

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:
Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Project Title: Caldor Hazard Tree Fuels Reduction Project

Project Location – Specific:

Multiple locations in South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. The project is on USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) lands impacted by the Caldor Fire (Exhibit A).

Project Location – City: South Lake Tahoe

Project Location – County: El Dorado County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Caldor Hazard Tree and Fuel Reduction project will reduce fuel loading and remove fire-killed or weakened trees, trees that are likely to die because of fire damage, and other trees that pose a hazard to roads, trails, private property boundaries and developed recreation sites impacted by the Caldor Fire. The project will also include native tree planting in areas where natural tree regeneration is not likely to occur due to the fire severity. Planting trees will hasten recovery back to a fire adapted forest rather than a shrub dominated landscape that poses a greater fire risk to neighboring communities. Native vegetation will be planted in priority areas denuded by suppression activities which will prevent the conversion to non-fire adapted invasive plants that also increases fire risk.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) (Conservancy meeting of 11/8/2021) (Agenda Item #9)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: LTBMU

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (§ 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
- Statutory (provide code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Categorical Exemption [Click here to enter text.](#)

Reasons Why 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. The Conservancy would provide funding to the LTBMU to reduce forest fuels on federal land. All the proposed project activities are included in the NEPA Decision Memo Tahoe Basin Caldor Hazard Tree Fuels Reduction Project prepared by LTBMU, signed on July 29, 2022.

Contact Person: Joseph Harvey

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Date Received for Filing:

Forest Schafer
Director of the Natural Resources Division

Exhibit A. Caldor Project Location

