



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILED

05/07/2025

Marin County Fire Department
33 Castlerock Ave, Woodacre, CA 94973
(415) 473-6717

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By O. Lobato, Deputy
21 - 2025 -060

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

Date: May 6, 2025
Project Title: ALTA FIRE ROAD FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT
Project Location: Fernwood Cemetery, accessible from Donahue Street, Marin City, California
Assessor's Parcel: 052-140-33

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The Marin County Fire Department (MCFD) is proposing to implement a fire fuel reduction and fire road hardening project along fire roads within the Fernwood Cemetery in Marin County. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of rapid wildfire spread, improve vehicle access, enhance biodiversity, and protect communities within 75 feet of fire roads in the undeveloped portions of a private parcel bordering Mill Valley and Marin City. The project will thin vegetative fuels in shrubland dominated by French broom, cotoneaster, coyote brush, coast live oak, and bay laurel. Work within the Project Area will include the utilization of both mechanical and manual treatments depending on vegetation community type, fuel loading/ condition, slope, and topography. Vegetation thinning and removal will vary depending on the location of the fire road and the vegetation present along the roadway. Mechanical mastication will be utilized on appropriate slopes where access is feasible to treat understory vegetation, brush, dead and downed material, hazard trees, and small diameter dead, dying, and diseased trees. Manual treatments will be utilized where equipment access is limited and/or treatment areas include or are adjacent to sensitive resources. All plant material removed as part of the proposed project would be chipped or mulched onsite. Herbicide may be used to control resprouts of non-native invasive shrubs such as French broom, cotoneaster, and various species of acacia and eucalyptus. The proposed project would be implemented from May 2025 to December 2027 by MCFD staff. 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 internal funds from MCFD.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Fire Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Jordan Reeser, Battalion Chief

Reasons for Exemption: MCFD 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 and improving vehicle access on fire roads. Best Management Practices consistent with those outlined in the Final Program EIR for the California Vegetation Treatment Program would be implemented to ensure that nesting birds, bats, and woodrats are not impacted and to reduce the spread of sudden oak death. 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:

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Marin County Fire Department
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POSTED 5/7/25 TO 6/6/25



Alta Fire Road

Fuels Reduction Project

Project Area (6.7 ac)

