

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE “Esselen Tribe of Monterey County Wildfire Resilience, Forest Health, Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Cultural Resource Revitalization Project” – Eagle Peak Rancheria

PROJECT LOCATION Eagle Peak Rancheria: Township 18S, S23, Range 1E MDB&M **COUNTY** Monterey

LEAD AGENCY California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County to implement tribal wildfire resilience treatments to manage their ancestral lands in Monterey County. Treatments include mechanical and manual fuel reduction (i.e., shaded fuel break and thinning), cultural burning, pile burning, biomass/biochar utilization, and Cultural Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) heritage oak care. These treatments aim to serve California Native American Tribes and advance wildfire resilience, forest health, and the cultural use of fire.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(e)

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4799.05(e), CEQA does not apply to projects funded by the Nature-Based Solutions Tribal Program, or the tribal cultural burn and tribal wildfire funding authorized by Schedule (2) of Item 3540-101-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2021, as added by Section 46 of Chapter 240 of the Statutes of 2021. This subdivision only applies to projects carried out on lands subject to the jurisdictional control or the ownership of a California Native American tribe, as defined in Section 21073. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety and determined to meet the requirements of PRC 4799.05(e).

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

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

1/23/2025
 Date