creek. 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 Vegetation Biodiversity Management Plan and for these reasons, implementation of the proposed project would not impact endangered, rare, or threatened plant species. The proposed project would not result in erosion or sedimentation of surface waters because erosion control measures including placement of straw wattles would be utilized if needed to prevent soil disturbance and reduce sedimentation 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. Fuel reduction activities in the project area during the past 5 years includes grazing, and the manual and mechanical removal of acacia. 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](mailto:mjulene@marincounty.org)

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