

PROJECT TITLE	Yosemite West Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	T3S, R20E, Portion of Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26 MDBM	COUNTY	Mariposa
LEAD AGENCY	Yosemite / Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in eastern Mariposa County along Highway 41 to Yosemite National Park, in the community of Yosemite West. The area ranges from 5500 feet to 6300 feet in elevation above sea level. Vegetation type is coniferous forest consisting of Pine and Fir. Major tree species include Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), and White fir (*Abies concolor*), with some Black oak (*Quercus Kelloggii*) interspersed. Brush species include Ceanothus, Manzanita, and Bear clover. The project consists of hazardous fuel reduction addressing severe tree mortality, reducing stem density, and increasing defensible space around habitable structures. Dead, over crowded trees will be removed to create an open canopy and improve forest health and vigor. Trees with cavities may be left to maintain wildlife structure. Defensible space around structures will be improved following CAL FIRE's "General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space" and those specifications in the Yosemite West CWPP. The project also reduces ladder fuels, clears vegetation in critical locations to protect vital water infrastructure, reduces vegetation adjacent to roads, and reduces fuel loading in evacuation staging areas and around critical fire hydrants. Understory treatments will consist of removal of ground and ladder fuel. The material generated by this project will be chipped and/or piled and burned. The project area is approximately 109 acres in size. Grass, forbs and other low-lying ground vegetation will not be targeted for removal. The primary goal is to disrupt the horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels in order to provide a safe and feasible means of defense against the high probability of vegetation fire within the wildland urban interface.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 15304- Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land.

The Class of Exemption to be used is 14 CCR 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. Field confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

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 Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 12/14/16
 California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

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