

**Notice of Exemption**

21-2024-165

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
County Clerk County of: Marin  
Marin Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 234,  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**From (Public Agency):**  
Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority  
1600 Los Gamos Dr., Suite 345  
San Rafael, CA 94903

FILED

SEP 20 2024

SHELLY SCOTT  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK  
BY: L. Vawter, Deputy

**Project Title:** West and Southern Marin Zones Coastal Evacuation Routes Project

**Project Applicant:** Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

**Project Location – Specific:** Vegetation thinning and removal within typically 10 feet, but up to 25 feet, from road edge along prioritized roadways throughout Muir Beach, Mill Valley, Stinson, Bolinas, Olema, Seahaven, and Inverness in coastal Marin County

**Project Location – City:**  
West and Southern Marin County

**Project Location – County:**  
Marin County

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve vegetation clearance along fire roads and evacuation routes to provide better access for first responders and emergency vehicles. The purpose of the evacuation route treatments would also include evacuation and ingress/egress throughout the communities in coastal Marin for safer evacuation for residents and visitors. The proposed project would also improve access by reducing heat, flame, ember, and smoke impingement on roadways for evacuating residents and emergency responders in the event of an approaching wildfire. Many of the communities and neighborhoods served by this project are registered firewise<sup>1</sup> communities (Fire Safe Marin 2023). Creating fire-adaptive communities is not only about reducing fire threat from fire growth but also improving the safety of the residents. Creating safe evacuation routes and fire roads is a critical component of a long-term fire-adaptive strategy.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

**Exempt Status (check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

<sup>1</sup> Firewise communities are local neighborhoods or communities that have taken appropriate measures meeting specific criteria put forth by the National Fire Protection Association to become more resistant to wildfire structural damage. Firewise communities served by the proposed project include the following: Muir Beach/Green Gulch, Stinson Beach, Paradise Ranch Estates, Inverness, and Nicasio.

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- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304(i). Minor alterations to land for fuel management activities. 15301. Existing Facilities for vegetation removal along roadways.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project is categorically exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, for Minor Alterations to Land and Section 15301, Class 1, for Existing Facilities. A Class 4-exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. A Class 1 exempt project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The proposed project would involve vegetation thinning and removal within typically 10 feet but up to 25 feet of the edge of roadways identified as key routes used for evacuation and ingress/egress in west and southern Marin County. The scope of the proposed project is consistent with a minor alteration to the condition of the vegetation along the routes as well as maintenance of the existing roadways shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

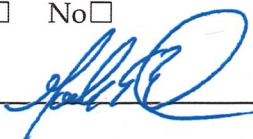
Additionally, no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed; no work would take place within sensitive habitat, including wetlands or waterways; and no ground disturbance, such as excavation, would take place. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**  
Mark Brown, Executive Officer

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**  
(415) 246-0280

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  
 Yes  No

Signature:  Date: 9/19/2024 Title: Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:  
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code. \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 1 Project Location - North

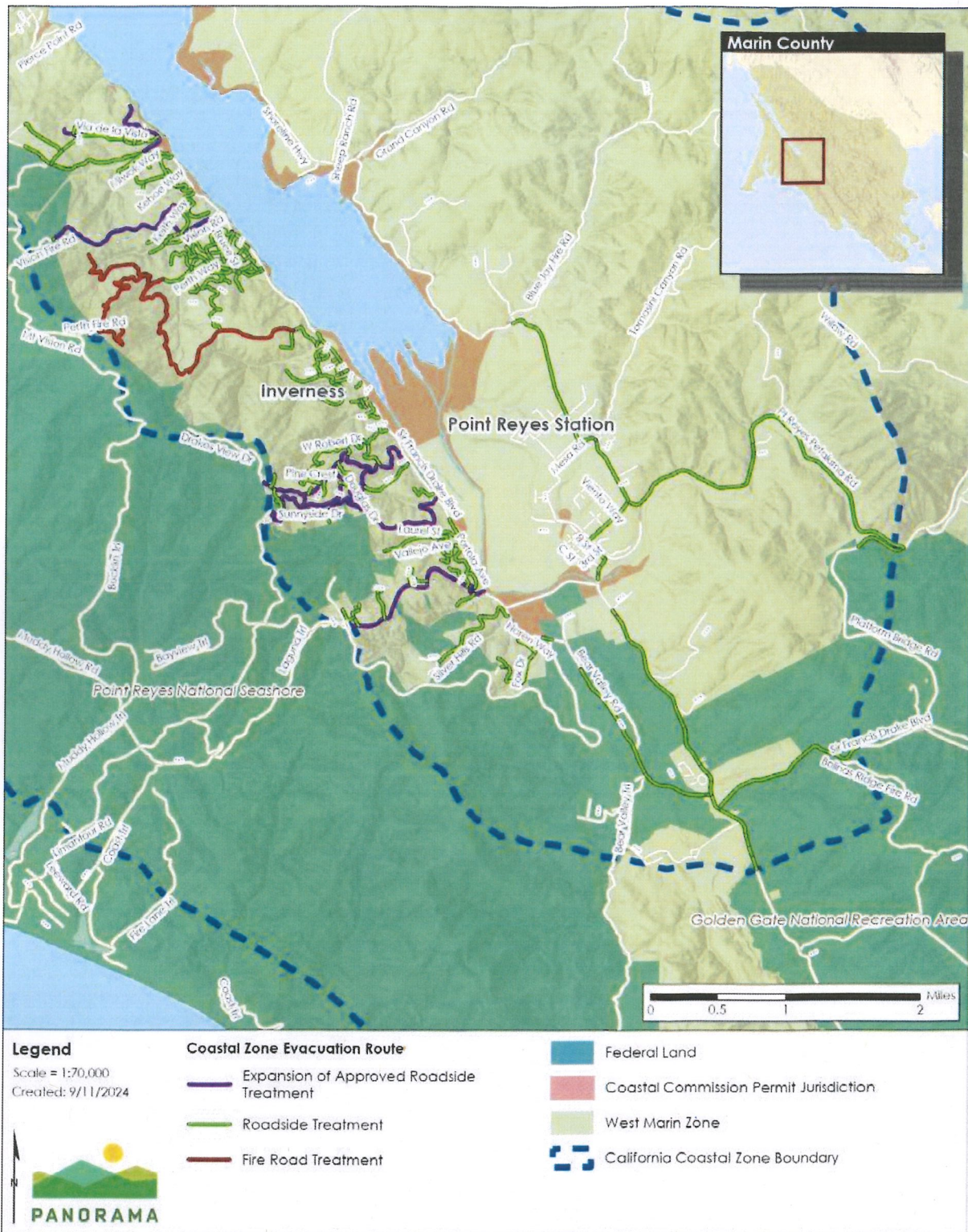


Figure 2 Project Location -South

