



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Disaster Recovery of Private Lands in California – Crane Mills (August Complex)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Near Paskenta, CA: Privately owned timberland within portions of the South Fork of the South Fork Elder Creek, Upper South Fork of Elder Creek, Bennett Creek, Dark Canyon, Lower Willow Creek, Auger Creek, Lower Fish Creek, Scott Creek, Middle Grindstone, Cold Spring Creek, Upper Fish Creek, Basin Creek watershed and Sulphur Creek watersheds.		
	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tehama	
	Legal Description: Within portions of T23N – R8W, Secs 35, 36; T24N – R8W, Sec 19; T24N – R8W, Secs 3, 6, 8, 17, 18, 19, 21, 28, 29, 30; T24N – R9W, Secs 1, 11, 12, 23, 24, 25; T25N – R8W, Secs 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36 and T25N – R9W, Secs 12 (MDBM)		
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Topher Byrd		
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE, through Disaster Relief Funds provided by the United State Forest Service, would allocate funds to expedite priority restoration measures in high severity burn areas on approximately 2,528 acres footprint of privately owned timberland (owned and managed by Crane Mills) within generally proximity to the community of Paskenta, Ca. Allocated funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. Funding, as it relates to on the ground treatments, will focus entirely upon tree and woody debris removal (chipping, mastication, piling, burning or transportation), site preparation, control of competing vegetation, tree planting, post planting vegetation control. The project supports a local workforce within a census designated priority population. In addition to the short-term benefit of restoring and reforesting severely burned forested acres, implementation of the project would promote resilience in the natural ecosystem services, such as overall watershed improvements through improved regulation of surface runoff and groundwater infiltration, increased uptake of carbon dioxide, provide for slope stabilization, and restoration of lost forest-based habitat for species that rely upon these environments. Treatments by treatment activity within the project footprint are as follows: Mastication – 2,014 acres, Pile Burning-514 acres, Piling (Manually) -81 acres, Piling (Mechanical)-433 acres, vegetation control through manual application of herbicide – 2528 acres, Tree planning – 455 acres

### 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

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) a project is exempt from CEQA when it “maintain[s], repair[s], restore[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.” Implementation of the project would restore forested landscapes, restore carbon sequestration capacity of targeted forested landscapes, restore and increase capacity as it relates to above and below ground carbon storage, and restore forest habitat destroyed by the August Complex Fires. The action is therefore exempt from CEQA because it would restore property damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster for which a state of emergency was proclaimed, pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a).

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

*John Melvin*

10/9/2023

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director  
Resource Management

Date

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection