

Notice of Determination

To: **Office of Planning and Research***U.S. Mail:*

P.O. Box 30441400

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

Tenth St., Rm 113

Sacramento, CA 95814

From:**Public Agency:** Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**Address:** P.O. Box 94426, Sacramento, CA 92444-2460**Contact:** Shannon Johnson**Phone:** (530) 338-8197**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.****State Clearinghouse Number:** 2024110235**Project Title:** Low Gap Road Forest Resilience Project**Project Location:** Mendocino

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) would be providing funding to help implement vegetation treatments on approximately 1,007 acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) Lands in the area of Low Gap Road which is located on a strategic ridge at the junction of the upper reaches of the Big River, Navarro River, and upper Russian River basins in Mendocino County. The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, in collaboration with the Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood Companies, has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum for the project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Low Gap Road Forest Resilience Project. The proposed treatment types (fuel break and ecological restoration) and treatment activities (prescribed burning, pile burning, mechanical treatment, and manual treatment) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR. Maintenance treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments. The purpose of these treatments is to promote forest and watershed health, reduce fuel load, and demonstrate efficacy of climate beneficial prescriptions.

This is to advise that CAL FIRE (Lead Agency Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on November 13, 2024, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP Program EIR) was previously prepared (SCH# 2019012052) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. A Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum was prepared for the Low Gap Road Forest Resilience Project. This analysis determined the project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).
4. The CalVTP Program EIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP Program EIR.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project specific mitigation measures are required.
5. The implementation of applicable CalVTP Program EIR mitigation measures and standard project requirements will be monitored and reported pursuant to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that was adopted for this project.
6. The previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP Program EIR was reaffirmed and adopted for this project by CAL FIRE.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Low Gap Road Forest Resilience Project PSA and Addendum and record of project approval for the CalVTP Program EIR are available to the public on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection webpage with the environmental documentation associated with individual approved CalVTP projects: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/>.

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____



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

Date: 11/13/2024

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21082 and 21087, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.