

**Notice of Intent to Adopt
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
For the Case Mountain Fire Fuel Reduction Project**

The Tulare County Resource Conservation District (TRCD) has completed an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for proposed fuel reduction and vegetation management activities over 1,100 acres of private lands within the Case Mountain area. The IS/MND found the following environmental factors to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Mandatory Findings of Significance. The project's location encompasses 1,100 acres of private lands within the Case Mountain area in Tulare County, CA. Based on a search of the California Department of Toxic Substance Control's EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database, there are no hazardous waste cleanup sites within or adjacent to the project area.

The project area is located in the Foothill Agriculture Zone (FA) and a portion of Case Mountain is also zoned as a timber production zone (TPZ), as designated by the County. The project area is located adjacent to public recreation lands associated with Case Mountain. All project activities would occur on private lands. Proposed vegetation and fuels treatment activities are anticipated to include removal of hazardous trees, tree thinning within 200 feet of roadways, thinning of sequoia groves, and thinning understory trees and brush. Fuel disposal methods would predominantly include mastication, pile and burn, chipping, and underburning. The project includes Project Design Features to identify and avoid potential adverse impacts to aesthetic resources, agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards, soils, and water quality and riparian areas. These design features would be implemented prior to and during implementation of the proposed fuel reduction activities.

Reference copies of the IS/MND are available on the TRCD's website at:

<https://www.tularecountyr cd.com/projects>. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact Teri Van Huss at teri@tularecountyr cd.com or 559-622-0378 to arrange for alternative means to view the study, as the TRCD offices are currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated Shelter at Home Order. The required 30-day public review period for the IS/MND will extend from June 11, 2021 to July 10, 2021. Anyone interested in commenting on the document should submit a written statement to the Tulare County Resource Conservation District, 3530 W. Orchard Court, Visalia, CA, 93291, Attention: Teri Van Huss, Financial Director or by email to teri@tularecountyr cd.com by 5:00 p.m., July 10, 2021.