

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Disaster Relief of Private Lands – Redtree Partners LLC		
PROJECT LOCATION	Township 10S, Range 3W, Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 14 MDBM	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is focused on restoration measures in high severity burn areas on 366 acres of privately owned timberland (owned and managed by Redtree Partners LP) within proximity to the community of Santa Cruz, California. The broader goal of post fire recovery and outcome focused on forest health and resiliency. Treatments will focus entirely upon tree and woody debris removal (chipping, mastication, piling, burning or transportation), site preparation, control of competing vegetation, tree planting, post planting vegetation control. The project supports a local workforce within a census designated priority population. In addition to the short-term benefit of restoring and reforesting severely burned forested acres, implementation of the project would promote resilience in the natural ecosystem services, such as overall watershed improvements through improved regulation of surface runoff and groundwater infiltration, increased uptake of carbon dioxide, provide for slope stabilization, and restoration of lost forest based habitat for species that rely upon these environments.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- 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

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) a project is exempt from CEQA when it “maintain[s], repair[s], restore[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.” Implementation of the project would restore forested landscapes, restore carbon sequestration capacity of targeted forested landscapes, restore and increase capacity as it relates to above and below ground carbon storage, and restore forest habitat destroyed by the CZU Lightning Complex. The action is therefore exempt from CEQA because it would restore property damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster for which a state of emergency was proclaimed, pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a).

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Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection