

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Alpine

From: (Public Agency): Alpine County Community Development
50 Diamond Valley Rd.
Markleeville, CA 96120

(Address)

Project Title: Kirkwood Firewise Fuel Reduction Project

Project Applicant: Alpine County Community Development

Project Location - Specific:

Islands of vegetation between addresses 815 Columbine Cir. to 360 E. Meadows Dr.;

Project Location - City: Kirkwood Project Location - County: Alpine County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Kirkwood Firewise Fuel Reduction Project is aimed to remove brush and trees to provide better access roads, and removing vegetation from blocking visibility in case of an emergency incident. Treatment objectives will be met by hand crews using chainsaws and other non mechanical means of tree removal. Logs, tree rounds, limbs and other material will be drug to the roadway for chipping back onto the landscape or removal off site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Alpine County Community Development

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Clint Celio

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15333. Small habitat Restoration Project or 15304. Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Kirkwood Firewise Fuel Reduction Project can qualify as exempt because the project footprint does not exceed 5 acres, and the project will have no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species, or their habitat. There are no hazardous materials at or around project site. The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Clint Celio Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 775-720-6534

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Sam Booth Date: 7/24/24 Title: Community Development Director

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: 9/10/24

EXHIBIT A from CWPP
Modified for Kirkwood Fuels Reduction Project – June 2024
Prescriptions for fuels treatments

Along Roadways- Treatment A

Access roads, and where possible driveways, will be removed of brush and trees 20 to 30 feet from road centerline to create appropriate egress by evacuees and ingress for fire suppression equipment. The intent is to create safe access and defensible fuel breaks. Single trees may be left in this corridor provided:

- The crowns of neighboring trees are at least two crowns widths apart
- Any limbs extending into or over the roadway be removed
- Brush surrounding the tree conforms to the prescription in Treatment Area B (below)

Single trees must not prevent access by either becoming involved in a fire or by obscuring roadway visibility during an emergency incident.

These treatment objectives will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws and other non-mechanical means of tree removal. Logs, tree rounds, limbs and other material will be drug to the roadway for chipping back onto the landscape or removal offsite. Pile burning within the treatment area to remove materials is permitted following CALFIRE and Great Basin Air Quality Board permits and requirements.

