NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Meadow Lakes Fuel Maintenance and Hazard Tree Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	This project is located in easten Fresno County on Bald Mountain directly adjacent to Meadow Lakes/Bald Mountain Subdivisions and is further described as in Sections 11, 13, 14, T10S R23E MDB&M	**COUNTY**	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This existing Meadow Lakes Fuel Break is located on Bald Mountain at the 4,700' level of the southern Sierra Nevada of eastern Fresno County near the community of Meadow Lakes. Vegetation maintenance shall be performed on 44 acres of the shaded fuel break due to growth and tree mortality. This maintenance project encompasses 100'on both sides of Radio Lane & Snow Road. The project area mixed conifer overstory, consisting of 90% ponderosa pine has sustained between 50%-100% mortality, which shall be removed to ensure fuel break viability. Maintenance of the 44 acres shall be performed utilizing mastication of small trees, grasses, brush, limbs, and small diameter bole-wood. Dead trees shall be felled, limbed, and bucked. Slash and tree boles small enough in diameter shall be masticated. Tree boles too large for mastication shall be decked for property owner personal use. Hand piling may occur where mastication is not possible with disposal through burning.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 — 15301 (c) Existing Facilities; 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land
- [ ] 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

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. A Registered Professional Forester performed a biological assessment of the project following consultation with the California Natural Diversity Database and field surveys concluded that no adverse impacts or significant cumulative impacts will result. An Archaeological Survey concluded that there are no cultural resources within the project area. The project as proposed shall not have a significant impact on the environment.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

4/28/16

Helge Enge, Deputy Director — Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
APR 29 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE