

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FOR USE BY COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Nevada

FROM: Nevada County Department of Public Works
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959-8617

Document Number

Project Title: Egress/Ingress Fire Safety Project

Project Applicant: Nevada County Department of Public Works

Project Location - Specific: This project would occur on approximately 200 miles of County-maintained roads in western Nevada County, on the following roads:

Adam Avenue	Cedar Way	Harvest Way
Airport Road	Cement Hill Road	Hawke Lane
Allison Ranch Road	Champion Road	Horton Street
Alpha Road	China Close	Hydraulic Ridge Close
Alpine Lane	Conifer Lane	Idaho Maryland Road
Alta Street	Cooper Road	Incline Shaft Road
American Hill Road	Coyote Street	Indian Flat Road
Archery Way	Crescent Drive	Indian Springs Road
Artic Close	Crystal Wells Road	James Lane
Auburn Road	Deer Park Drive	Jones Bar Road
Augustine Road	Devonshire Circle	Kenwood Drive
Aurora Close	Dow Road	La Sierra Drive
Autumn Way	Dutch Flat Crossing Road	Lake Lane
Baltic Close	East Drive	Lake Vera-Purdon Road
Banner Mountain Trail	Easy Street	Lasso Loop
Banner Quaker Hill Road	Empress Road	Lewis Road
Berggren Lane	Engle Street	Little York Close
Bitney Springs Road	Evergreen Drive	Lowell Hill Road
Black Oak Drive	Fern Lane	Manzanita Diggins Drive
Blue Tent School Road	Forest View Drive	Manzanita Drive
Boreham Lane	Friar Tuck Road	Marjon
Boulder Street	Frosty Lane	Maybert Road
Bourbon Hill Road	Garden Bar Road	Mayflower Drive
Braemar Way	Gas Canyon Road	McCourtney Road
Butler Road	Gaston Drive	Mills Road
Butte View Dr	Gautier Drive	Mooney Flat Road
Butterfly Drive	Gayle Lane	Mother Lode Road
Canyon View Court	Genasci Road	Mountain View Drive
Carey Drive	Glen Meadow Drive	Murchie Mine Road
Cascade Drive	Gold Drive	New Rome Road
Cascade Loop	Goldbug Road	Newtown Road
Cattle Drive	Golden Star Road	Northview Drive
Cedar Avenue	Gracie Road	Nottingham Lane
Cedar Springs Road	Granhholm Lane	Nugget Street

Oak Street	Relief Hill Road	Stagecoach Way
Old Downieville Highway	Ridge Estates Road	Streeter Road
Old Tunnel Road	Ridgeview Drive	Summit Ridge Drive
Old Washington Road	Robin Hood Dr	Sunrise Heights
Paradise Drive	Rock Creek Road	Sunset Avenue
Park Avenue Extension	Rough and Ready Highway	Suzanne Way
Pasquale Road	Rough and Ready Road	Terry Street
Penn Valley Drive	Sadie D Drive	Valley Drive
Pine Court	Sailor Flat Road	Via Colina Drive
Pinewoods Road	Sargent and Jacobs Drive	Via Vista
Pingree Road	Scotts Flat Road	Vintage Drive
Pittsburg Mine Road	Scotts Valley Road	Vista Avenue
Pittsburg Road	Shannon Way	Walker Drive
Plover Way	Sierra Drive	Washington Road
Polaris Drive	Siesta Drive	West Drive
Purdon Road	Slate Creek Road	Wet Hill Road
Quaker Hill Cross Road	South Ponderosa Way	Willow Valley Road
Quiet Way	Spanish Lane	Yuba Close
Rector Road	Spenceville Road	
Red Dog Road	Squirrel Creek Road	

Project Location - County: Nevada County

Description of Project: This project consists of removing all vegetation with stems and trunks smaller than six inches in diameter within 15 feet of the edge of the traveled way, on approximately 200 miles of County-maintained roads. The purpose of the project is to provide safer egress routes for emergency evacuation, and to allow firefighters better ingress access to fight fires. The project will also provide a break in fuel continuity to aid in reducing the spread of fire. Selected roads have been chosen based on the confluence of higher density residential neighborhoods with the wildland interface. The project is scheduled for 2021 through 2022. All work will be performed within the County's existing right-of-way.

Using hand and mechanical means, vegetation treatment will consist of a combination of pulling, cutting, trimming, mowing, and spraying. All trees to remain within the work area, regardless of size, will be limbed to a height of at least 15 feet above ground level. Work will be accomplished by both County crews and contract forces. Vegetation treatment specifications include the following:

- All grasses and brush will be cut to under 3 inches.
- Scotch broom will be removed with plant roots intact and transported to a disposal site.
- All manzanita and non-sprouting shrubs will be removed.
- Willows and riparian shrubs will be mowed or cut.
- Sprouting shrubs, including but not limited to buckbrush, deer brush, and toyon, will be cut and sprayed with an approved herbicide.
- Blackberry will be mowed or weed whacked to no more than 3 inches high and then sprayed with an approved herbicide.
- All trees to remain within the work area, regardless of size, will be limbed up to a height of at least 15 feet above ground level.

No clearing will be done within 20 feet of either side of the centerline of a watercourse or wetland. All downed vegetation will be removed from the clearing sites within five days of cutting. Sweeping will be done at the end of each day to remove any loose material from roadways, driveways, ditches and gutters. All disturbed soils will be covered with approved erosion control measures. Advance notification of the project will be provided to the community and traffic control will be provided on all roads during construction.

Searches of the California Natural Diversity Database and the North Central Information Center (NCIC) have been performed for all roads. The supervising Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for the project will also survey each project area in person to identify and flag for avoidance any cultural resource sites documented in the database searches or discovered during the survey. The supervising RPF will also be present when work occurs in proximity

to ponds or watercourses to determine if special-status frogs and turtles are present. If present, work will be suspended until the animals move out of the area or are relocated by a biologist certified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to handle special-status species.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Name of Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Nevada County Department of Public Works

Exempt Status:

Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption: 15301(c), Repair and maintenance of existing streets; and 15301(h), Maintenance of existing landscaping and native growth (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753 Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code); 15304(i), Minor alterations to land – fuel management activities within 30-100 feet of structures

Statutory Exemptions.

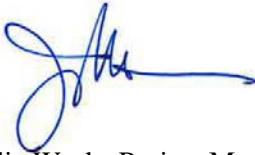
Reasons why project is exempt: This project consists of vegetation treatment within existing public right of way to maintain fire-safe access on County-maintained roadways. The project will not remove landmark trees, will not work within 20 feet of the centerline of an existing waterway or wetland, will not use herbicides on riparian and wetland vegetation, and will utilize all appropriate erosion control measures. The project will avoid all sensitive historic and pre-historic resources and special-status species.

Contact Person: Jessica Hankins

Telephone: (530) 265-1254

Lead Agency: Nevada County

Signature:



Date: 1/13/2021

Title: Public Works Project Manager

Signed by Lead Agency