

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: <input type="checkbox"/>	Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	FROM: Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk County of: San Bernardino	Address 25864- K Business Center Drive Redlands, CA 92374

1. Project Title:	East Little Mountain Prescribed Grazing Project
2. Project Applicant:	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
3. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	Little Mountain in the City of San Bernardino. See page 3 for map of the project location.
4. (a) Project Location – City: San Bernardino	(b) Project Location – County: San Bernardino County
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	The Community of Little Mountain has a repeated history of fire on the landscape, due to their proximity to surrounding urban sprawl and the flashy fuels found on the mountain. Several hundred homes are at high fire risk in this area. The steep topography prevents mowing from being an option to control invasive grasses, so goats have become a primary management tool for this work. A goat herder will be contracted to have goats control the fuel load/invasive grasses over several weeks. Minimal hand work with line trimmers will be performed to create a pen area for the goats and to install buffers between private residences and goat grazing. Limited herbicide use will be applied at the bottom of the hill for a 10-20' buffer between the roadsides and grazing operation. The benefits of this project will be reduced fuel loads to the community of Little Mountain for fire prevention and a reduction of invasive grass seed to slowly reduce the prevalence of flashy fuels in this community and establish more native species over time.
6. Name of Public Agency approving project:	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
7. Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council will be undertaking the project with funds from Inland Empire Resource Conservation District's state grant (Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program) through the Department of Conservation.
8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	
(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))
(d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption.	• 15304 – Minor Alteration to Land.

number:	State type and section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15308 – Action By Agencies for Protection of the Environment
(e) <input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))
(f) <input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption
9.	Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The Project is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alteration to Land), which consists of minor public alterations in the condition of land which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The Project involves the use of goats to graze down invasive grasses in an area with steep terrain in order to reduce fuels in a fire prone community, as well as minimal hand work. The Project involves reducing the height of grasses on site and does not involve the removal of trees, consistent with the Class 4 exemption. Additionally, the Project is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15308 (Class 8 – Action by Agencies for the Protection of the Environment), as the Project is designed to maintain and protect the environment through the reduction of invasive grasses which could serve as fuel in a wildfire-prone community. Finally, the Project is exempt pursuant to the common sense exemption, State CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3), as there is no possibility for a significant effect on the environment. The project involves goats grazing on invasive grasses and minimal hand work for the protection of the environment.</p> <p>None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines § 15300.2 apply to the Project. The Project site is hilly terrain in an area which is disturbed and surrounded by development. There would be no cumulative impacts, as this method of fuels reduction would not result in environmental impacts as it would not permanently impact the site, even if used on the same site in the future. The Project would not damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, it is not a hazardous waste site, and there are no unusual circumstances related to the Project. As the Project involves the reduction of grasses through the use of grazing goats and minimal hand work; it would not impact historical resources as no ground disturbance is proposed.</p>
10.	Lead Agency Contact Person:	Mandy Parkes, District Manager
	Telephone:	(909) 855-6473
11.	If filed by applicant: Attach Preliminary Exemption Assessment (Form "A") before filing.	
12.	Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
13.	Was a public hearing held by the lead agency to consider the exemption? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, the date of the public hearing was: _____	

Signature: _____

Date: 3-14-21

Title: District Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: _____

(Clerk Stamp Here)

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21100, Public Resources Code.

Notice of Exemption

FORM "B"

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Project Location Map:

General address for navigating to project area: 3739 Ridge Line Dr, San Bernardino, CA 92407

