



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	American Forests, "Sequoia Wildfire Reforestation and Recovery Project"		
PROJECT LOCATION	Tule River Indian Reservation; Hume Lake, Kern River, and Western Divide Ranger Districts, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument	COUNTY	Tulare and Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the American Forests organization to conduct post-fire restoration treatments on Southern Sierra forested lands burned by large catastrophic wildfires. These treatments (site preparation, pile burning, and reforestation) will aid in increasing forest resiliency and carbon sequestration and will also reduce future wildfire risks to local resources and community members and promote native plant and wildlife species.

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 the 1) Bureau of Indian Affairs NEPA Tule River Indian Reservation 2018 Pier Fire East Emergency Stabilization and Salvage Sale Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact, signed April 5, 2018; 2) Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument NEPA Rough Plantation Maintenance and Restoration Decision Memo, signed September 28, 2020; 3) Cannell Meadow and Kern River Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest NEPA McNally/Sherman Pass Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, signed March 25, 2004, and McNally Reforestation Decision Memo, signed January 19, 2023; and 4) Western Divide and Kern Ranger Districts, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument NEPA Castle Fire Ecological Restoration Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice, signed December 28, 2023.

NEPA records of project approval are available to the General Public at:

Sequoia National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/sequoia/landmanagement/projects>

Tule River Indian Reservation: <https://tulerivertribe-nsn.gov/>

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director

Resource Management

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

1/5/2024

Date