

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research State
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 99244-2090

County Clerk (County of): N/A

Attention: Judah Grossman

Project Title: King Fire Forest Restoration, Project ID: 2020136

Project Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Project Location - Specific: Middle Fork American River Watershed in Eldorado National Forest, approximately six miles west of Foresthill.

Project Location – Nearby city: Foresthill

Project Location - Counties: Placer and El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: This project will enhance forest health, meadow function, and reduce hazardous fuels through selective thinning and reforestation activities on approximately 2,046 acres in the King Fire burn area and Middle Fork American River Watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Fish and Wildlife, WCB

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: John P. Donnelly, Executive Director, WCB

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268):
- Declared Emergency [Sec. 15269 (a)]:
- Emergency Project [Sec. 15269 (b) and (c)]:
- Categorical Exemption. State Section number and type: 153301 Existing Facilities; 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions, State code Number: PRC Section 4700.05(d)

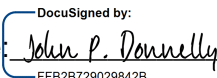
Reasons why project is exempt: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subdivision (d), CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), under specified circumstances. On February 7, 2020, the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency certified that the exemption in Public Resources Code Section 4799.05 should remain in effect. NEPA review for the work to be conducted under the project has been completed through the King Fire Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD) prepared by Eldorado National Forest and signed on September 2, 2015 as well as the Francis Cow Camp Habitat and Watershed Restoration Project Decision Memo (Decision Memo) prepared by the Eldorado National Forest and signed on September 10, 2019. The proposed activities are within the scope of ROD and Decision Memo. In addition, were CEQA applicable to the project, the activities comprising the project would constitute maintenance of Existing Facilities and Minor Alterations to Land and be Categorically Exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: John P. Donnelly

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 445-0137

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes (by this notice) No

Signature:  _____
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Date: 2/25/2021

Title: Executive Director

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Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Section 21108, 21152, 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date received for Filing:

cc: WCB Binder
WCB surname
Chron