

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Truckee Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 2768
Truckee, CA 96160

County Clerk
County of: Nevada
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

(Address)

Project Title: Armstrong Tract Hand Thin Project

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:

Legal description: T17N R16E Section 17 - MDM

Project Location - City: Truckee Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project aims to improve defensible space and PRC 4291 compliance for over 50 structures. This project includes implementation of high priority and critical fuels reduction activities in the form of hand thinning and tracked chipping and limited piling and burning on an approximately 42-acre footprint. The project area is located within the Armstrong Tract Subdivision in Truckee, CA. The project is an integral part of the TFPD's landscape fuel reduction strategy aimed at protecting the Truckee community and Wildland Urban Interface from future catastrophic wildfire events. This fuel reduction treatment is strategically placed adjacent to at risk communities in order to moderate the movement of wildfire, provide safer access for resources related to suppression activities, improve defensible space compliance, and ultimately facilitate in the protection of life and property for surrounding communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Truckee Fire Protection District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Truckee Fire Protection District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304, Class 4 ; 15307, Class 7
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 and Section 15307. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor private alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Section 15307, Class 7 consists of actions by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of natural resources. The project involves removal of an abundance of small diameter understory trees and brush species adjacent to a habitable structures to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels, reduce wildfire intensity and severity near developed communities, and to comply with PRC 4291 and local ordinances. Field review by Truckee Fire Protection District Forester confirmed that fuel clearance in the project area is required to reduce hazardous fuel conditions adjacent to habitable structures for the safety of the public and emergency responders, and no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor treatments to vegetation in the form of hand thinning and chipping. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state and are not considered healthy. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. This project will not convert forestland to non-forest uses, and all treated vegetation will have the ability to grow back. The Truckee Fire Protection District has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, 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, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the department is kept on file at Truckee Fire Protection District Station 91, located at 10049 Donner Pass Road in Truckee CA. Truckee Fire Board of Directors has authorized staff to file appropriate documentation, and furthermore has made a determination on 7/16/2024 that the current fuel overgrowth poses a significant threat to Truckee Communities and that it is an urgent priority to implement wildfire mitigation projects to protect life, property, and environment from wildfire.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Dillon Sheedy - RPF #3175 Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-536-8020

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? [] Yes [] No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 08/01/2024 Title: Forester - RPF #3175

[X] Signed by Lead Agency [] Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.
Date Received for filing at OPR: