



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Sequoia Wildfire Reforestation & Recovery Project: MHDSF Castle Fire Reforestation		
PROJECT LOCATION	Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Camp Wishon and Moses Mtn USGS Quads <i>Sections 23 - 26 and 34 - 36, Township 19 South, Range 30 East; Sections 18 - 20 and 28 - 31, Township 19 South, Range 31 East and Sections 01, 02 and 12, Township 20 South, Range 30 East; Section 06 Township 20 South, Range 31 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian</i>	COUNTY	Tulare
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest plans to expedite restoration measures in high severity burn areas across approximately 1,500 acres of state managed timberland. This project will focus on site preparation work which will be accomplished with herbicide, for future tree planting operations as well as release treatments in previously planted areas. In addition to the short-term benefits of reforesting and restoring the severely burned areas of Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest due to the Castle Fire (SQF Complex), this project will also increase the capacity for carbon sequestration, improve the ability of watersheds to regulate surface runoff, stabilize slopes, and restore a young forest for species that rely on forest-based habitats.

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

According 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.” This project will restore landscapes to forests, allow for greater carbon sequestration by establishing native conifer species, restore lost timber, and restore forested habitat destroyed by the Castle Fire. The action is exempt from CEQA because it will restore property damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster for which a state of emergency was proclaimed.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

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

4/12/2024
Date