

# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Division has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Application Number: 231543

Assessor Parcel Number: Multiple APNs

Project Location: 68 Parcels, Multiple Addresses or No Situs (see Exhibits A & B)

**Project Description: Vegetation management activities including wood debris removal at 37 sites across 67 parcels**

**Person or Agency Proposing Project: Pacific Gas and Electric**

**Contact Phone Number: (925) 724-9378**

- A.  The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B.  The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C.  **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D.  **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).
- E.  **Categorical Exemption**

Specify type: 15269(a): Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace 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.

15269(b): Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.

**F. Reasons why the project is exempt:**

The CZU lightning fire, which began on August 16, 2020, burned throughout a large portion of northern Santa Cruz County, causing widespread environmental and structural damage. The fire burned more than 80,000 acres and destroyed over 1,000 structures. The fire damaged essential utilities infrastructure, such as overhead powerlines and powerpoles, which required emergency replacement. In order to repair infrastructure and restore power to residents quickly, thousands of trees were cut down and left in piles on hundreds of parcels across the County. The removal of the remaining debris is essential to restore parcels to near their pre-fire condition, clear the path to reconstruction, and remove debris from road shoulders.



Victoria Miller, Project Planner

April 30, 2024

Date