

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: *Street Address:*
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 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 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, Staff Chief
Phone: (530) 338-8197
Email: shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov

Lead Agency, if different from above
Public Agency: Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District
Address: PO Box 217 Geyserville, CA 95441
Contact: Anneke Turbeville, Administrative Manager
Phone: (707) 857-4373
Email: aturbeville@nosocofire.com

Project Proponent, if applicable
Title: Watershed Research Training Center
Address: PO Box 356 Hayfork, CA 96041-0356
Contact: Allison Jolley, RFFC Program Director
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: Sonoma Land Trust Preserves Vegetation Treatment Project

Project Location: Sonoma County

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) would be providing funding to help support training activities for prescribed and wildland fire certifications on up to 174 acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands on Laufenburg Ranch Preserve in Sonoma County. The Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) for vegetation treatment and prescribed burning activities, covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and being adopted by the Watershed Research Center for their Equitable Workforce Development Project. The proposed treatment types (fire line construction to support prescribed fire and vegetation removal) and treatment activities (manual fire line construction, manual vegetation removal, and manual piling) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR. Training activities being funded by CAL FIRE include Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) and Wildland Fire Chainsaws (S-212). The purpose of these treatments is to promote workforce development actions which support healthy, resilient forests 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 April 15, 2025 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 Sonoma Land Trust Preserves Vegetation Treatment 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.

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.
 Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Sonoma Land Trust Preserves Vegetation Treatment 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/>.

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

Date: 4/15/2025

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

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