



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Eastern Alpine Communities Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	T10N, R19E, S24, MDBM & T10N, R20E, S19, MDBM	COUNTY	Alpine
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Thomas Tinsley, Unit Forester Pre-Fire Management Division		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The 5-acre project is located within the Shay Creek residential tract near Markleeville, California. This residential subdivision is accessed by Shay Creek Road, a single lane paved road, and Hot Springs Road, a two-lane paved road. The project area is heavily forested, with existing stocking of 300 square feet basal area per acre in stems 5" diameter breast height (DBH) and greater. The proposed action will entail 1) removal of select conifer trees 1" DBH to 26" DBH within 15 feet of the edge of Shay Creek Road and Hot Springs Road to create a general discontinuity of vertical and horizontal fuels, 2) retention of the largest, most fire resilient trees at spacing of 15' -25' depending on DBH, 3) pruning of residual trees to a minimum height of 10 feet as measured from the lowest live green limb to the top of the surface fuels, 4) removal of surface vegetation that provides vertical continuity of hazardous fuels, including small trees, brush, and down woody debris, especially within dripline of residual conifers, and 5) chipping and removal of all slash resulting from the project. The proposed action will effectively reduce hazardous fuels within the subdivision and its main access routes.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions the following class of Categorical Exemption: 15304 Minor Alterations To Land (Class 4) allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of waters. Trees targeted for removal and pruning of residual trees will be restricted to those that reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels, and/or provide for improved ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. The proposed project has been designed to protect hydrology and water and soil resources to prevent significant erosion or sedimentation of waters. The project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at Cal Fire Camino headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Matthew Reischman

10/12/2020

Matthew S. Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection