



# Exemption Request for Review (RFR) to Vegetation Management Standards

The [City of San Rafael has established vegetation standards](#) for properties within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in order to create defensible space around structures that will minimize the spread of wildfires. If you are a property owner seeking an exemption to these standards you must complete this Request for Review (RFR) by the Fire Chief or authorized designee.

## How the Process Works

Fill out the form below and explain in detail why the property is seeking an exemption. After the request is received, a site visit by the San Rafael Fire Department may be required to confirm the risk reduction plan outlined herein. If an exemption is granted, the City must be granted access to the property on an annual or as needed basis to perform evaluations.

## What Criteria Factors into an Exemption

During the review Fire Department staff will assess the risk to your property, surrounding neighbors' properties and structures, and potential threats to the community. If an exemption is granted, the property must be maintained according to guidelines defined as part of the exemption. If, at any time, City staff determine the risk is not adequately reduced or mitigated, you may be fined per SRMC [4.12.050](#) and [4.12.060](#) and the exemption revoked. The exemption may also be revoked at the discretion of the Fire Chief. Exemptions will not be issued for financial reasons. Rather, City staff will work to develop an action plan that adequately reduces risk in a financially feasible manner, with the possible inclusion of various financial and direct assistance programs. In applying for an exemption, you must acknowledge and agree that you are willing to assume any increased risk of damage to persons or property arising from the lack of vegetation management and hold the City of San Rafael harmless from any liability for such damages.

## Applicant Information

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**Name**

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**Address Requested for Review:**

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**City**

**State**

**Zip Code:**

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**Cell Phone:**

**Home Phone:**

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**Email Address:**

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## Reason for Exemption Request

**Please describe why the property requires an exemption request:**

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**Purpose for Exemption:**

- Historical context    Erosion control    Protected or rare species live on my property    Other, please explain:

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**What steps have you taken to reduce fire risk around your home?**

*This may include non-combustible ground covering, trimming, irrigation, maintenance, increasing spacing, structural changes to the nearby structure, sprinklers, etc.*

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**What is your long-term risk reduction plan?**

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**Attachments**

- Photos    Site map    Other

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**By my signature below, the undersigned property owner agrees as follows:**

As an applicant for an exemption from the City of San Rafael's vegetation management standards applicable to my property, I hereby agree, on behalf of myself and my heirs, successors and assigns, to assume all risks for loss, damage, liability, injury, cost or expense that may arise as a result of or be exacerbated by a lack of vegetation management on my property. In consideration of the City of San Rafael's grant of exemption from the vegetation management standards applicable to my property, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless, and to release, waive and discharge the City of San Rafael and its officers, employees, agents and volunteers from any and all liability for any injury or property damage arising out of or in any way connected with the grant of such exemption.

**I HAVE READ THE ABOVE RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT I ASSUME ALL RISKS FOR ANY INJURIES AND PROPERTY DAMAGE SUFFERED.**

**Property Owner Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_