

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Jackson DSF Carbon Flux Towers		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Jackson Demonstration State Forest	<b>COUNTY</b>	Mendocino
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Jeremiah Steuterman		<b>PHONE</b> 707-964-5674
<b>ADDRESS</b>	802 N Main St., Fort Bragg, CA, 95437		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project is the construction of two eddy-covariance flux towers on Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County. The proposed towers will be constructed of metal scaffolding with a concrete base. The Mitchell Creek tower will be approximately 200ft tall and the Parlin tower will be approximately 120 ft tall, extending up approximately 40 ft above the forest canopy. The base of the tower will be 6' x 8' on top of an approximately 50 ft<sup>2</sup> concrete pad. The construction of the pad will not meaningfully affect the timber site productivity, nor will it render future timber harvest infeasible as it is compatible with continued timberland use. Guy lines will extend out from each tower to a maximum of 200ft. Two or three small instrumentation sheds and a fence will be constructed at the base of each tower. Construction of the towers will require the removal of trees at each site. Approximately 35 trees between 11 in and 24 inches in diameter will be removed at the Parlin site and approximately 25 trees between 11 in and 40 inches in diameter will be removed at the Mitchell Creek site. Tree removal will be concentrated at the tower base and along the guy lines. Trees removed will include coast redwood, Douglas-fir, grand fir, other conifers, and hardwoods. No commercialization of trees is proposed under this project. Small woody material (<12 in diameter) will be piled and burned on site or lopped and scattered. Large woody material may either be bucked and left onsite or ground yarded and hauled to the Parlin Mill for disposal or milling for State projects.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption    Type and Section: 14 CCR 15303  
Class 3 (New Construction or  
Conversion of Small Structures).
- 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 portions of 14 CCR 15303 Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures). The intent of the towers is the study of redwood forest canopy and soil processes in the JDSF pursuant to CA Pub Res Code § 4631-4664. Consistent with this mission JDSF host both permanent and temporary research infrastructure and installations relevant to forest ecology and management. Structures described in 14 CCR 15303 as exempt from the provisions of CEQA include single family residences, multifamily residences less than four units, accessory structures such as garages, carports, or patios, and utility extensions. The proposed project is consistent with the JDSF land use and is smaller in footprint than these structures described as exempt in 14 CCR 15303.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the office located at 802 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 and at the Technical Services Office located at 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  
 John Melvin  
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1/22/2024

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