

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Great Basin Institute, "Eshom-Rough-Castle Ecological Restoration Phase 2", Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, Hume Lake Ranger District and Western Divide Ranger District	COUNTY	Fresno & 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 Great Basin Institute to conduct biomass removal, mechanical and manual thinning, removal of diseased/infested trees, pile and burn, reforestation treatments, including herbicide application, and right of way clearance in high priority hazard areas. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

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 Rough Plantation Maintenance and Restoration Decision Memo signed on September 28, 2020, the Eshom Ecological Restoration Decision Memo signed on July 18, 2019, and the Castle Fire Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Notice signed on December 28, 2023.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

4/10/2024

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director

Date

Resource Management

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection