



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Kaweah Oaks Preserve Ecological Restoration and Training		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T18S, R26E, Sections 28 and 29 MDBM	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tulare
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	David Shy		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	1968 S Lovers Ln Visalia CA, 93621	<b>PHONE</b>	559-827-5513

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Kaweah Oaks Preserve (KOP) Ecological Restoration and Training project is located approximately 4 mi east of the City of Visalia. KOP is an intact valley oak woodland. It is an important habitat for many plant and animal species. In 2016 a wildland fire killed many large valley oaks on the northern portion of the preserve. The goal of this project is to provide a training location for the engines and firefighter hand crews in the Unit. This training will include the limbing of ladder fuels and decreasing the horizontal continuity of fuels, and handline construction, followed by a prescribed fire to increase the resiliency of the valley oak woodland habitat to wildfire.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

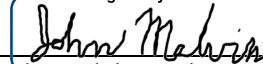
- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 CCR  
§15304 – Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project meets the requirements of Class 4, §15304(e): Minor Alteration to the Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 includes minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department 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. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 1968 S Lovers Ln, Visalia CA, 93621.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:  
  
 John McElroy, Assistant Deputy Director Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

6/23/2022