



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Shay Creek Phase II Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	T10N, R19E, S24, MDBM & T10N, R20E, S19, MDBM	COUNTY	Alpine
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Erin Duprey		
ADDRESS	Amador – El Dorado Unit 2840 Mount Danaher Rd Camino, CA. 95709	PHONE	(530) 647-5293

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed 3-acre project is located within the Shay Creek residential tract near Markleeville, California. This residential subdivision is accessed by Shay Creek Road, a single lane paved road. The project area is heavily forested, with existing stocking of 300 square feet basal area per acre in stems 5” diameter breast height (DBH) and greater. The proposed action will entail 1) removal of select conifer trees 1” DBH to 26”DBH within 15 feet of the edge of Shay Creek Road to create a general discontinuity of vertical and horizontal fuels, 2) retention of the largest, most fire resilient trees at spacing of 15’-25’ depending on DBH, 3) pruning of residual trees to a minimum height of 10 feet as measured from the lowest live green limb to the top of the surface fuels, 4) removal of surface vegetation that provides vertical continuity of hazardous fuels, including small trees, brush, and down woody debris, especially within dripline of residual conifers, and 5) chipping of targeted vegetation, with all woody material remaining on site. Trees removed during this process will be utilized within the subdivision and will not be traded, bartered or sold. The proposed action will improve safety of ingress/egress by effectively reducing hazardous fuels within the subdivision and its main access routes.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- 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

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption “Minor Alterations to Land” (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) which allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce hazardous fuels for improved public safety and forest resilience. Trees targeted for removal and the pruning of residual trees will be restricted to those that reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels, and/or provide for improved ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, 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 or traffic, utilities and service systems or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Camino headquarters, 2840 Mount Danaher Rd, Camino, CA 95709.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

10/10/2024

George Morris III, Northern Region Chief Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection