

Notice of Exemption

21-2023-162

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 O. Labato Deputy

Project Title: Tam Valley Community Fuel Reduction Project

Project Applicant: Southern Marin Fire District (SMFD)

Project Location – Specific: The project work area is in Tamalpais Valley, on the northern shoulder of the right-of-way (RoW) of a portion of Marin Drive (a Marin County maintained road)

Project Location – City:
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 Marin Drive and Marin Way. 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 TCSD 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, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or

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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

