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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)

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

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Entitlement: South Mountain Fuel Bed, Fire Roads and Fuel Break Maintenance

Applicant: Ventura County Fire Protection District

Address: 165 Durley Ave, Camarillo

Phone: 805 388-4584

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

Location:

County: Ventura

The project is bordered on the north by Ventura/Fillmore/Piru Fuel beds, on the south by the Ventura County line/Thousand Oaks Fuel Bed, on the east by the Oak Ridge Fuel Bed and on the west by the Ventura County line.

Assessor Parcel No(s): See map

Project Description: The South Mountain 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: Sence Ranch Fuel Break approx 14 miles. Richardson Fuel Break size unknown. 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. 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 South Mountain 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:



Captain Brendan Ripley
Pre-Fire Planner
Wildland Division