



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Tuolumne County: Social and Ecological Resiliency Across the Landscape (SERAL) Forest Health Project Phase 1 – Stanislaus National Forest		
PROJECT LOCATION	Stanislaus National Forest: The SERAL project area is located south and east of the North Fork Stanislaus River and north and west of the North Fork Tuolumne River. The project area is also almost entirely to the north and west of Highway 108 (T2N-T5N, R14E-R18E; MDBM).	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to Tuolumne County to conduct fuel reduction treatments that will reduce accumulated fuels and shift vegetation structure and composition that are more in alignment with their natural range in variation (NVR), where ecological processes and adaptive capacity can continue to evolve together. A forested landscape that is more in line with its NRV is more resilient to many potential disturbances, such as large-scale high severity fire, insects, disease, drought, and climate change.

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, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in part, 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 two NEPA Decisions: Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape Final Environmental Impact Statement and Strategically Placed Fuelbreaks: A Crucial First Step — Record of Decision (ROD-1) signed on March 28, 2022, and A Significant Step Towards Resiliency– Record of Decision (ROD-2) signed on June 29, 2022.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin

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11/16/2022

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

Date