

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
120 TOMA COURT, SAN ANDREAS CA 95249

PROJECT TITLE	Douds Fuels Reduction Project; USFS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT 23-CA-11051600-014		
PROJECT LOCATION	PLSS: Portion of section 9 T4N R15E MDBM USGS - Stanislaus USGS 7.5 min quad Lat/Lon – 38.212319 -120.332412	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	Calaveras County Water District (CCWD)		
CONTACT	Michael Minkler		
ADDRESS	120 Toma Court, San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	(209) 754-3090

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Douds Fuels Reduction Project is adjacent to and includes portions of the Douds Community, approximately three miles south of Arnold in Calaveras County. It is bounded by New McKays Dam Road on the north, SPI lands on the west, steep lands of the North Fork Stanislaus River on the south, and USFS lands on the east. The elevation range is roughly 3,680 feet - 4,120 feet. Reducing fuels in the project area will provide protection to the Douds community from fires emanating from the North Fork Stanislaus River (historical fire patterns). The project area is located within the Cal Water Hydrologic Unit: #18040010; Stanislaus River. Situated on the rim of the North Fork Stanislaus River, the Douds Fuels Reduction project is integral to the Highway 4 Strategic Wildfire Defense System.

The project area includes 158 acres of private land consisting of 24 parcels with 11 habitable structures. The site includes a mixture of Sierran hardwood and conifer species. The fuels reduction treatment will be a mixture of pruning, thinning and mechanical mastication or hand work with chipping on site, targeting ladder fuels (brush and small trees).

EXEMPTION STATUS

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|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: Class 4, §15304 | Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) | | |
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REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA. An environmental review was conducted to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included on-the-ground field inspections by a Registered Professional Forester and Professional Archeologist on various dates from July 2022 to December 2023.

The Calaveras County Water District 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, wildfire or to utilities and service systems.

Documentation of the environmental review completed by CCWD is kept on file at 120 Toma Court, San Andreas, CA 95249.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

 4/1/2024

MICHAEL MINKLER, CCWD GENERAL MANAGER DATE
