



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Shay Creek Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Township 10 North, Range 19 East, Section 24, Mt. Diablo Baseline and Meridian & Township 10 North, Range 20 East, Section 19, Mt. Diablo Baseline and Meridian	COUNTY	Alpine
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Patrick McDaniel, Vegetation Management Forester		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit 2840 Mount Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709	PHONE	530-647-5288

Project Description and Environmental Setting:

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Amador-El Dorado Unit is planning a fuel reduction project in the community of Shay Creek near Markleeville, CA. The Shay Creek Homeowners Association (HOA) consists of 36 privately-owned parcels with residential structures, surrounded by 34 acres of common area land for a total area of 73 acres. The community is situated within conifer forest along a narrow two-lane road that leads to Grover Hot Springs State Park. The goal of the project is reduction of hazardous fuels to improve the safety of the community and give fire crews a place to combat a wildfire more effectively and safely. Additionally, the project will result in a healthier, more resilient forest stand.

Project activities will include:

- Removal of ladder fuels and suppressed trees by hand crews with chainsaws. Material cut by hand crews will be piled and then burned or masticated.
- Mastication of ladder fuels using an excavator, bobcat, or forestry mulcher equipped with a masticating head. Equipment operators will take care to travel in a manner that will minimize soil disturbance, such as avoiding tight turns and minimizing the number of trips in and out of treatment areas.
- Broadcast burning in the forest understory. Hand line, wet line, and existing roads will be used as control lines for prescribed fire operations.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. CAL FIRE staff conducted an environmental review to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included an on-the-ground field inspection by the project forester, consultation with a CAL FIRE Archaeologist familiar with the property and notification to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, or wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at AEU Unit Headquarters in Camino.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

12/20/2023

George Morris III, CAL FIRE Northern Region Chief
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date