

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 and Kings Canyon National Parks Grant Grove		
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)		
CONTACT	Shannon Johnson		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Great Basin Institute to conduct hazardous fuels reduction treatments on at least 513 acres of National Park land within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 60 miles east of Fresno. The fuel reduction treatments would involve site preparation and thinning/clearing followed by broadcast burning. The goal of the project is to implement fuel reduction treatments to protect special-status species including giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) groves, enhance forest habitat resiliency, improve visitor and employee safety, and protect cultural resource values.

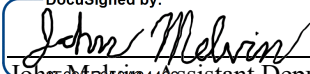
EXEMPTION STATUS

- 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 NEPA in the 2021 Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Fire and Fuels Management Plan, updated annually, and the Big Stump East Fire Restoration Categorical Exclusion (CE), and the Pan Point Prescribed Burn CE, both of which were signed in September 2021.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

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

4/25/2024
Date