

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Western Nevada County Forest Health Objectives Grant: USFS Prescribed Fire and Fuels Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	T16N R10E Sections 4-9, 17, 18, 20; T17N R9E Sections 23-26, and 35-36; T17N, R10E Sections 19, 22, 23, 25-228, and 32	COUNTY	Nevada
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Nevada County Fire Safe Council to conduct fuel reduction treatments, including hand cut/ hand pile and mastication as well as prescribed fire, which includes pile & understory burning on USFS lands. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- 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

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA, if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under three NEPA documents: 1) NEPA Washington Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact filed on 6/4/2004; 2) Final Environmental Impact Statement - San Juan Fuels, Wildlife, and Timber Projects and Record of Decision filed on 3/13/98; and 3) Western Nevada County Community Defense – Deer Creek Project EA and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact filed in March 2017.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

6/22/2022

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director

Date

Resource Management

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection