

Notice of Determination

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

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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**Project Proponent, if applicable****Title:** American River Conservancy**Address:** P.O. Box 562, Coloma, CA 95613**Contact:** Autumn Gronborg, Forestry Restoration Manager**Phone:** (530) 621-1224**Email:** autumn@arconservancy.org**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.****State Clearinghouse Number:** 2019012052**Project Title:** American River Conservancy South Fork American River Restoration Project (ARC SOFAR Restoration Project)**Project Location:** El Dorado County

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE), in collaboration with the American River Conservancy (ARC) has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum for the project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the ARC SOFAR Restoration Project. The ARC SOFAR Restoration Project entails implementation of vegetation treatments on up to 1,943 acres of land across four contiguous parcels (Lewis Ranch, Salmon Falls Ranch, Elliot Pond, and Wakamatsu Farm) in El Dorado County. The proposed treatment type (ecological restoration) and treatment activities (prescribed burning, including both broadcast and piling burning, mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed herbivory, and herbicide application) 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.

CAL FIRE is the lead agency under CEQA for the ARC SOFAR Restoration Project and would be providing funding to ARC to implement initial treatments on up to 1,030 acres. Agencies relying upon the ARC SOFAR Restoration Project PSA and Addendum for CEQA compliance for future discretionary approvals would be responsible for adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for their portion of the project and ensuring proper implementation of Standard Project Requirements and mitigation measures relevant to their approval and within their jurisdiction.

This is to advise that CAL FIRE (Lead Agency) has approved the above-described project on _4/24/2025_ 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 ARC SOFAR Restoration 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.

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

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

Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

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 ARC SOFAR Restoration Project and 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: 6569EF653A04422...

Date: 4/24/2025

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