

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment - South Lassen Forest Health		
PROJECT LOCATION	Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest; Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest	COUNTY	Lassen, Plumas, & Tehama
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment to conduct strategically located forest health restoration and develop a workforce to plan and implement restoration at an accelerated pace and scale across the landscape and watersheds on the south side of Lassen Peak. Treatments include mechanical and manual fuel reduction. These treatments will address post-fire forest recovery, 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 1) Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest NEPA Dry Hills Forest Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice, signed August 24, 2021; 2) Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest NEPA Robbers Creek Watershed Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, signed May 21, 2021, and; 3) Plumas National Forest Decision Memorandum for the Chief 36 CFR 220.4(b)(2), signed September 12, 2024, regarding the North Fork Forest Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.

The NEPA records of project approval is available to the General Public at:

- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/lassen/landmanagement/projects>
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/plumas/landmanagement/projects>

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by: John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	10/28/2024 _____ Date
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