

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	California Forestry Association, "Calforests CZU Post Fire Recovery" – Phase I (Big Creek Lumber Company, Redtree Partners LP and Redwood Empire)		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Near Pescadero, CA: Privately owned timberland within portions of the Honsinger Creek, Butano Creek, Slate Creek, Gazos Creek, Boulder Creek, Castlerock Falls, Waterman Creek, and Teawater Creek Planning Watersheds). Legal Description: Within portions of T8S – R4W, Sec 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36; T8S - R1E, Sec. 29, 30, 31, 35, 36; T9S – R3W, Sec. 2; (MDBM)	<b>COUNTY</b>	San Mateo and Santa Cruz
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Shannon Johnson		
<b>ADDRESS</b>	P.O. Box 94426 Sacramento, CA 92444-2460	<b>PHONE</b>	(916) 902-9345

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CAL FIRE would provide funding to expedite priority restoration measures in high severity burn areas on approximately 3,503 acres of privately owned timberland (Big Creek Lumber Company, Redtree Partners LP and Redwood Empire) within proximity to the community of Pescadero, California. Funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. CAL FIRE funding, as it relates to on the ground treatments, will focus entirely upon tree and woody debris removal (chipping, mastication, piling, burning), 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.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- 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**

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 CZU Lightning Complex Fire. 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*

1/18/2024

8509FF053A04422...  
John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director  
Resource Management  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date