



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE BOR Melones Broadcast Burn Assist

PROJECT LOCATION The Melones BOR Broadcast Burn is composed of three units in Calaveras County south of Angels Camp, California. **COUNTY** Calaveras
Legal location is portions of Sections 15 and 22, Township 2 North, Range 13 East; Mount Diablo B&M.

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CONTACT Gary Whitson

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San Andreas, CA 95249

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to request assistance from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to perform prescribed burns on approximately 94.5 acres of the New Melones Glory Hole Recreation Area. The prescribed burn will reduce non-native grasses and their seedbed, reduce wildfire fuels, and enhance the existing oak woodland habitat. The prescribed burn would occur annually between late April and mid-June to maximize effectiveness. Approximate timing of the burn is dependent on grass maturity, weather conditions and prescription burn requirements as identified in the final Burn Plan.

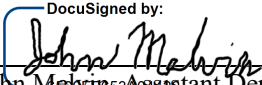
EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The California Environmental Quality Act 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. All BOR Melones Broadcast Burn Assist project activities are included in the Environmental Assessment for New Melones Lake Prescribed Burn signed in 2021. The Bureau of Reclamation Environmental Assessment has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/ traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. In addition, field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas, CA.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Mahan, Assistant Deputy Director Date 6/16/2022
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection