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JAN 11 2021

KEITH M. WILLIAMS  
MARIPOSA COUNTY CLERK

**MARIPOSA COUNTY  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

*Karen M. Herman*

KAREN M. HERMAN  
Conservation District

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 12  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**FROM:** Mariposa County Resource Conservation District  
PO Box 2403  
Mariposa, CA 95338

**TO:** County Clerk, County of Mariposa  
P.O. Box 247  
Mariposa, CA 95338

**Project Title:** Mariposa County Tree and Biomass Removal to Protect Yosemite West Infrastructure

**Project Location – County/Specific:** Project is located along the Yosemite West Well Access Road/ Yosemite Sewage Ponds Road heading west from the public roadway of Yosemite Parkway in the community of Yosemite West. Public infrastructure is threatened by felled, dead trees and standing dead and dying trees. Tree removal work is typically conducted within a 200- foot distance of County maintained roads and in close proximity to at-risk County facilities and infrastructure threatened by dead or dying trees. The project is located within Mariposa County.

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** This project is an identified project within the Mariposa County Tree Mortality Hazard Mitigation Project in a Tier 1 High Hazard zone. Hazard tree and downed tree removal work is critical to meet the public safety and fuels reduction needs stemming from widespread tree mortality in the southern Sierra Nevada, to complete the program of work (2016 Mariposa County Tree Mortality Hazard Mitigation Project) with the co-benefits that include protecting infrastructure and increasing public safety from debris flows and flooding damage due to high levels of biomass on erosive, fire damaged soils. It also protects communities located within the Wildland Urban Interface.

The mitigation activities are needed based on a high density of dead or dying trees which threaten water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, powerlines, roads and other evacuation corridors, and other existing structures. The project will benefit Mariposa County residents and visitors, Mariposa County business owners, Yosemite National Park, the US Forest Service, CALFIRE and all emergency responders. The dead or dying trees included in this project are not healthy, mature or scenic trees based on their current condition. No ground disturbing activities will occur as a result of the project. No work will be done within the bed, bank or channel of any existing drainage within the project areas. Mariposa Resource Conservation District and Mariposa County have appropriately trained and qualified staff and/or contractors who have identified dead and dying trees. Dead or dying trees will be felled in a controlled manner to reduce hazards and biomass will be chipped onsite, piled and burned, or removed to a biomass disposal facility. If pile burning is needed, it will be completed in compliance with Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District permits.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Mariposa County Resource Conservation District

**Name of Person (Applicant) or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Mariposa County

**Exempt Status:**

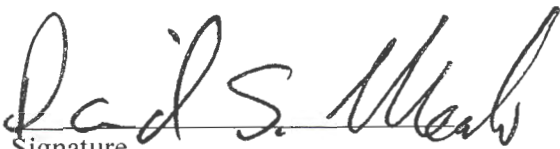
- Declared Emergency (PRC §21080(b)(3); §15269(a) CEQA Guidelines): Proclamation of a State of Emergency, Executive Order 10-30-2015
- Emergency Project (PRC §21080(b)(4); §15269(b)(c) CEQA Guidelines)
- Categorical Exemption (Type and Section No.): Existing Facilities, §15301(c) and §15301(h) CEQA Guidelines
- Statutory Exemption (State Code No.): PRC Section §21080(b)(4); §15269(c) CEQA Guidelines

**Reason Why Project Is Exempt:**

The Mariposa County Tree and Biomass Removal to Protect Yosemite West Infrastructure project is part of the Mariposa County Tree Mortality Hazard Mitigation efforts which are short term tasks necessary to mitigate an emergency. As such, they are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Statutory Exemptions, Section 15269 EMERGENCY PROJECTS, subsection (c): The felling of dead or dying hazard trees along county-maintained roads and near county facilities is a specific action necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency to public health and emergency access. The abundance of dead or dying hazard trees in these locations is a result of a severe drought in the area, bark beetle-infestation, and wildfire damage, and this is not a long term project.

Mariposa County Tree Mortality Hazard Mitigation Projects are categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Categorical Exemptions, Section 15301 EXISTING FACILITIES, including subsections (c) and (h): The felling of dead or dying hazard trees along county-maintained roads and near County infrastructure is an activity necessary for maintenance of existing public facilities. The removal could also be categorized as maintenance of existing native growth in these areas, which have succumbed to prolonged drought conditions and beetle infestation, and have been impacted adversely by the 2018 Ferguson Fire. There will be no expansion of use resulting from the activity.

**Lead Agency Contact Person: Melinda Barrett, Resource Conservation District (RCD) Program Manager**  
**Phone Number: (559)580-0944**

  
Signature

01/11/21  
Date

MCRCD Board President  
Title

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2021 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/21) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print** **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 22 — 1/11/2021 — 002

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Mariposa County Resource Conservation District	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL mariposacountyrcd@gmail.com	DATE 1/11/2021
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Mariposa		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE  
**Mariposa County Tree and Biomass Removal to Protect Yosemite West Infrastructure**

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Mariposa County Resource Conservation District	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL mariposacountyrcd@gmail.com	PHONE NUMBER (209) 769-7435
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS PO Box 2403	CITY Mariposa	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95306

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency   
  School District   
  Other Special District   
  State Agency   
  Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,445.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,480.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,171.25	\$	0.00

- Exempt from fee
- Notice of Exemption (attach)
  - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash   
  Credit   
  Check   
  Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE  Karen M Herman <small>Digitally signed by Karen M Herman Date: 2021.01.11 16:38:09 -08'00'</small>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Karen M. Herman, Deputy County Clerk, County of Mariposa
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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2021 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/21) Previously DFG 753.5a

**NOTICE**

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

**COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE**

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

**COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

**Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):**

- Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- Mail filing fees for CRP document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

**Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE)** *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

**Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected**, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

**The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:**

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

**DOCUMENT RETENTION**

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

**RECEIPT NUMBER**

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

**DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.**

**Mail to:**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Accounting Services Branch  
 P.O. Box 944209  
 Sacramento, California 94244-2090