

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Notice Date: 12/10/2020

**NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION****Project Name:  
SCE 2020 VMP (Rx-South-034-FKU)****SCH#**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 *et seq.*) and Department procedures, notification is hereby given to responsible and trustee agencies, interest groups and the general public, that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project described below.

**Project Location:**

The SCE Project area is in Fresno County adjacent to Shaver Lake, California. The project area is owned by Southern California Edison. The Shaver project area is described as Sections 12, 13, 24, 26, 25, 35, 36 T9S R24E MDB&M; Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 T9S R25E MDB&M; The Dinkey project area is further described as Sections 14, 23, 24, 25, 26 T10S R25E MDB&M; Sections 19, 30, 34 T10S R26E MDB&M.

**Project Description:**

The SCE 2020 VMP will utilize as many treatment methods as can be brought to bear to accomplish timber stand improvement and fuels reduction work throughout the entire project area. Broadcast burning, mechanical alteration e.g. mastication, piling by tractor and hand, and tree felling will be utilized to reduce fuel loading, install containment lines and eliminate ladder fuels. The entirety of the property is suitable for broadcast with the exception of areas containing infrastructure. Approximately 75% of the project area contains south and west facing aspects. These aspects contain brush understory which are the primary target for treatment. Broadcast burning and tractor piling are to be the primary treatment methods where slope and fuel loading dictate.

Treatment methods may be combined where fuel loading dictates. Areas containing logging slash will be tractor piled and broadcast burned in successive entries. Hand crews will be utilized on areas too steep for equipment or in areas where equipment use is not feasible due to environmental protection issues, landowner concerns, or other unforeseen circumstances. Flexibility to the unit is desired to have a site where C-234 firing classes may be held. Fall and spring burning entries are desired with spring 2021 anticipated for the first entry. Project activities are anticipated to occur on the following schedule;

- Fall and spring broadcast burn entries
- Mechanical alterations, e.g. mastication and burn pile creation
- Potential for firing classes and other training opportunities

Project objectives include;

- Elimination of fuel ladder and reduction of fuel loading to provide enhanced fire protection to human interests and natural resource values associated with this overstocked mixed conifer stand.
- To provide a location to conduct C-234 firing classes.
- To increase water yield through vegetation modification.
- To increase the quality of wildlife habitat through decadent brush treatment.

In addition to the treatments and objectives above, treatment of understory and ladder fuels on this ownership will provide enhanced fire protection to the Providence Creek infrastructure and SRA lands to the East and South of the project. This project provides additional fire protection buffers between federal lands in the Providence Creek drainage and the above mentioned private property. Potential exists for collaboration on future projects with Sierra National Forest. Fuels reduction activities generally creates potential to avoid damage from a high intensity wildfire to the natural resources associated with the mixed conifer plant forest type in which this project occurs. This project creates potential to reduce negative impacts to air quality, water quality, biological resources and their habitats, soil, aesthetics, recreation, and property improvements by preventing the incidence and effects of unanticipated wildfire events in the project influence zone.

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study, and supporting documentation are available for review at the following locations:

CAL FIRE Fresno-Kings Unit Headquarters office at 210 S Academy Ave, Sanger, CA 93657.

The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will under go a 30-day public review period during which comments may be submitted. The review period begins on 12/11/2020 and ends on 1/11/2021. Comments in regard to the contents of the Mitigated Negative Declaration should be sent to:

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Comments may also be sent via e-mail using the e-mail address provided below:

**E-Mail:** [sacramentopubliccomment@fire.ca.gov](mailto:sacramentopubliccomment@fire.ca.gov)