

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812

From: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
820 Bay Avenue, Suite #136
Capitola, CA 95010
Matt Abernathy

To: Santa Cruz County Clerk
701 Ocean Street, Room 520
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination
in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project

Project Location: Skylark Ranch Girl Scout Camp, Santa Cruz County

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) awarded the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County a Forest Health Grant for the Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project (project) to implement ecological restoration of the Skylark Ranch Girl Scout Camp (Skylark Ranch) following the 2020 CZU Lighting Complex Fire. Ecological restoration would involve vegetation treatments consistent with Coastal Vegetation Treatment Standards (CVTS) and the objectives of the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP). The RCD has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) for the project as a later activity covered by the CalVTP Program EIR.

Vegetation treatments would occur over 60 acres of Skylark Ranch. The CalVTP treatment types that would be implemented are ecological restoration and shaded fuel breaks, and the proposed treatment activities to implement the project are manual and mechanical treatments and targeted herbicide application. Ongoing treatment maintenance would occur annually, as needed, using manual and mechanical treatment activities, and targeted herbicide application. Treatment crews would consist of up to 10 people working within the treatment area at any one time. Treatment vehicle and equipment staging would occur within the designated treatment area. All work would occur during daytime hours. Initial treatments would occur over approximately 40 days, beginning in May 2022. However, the timeframe may change in the event of delays, such as weather.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on March 15, 2022 and has made the following determinations related to the PSA:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project PSA (SCH# 2019012052) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. 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. The proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), as documented in the PSA.
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 the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

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

This is to certify that the Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project PSA and record of project approval are available to the general public. The custodian of these documents is Matt Abernathy, Program Specialist. Please contact Matt Abernathy at mabernathy@rcdsantacruz.org or (831) 464-2950 ext. 28 to arrange document viewing.

Signature:



Title:

James McKenna
Board President

Date:

March 16, 2022

Dated Received for filing at OPR:

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