

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Calforests Disaster Recovery of Private Land – Sierra Pacific Industries – Mosquito Fire		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Within portions of T15N – R12E, Secs 16, 19, 21; T14N - R12E, Secs 27, 28, 33, 35; T13N – R13E, Sec 19; T13N – R12E, Secs 1, 3-6, 9-11, 13,15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 31-34; T13N - R11E, Secs 1, 7, 25; T12N – R12E, Sec 1-4, 11, 12 (MDB&M).	<b>COUNTY</b>	Placer/El Dorado
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Topher Byrd		
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CAL FIRE would provide funding to expedite priority restoration measures in high severity burn areas on approximately 3,528 acres of privately owned timberland owned and managed by Sierra Pacific Industries within proximity to the communities of Quintette and Forest Hill, California. Funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. CAL FIRE funding, as it relates to on the ground treatments, will focus entirely upon tree and woody debris removal (chipping, mastication, piling, burning), site preparation, tree planting, and control of competing vegetation. 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 Mosquito Fire (2022). 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).

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  <small>6569EF652A04422...</small>	4/25/2025
John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Date