

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	American Forests: Sequoia Wildfire Reforestation and Recovery Grant – Freeman Reforestation Project (USFS)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument Western Divide Ranger District	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tulare
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Shannon Johnson		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460	<b>PHONE</b>	916-902-9345

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CAL FIRE would provide funding to American Forests to conduct reforestation treatments, including planting and manual release treatments on portions of the burned 174,178 acres of Sequoia National Forest lands within the Castle Fire, which was managed as part of the SQF Complex. These treatments will promote native plant and wildlife species as well as improve forest resiliency and reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members.

**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 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 the Starvation and Freeman Reforestation Projects NEPA Decision Memo signed on 2/2/23.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director

Resource Management

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

3/21/2023

Date