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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	The Watershed Research and Training Center, "Trinity Community Protection and Landscape Resilience Project - Phase 2" – Weaverville Community Forest		
PROJECT LOCATION	Township 34N, Range l0W, sections 14, 23, 24, 27, 34, and 36 Mount Diablo Meridian (MDM); Township 33N, Range l0W, sections l, 2, MDM; Township 33N, Range 9W, section 6 MDM; Township 34N, Range 9W, sections 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, MDM.	**COUNTY**	Trinity
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Shannon Johnson		
ADDRESS	PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460	**PHONE**	916-902-9345

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to The Watershed Research and Training Center to conduct manual and mechanical fuel reduction treatments to maintain and improve the vegetation conditions, fuel loadings, and predicted fire behavior conducive to a low to mixed-severity fire regime within the Weaver Basin in Trinity County. Treatments include manual thinning and piling, pile and broadcast burning, and mastication. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, promote native plant and wildlife species, and improve forest resiliency.

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 the Shasta - Trinity National Forest NEPA Weaverville Community Forest Fuels and Recreation Project, Phase 1 Categorical Exclusion and Decision Memo signed on February 8, 2021.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/stnf/landmanagement/projects

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
John Melvin
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10/18/2024

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