



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	The Nature Conservancy, 2020 CAL FIRE Forest Resilience Project Grant– Tahoe National Forest, French Meadows Forest Restoration		
PROJECT LOCATION	USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest American River Ranger District: T15N, R13E Sections 25, 26, 35, and 36; and T15N, R14E, Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14-17, 19-22, 24, 26-34, 36 of the Mount Diablo Base Meridian.	COUNTY	Placer
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to The Nature Conservancy to conduct fuel reduction treatments, including thinning, mastication, pile burning, and prescribed fire on the French Meadows Project located in Tahoe National Forest. These treatments will improve forest and watershed health and resilience, enhance wildlife habitat, and reduce the risk of uncharacteristic, high severity wildland fire, consistent with management direction in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (USDA, 1990) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (SNFPA ROD) (USDA, 2004), collectively referred to as the Forest Plan.

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 actions to be undertaken by this project were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA through an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Decision Notice and FONSI for the project was signed by the Tahoe National Forest on December 10, 2018.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin
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10/19/2022

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date