

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	American Forests, "Sequoia Wildfire Reforestation and Recovery Project" – Windy Fire Restoration Project (USFS)		
PROJECT LOCATION	Project area is located within the Windy Fire footprint in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains east of Springville, west of the Kern River, north of Highway 155, and south of Highway 190 within the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument Western Divide Ranger District	COUNTY	Tulare
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 in the Windy Fire. These treatments include the implementation of fuels reduction, hazard tree abatement, reforestation, and meadows restoration to 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 Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument NEPA Windy Fire Restoration Project Final Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, signed December 28, 2023.

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

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/sequoia/?project=62403>

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

1/18/2024

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

Date