

**Notice of Exemption**

21-2024-170

**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):**  
Southern Marin Fire District  
28 Liberty Ship Way  
  
Sausalito, CA 94965

**FILED**  
SEP 27 2024  
SHELLY SCOTT  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK  
BY: L. Vawter, Deputy

**Project Title:** Southern Marin Zone Southern Marin Forest Health and Fuel Reduction Project

**Project Applicant:** Southern Marin Fire District

**Project Location – Specific:** Work will take place on city of Mill Valley and Marin County Open Space owned property along Hillside Ave, targeting hazardous ladder fuels as well as specific dead standing trees. The project area is adjacent to properties 3 Greenwood Way to 450 Hillside Avenue, Mill Valley, CA.

**Project Location – City:**  
City of Mill Valley

**Project Location – County:**  
Marin County

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

The purpose of the proposed project would be to reduce fire-hazardous, invasive Broom species along with dead standing trees that are adjacent to residential neighborhoods. While the proposed project would remove up to 13 trees, most of the trees within the fuel reduction area would remain, and habitat would be improved from removal of overly dense, non-native vegetation that pose a safety hazard. The proposed project would reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread in the event of ignition. The proposed project would also maintain the safety and defensible space for nearby structures, including homes on Greenwood Way and Hillside Ave. Removal of fire-hazardous, invasive species is intended to reduce fire hazards to adjacent communities as well as to decrease the potential for regrowth of invasive species in the fuel reduction zone. Additionally, removing invasive, non-natives would provide an opportunity for native, less hazardous plant species to recolonize and restore these areas to a more natural habitat.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Southern Marin Fire District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Southern Marin Fire District

**Exempt Status (check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- 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.
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTED 9/27/24 TO 10/27/24

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

This project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 for Minor Alterations to Land and is filing a Notice of Exemption (NOE). The project will not proceed on MCOS lands until the NOE is filed. SMFD, as the responsible agency, concurs with the City and MCOSED that the project is categorically exempt under the CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4 for Minor Alterations to Land. A Class 4 exempt project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The scope of the proposed project shown in Figure 1 is consistent with the removal of non-native, invasive, fire-hazardous species to improve habitat conditions and reduce fire hazards within the fuel reduction zone and maintain trees and vegetation adjacent to homes to reduce public safety risks.

No work would take place within sensitive habitat, including wetlands or wetted 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:**

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**

Madison Mead

415-388-8184

**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: M. Mead Date: 9/27/24 Title: Fire Inspector

3.

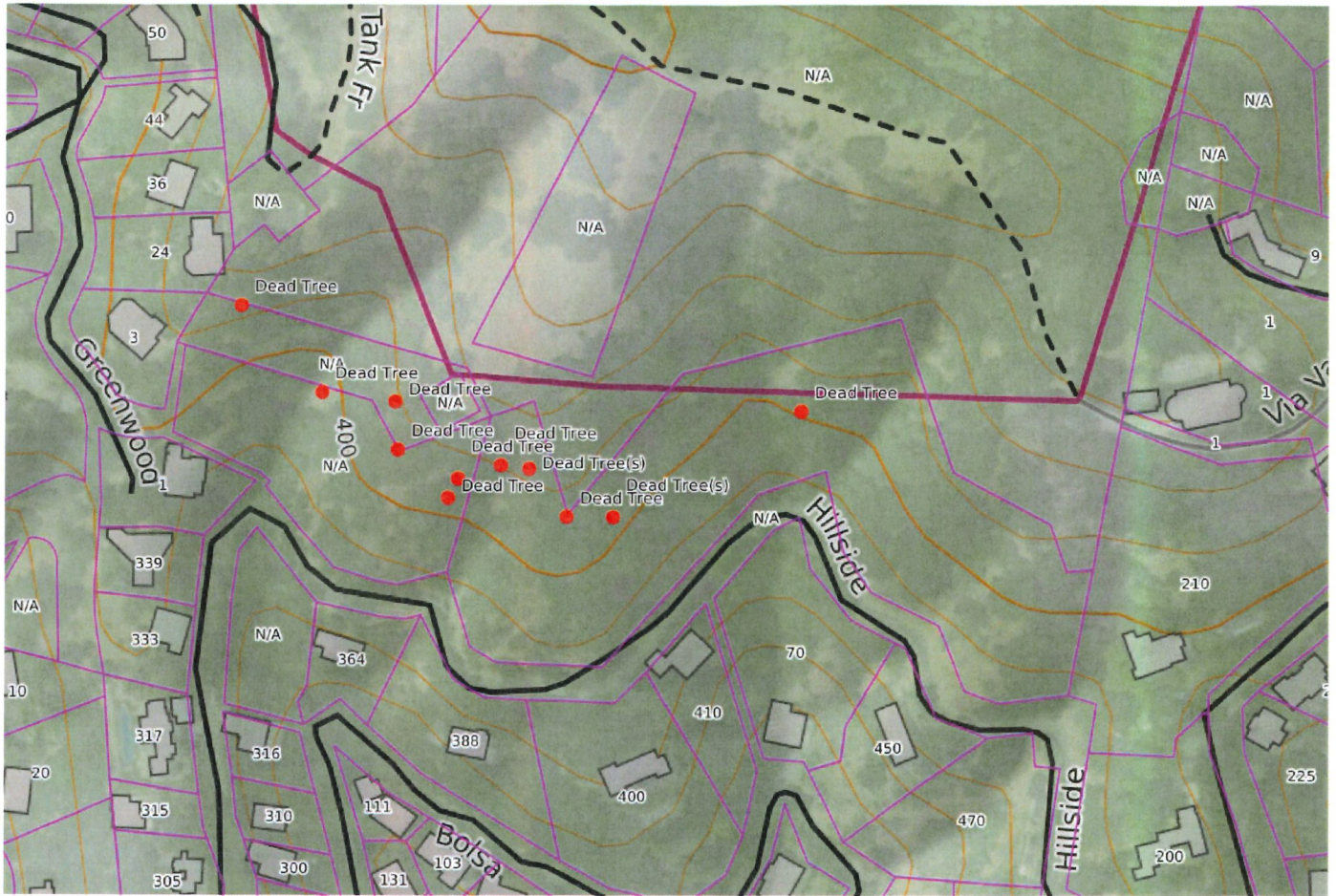
Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Figure 1 Project Location



Mercator Projection  
WGS84  
UTM Zone 10S  
CALTOPO

0.1 0.2 0.3 km  
0.1 mi  
Scale 1:1809 1 inch = 151 feet  
Parcels (c) LandGrid

