

Copy onto 8-1/2 X 11" letterhead

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: **County Clerk**
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Ave., L#1210
Ventura, CA 93009

FROM: **Ventura County**
Fire Protection District
165 Durley Ave
Camarillo, CA 93010

Office of Planning and Research
1440 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Only if State discretionary approval is required)

JUN - 9 2009 POSTED
JAMES B. BECKER
Assistant County Clerk and Recorder
By: F. Ocampo, Deputy

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Entitlement: Simi Hills Fuel Bed, Fire Roads and Fuel Break Maintenance

Applicant: Ventura County Fire Protection District

Address: 165 Durley Ave, Camarillo

Phone: 805 388-4584

FILED
DATE: JUN - 9 2009
JAMES B. BECKER
Assistant County Clerk and Recorder
By: _____, Deputy

Location:

County: Ventura

The project is bordered on the north by the Oakridge fuel bed, on the south by the Ventura County Line, on the east by the Ventura County Line and on the west by Highway 23

Assessor Parcel No(s): See map

Project Description: The Simi Hills fuel bed, fire roads and fuel breaks provide a fire access and defensible space for the communities contained within the project location. The following are fire roads and fuel breaks within the fuel bed: Albertson Fire Road/Fuel break approx 9 miles with access from Lang Ranch Parkway, Woodridge Fire Road, Montgomery Fire Road, Palo Comado Fire Road, Runkle/Hall Fire Road, Arness Fire Road, Boeing (Rocket dyne) Fire Road. Runkle/Hall Fire road approx 2.6 miles with access from Sequoia Ave from the north and Albertson Fire Road from the south. Bell Canyon Fire Road approx .68 miles with access from Albertson Fire Road from the north and Hacienda Road from the south. Palo Comado Fire Road approx 4.5 miles with access from Albertson Fire Road, Chesebro Road. Chesebro Fire Road approx 8.3 with access from Albertson motorway and Chesebro Canyon Road at the park entrance. Montgomery Fire Road/Fuel break approx 2.27 miles with access from Rockinghorse Drive and Albertson Fire Road, Woodridge Fire Road approx 3 miles with access from Autumn Ridge, Rustic Hills Drive and Albertson Fire Road. Arness Fire Road approx 3.19 miles with access from Tapo Canyon Road, Pepper Tree Lane from the north and Albertson Fire Road from the south. Kevington Utility Road/Fuel Break approx 3 miles with access from Grissom State Parks' gate

near Black Oaks Street and park's gate between Brunston and Peacock Circle. South Tapo Fuel Break approx 2 miles with access from Parker Ranch south of Metrolink and a Dirt Road north of House of Book at Brandeis. Knolls Fuel Break approx 4 miles with access from Oak Knoll Road, Black Canyon and Brandeis. Lower Simi Fuel Break approx 2 miles with access from the end of Sequoia at Runkle Ranch. Oak Park Fuel Break with access from Palo Comado and Doubletree Road. The existing fire road systems are not all weather roads and require annual maintenance. Existing fire road systems will be maintained by the use of heavy equipment which could include dozer, road grader and back hoe. In addition to the grading of the road surface, all drainage systems will be maintained in working order and configured to reduce adverse environmental impacts. Brush adjacent to and impacting the road systems and fuel breaks shall be maintained to desired levels using some or all of the following methods. Dozing, hand cutting and chipping, mechanical mowing, cut stack and pile burning, discing, and grazing.

B. CONTACTS:

Public Agency Approving Project: Ventura County Fire Protection District

Contact Person: Captain Brendan Ripley

Telephone No.: 805 388-4589

C. EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268)
- Emergency Project (Sec.)
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301)
Type: **Class 1**; §15301 Existing Facilities

The proposed project is not located in a hazardous or critical environmental resource area (Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11), there are no significant adverse cumulative impacts, and there are no unusual circumstances which would cause significant effects.

- No Impact: (Sec. 15061 [b][3])
- Other Statutory Exemption (Sec.)

D. STATEMENT OF REASON TO SUPPORT EXEMPT FINDING:

The Fire Road and Fuel Break system contained within the Simi Hills Fuel Bed has been in existence for 40+ years. Exemption falls within the maintenance component of the CEQA Statute. Heavy equipment will be used for maintenance, brushing, and to achieve proper height and clearance for all fire roads and fuel breaks. The remainder of work will be accomplished by hand utilizing chain saws, and other hand equipment.

DATE OF PROJECT APPROVAL:

Prepared by: B. Ripley
Captain Brendan Ripley
Pre-Fire Planner
Wildland Division