



# 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**

11/29/2023

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

**SHELLY SCOTT**  
**MARIN COUNTY CLERK**  
By **O. Lobato, Deputy**  
21 - 2023 - 278

**Date:** November 29, 2023

**Project Title:** MAURICE THORNER CONIFER REMOVAL PROJECT

**Project Location:** Maurice Thorner Memorial Preserve, between Nicasico Valley Road and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard , San Geronimo, California

**Assessor's Parcel:** 168-260-07

**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 forest health project adjacent to homes, community infrastructures, and public road right-of-way within Maurice Thorner Memorial Preserve (MTMP). The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of rapid wildfire spread, enhance biodiversity, and protect communities in the undeveloped portions of MTMP by removing invasive conifer tree species, including Italian stone pine and Monterey pine, and targeting immature, isolated Douglas fir individuals invading rare grasslands, shrublands, oak woodlands. The treatment would use mechanical tools including chainsaws, handsaws, and loppers to remove all trees from the project area. All plant material removed as part of the proposed project would be chipped onsite, hauled off site for disposal, or piled to be burned in-place. The proposed project would be implemented in November 2023 to December 2024 by contracted landscape companies, Marin County Fire Department Tam Crew or Fire Foundry 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 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 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 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 11/28/23 TO 12/28/23



# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – LOCATION GRAPHIC

## MAURICE THORNER CONIFER REMOVAL PROJECT

Maurice Thorner Open Space Preserve

November 29, 2023