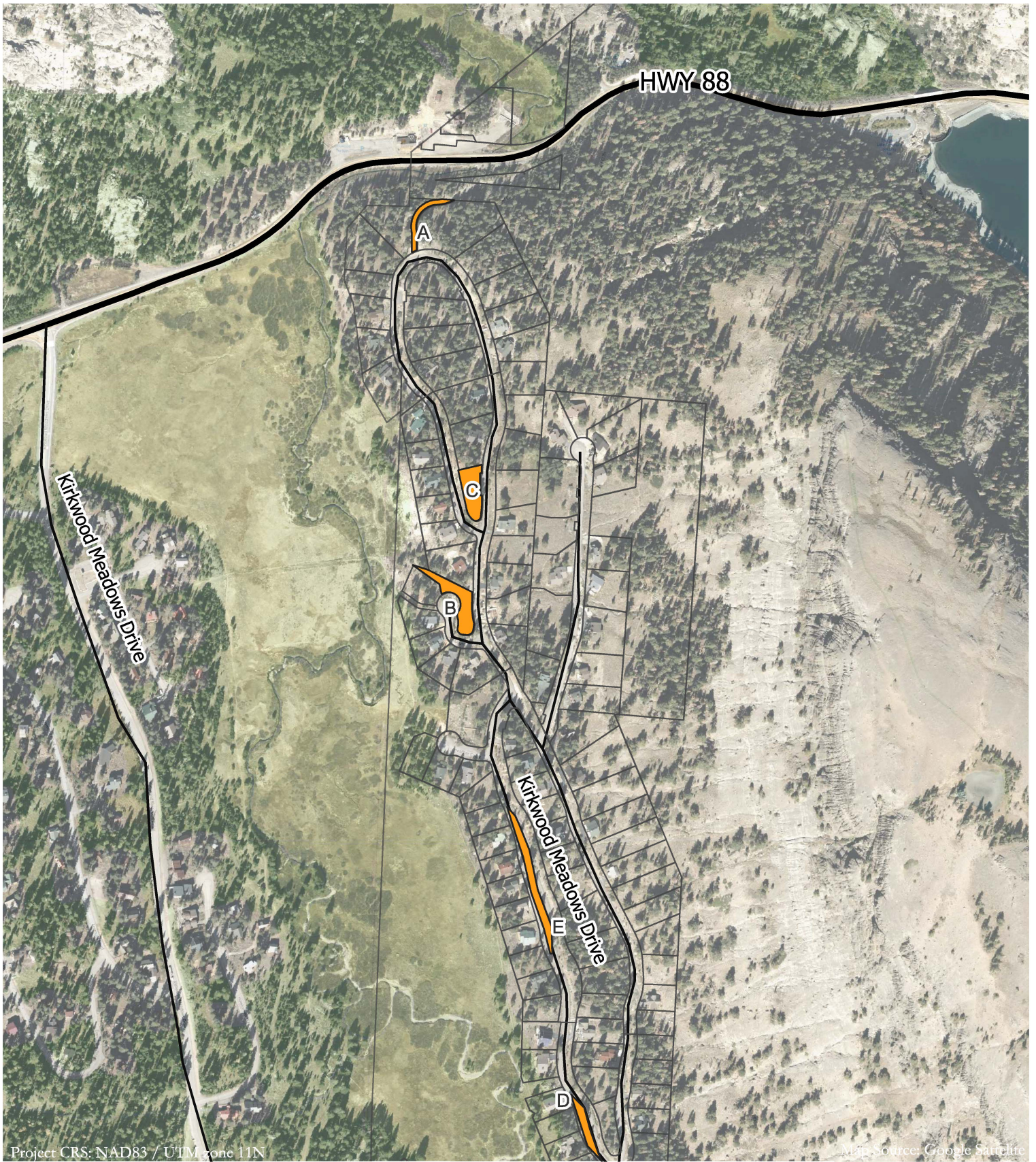
Neighborhood Fire Breaks – Treatment B

The following prescription guidelines will be used in creating shaded fuel breaks:

1. Thinning residual stand to remove ladder fuels and reduce the likelihood of an active crown fire. Retain the healthiest overstory trees and remove all others, so that there is at least one full crown diameter between the trees to be retained. Since the trees are of varied sizes this will retain the uneven vertical structure of the stand.
2. Removal of dead and dying trees which can pose a hazard to the community and add significantly to the fuel loadings. Large snags for wildlife habitat will be no more than 1-2 per acre.
3. Lodgepole and Fir trees typically grow in clumps and thinning the stand to individual trees will make them more susceptible to windfall. Should thinning of a stand be required to developing a clump or cluster, no more than 25% of the trees will be removed during a single entry (season) to guard against windfall of the residual trees. Leave clumps of Lodgepole and Fir with enough separation between clumps to preclude the spread of fire through the crowns from one clump to another. Typically this is 3 times the width of the trees crowns on the perimeter.

4. Plantation trees generally do not exceed six feet in height and are spaced ten feet apart. All the brush (including bitterbrush) should be removed from beneath and between all of the plantation trees.
5. All brush of any kind should be removed from beneath the crowns of all trees of any size to eliminate ladder fuels.
6. Where trees are greater than ten feet apart, brush and seedlings should be removed from within a minimum of one FULL crown width of the tree, e.g., a tree with a crown width of ten feet should have all the brush removed from a circle ten feet wide all around the tree.
7. Pruning of trees may be necessary to protect the larger pre-plantation sapling and pole sized trees. This would entail removal of all dead lower limbs and possibly some of the green limbs. In no case should more than one third of the live green crown be removed. Seedlings and saplings are too small to receive any protection from pruning. The appearance of the stand will be altered, but the plantation trees are sufficiently interspersed with the larger residual pre-plantation trees, so that a “park like” appearance would not be established. Pruning must follow procedures that prevent damage to the main stem of the tree.
8. Removal of trees will be necessary in those areas where tree density is such that the crowns are touching or interlaced.
9. Quickly cover or move logs or tree rounds resulting from treatments to limit the spread of pine beetles from down materials to live trees.

These treatment objectives will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws and other non-mechanical means of tree removal. Logs, tree rounds, limbs and other material will be drug to the roadway for chipping back onto the landscape or removal offsite. Pile burning within the treatment area to remove materials is permitted following CALFIRE and Great Basin Air Quality Board permits and requirements.



Project CRS: NAD83 / UTM zone 11N

Map Source: Google Satellite

Nevada Environmental Consulting, LLC

316 California Avenue #763
 Reno, NV 89509
www.nvenv.net
 775-544-1149
 July 2024



0 100 200 yd

- Hand felling Activities
- Parcel Lines
- HWY 88
- Roads

Unit	Acres
A	0.14
B	0.38
C	0.35
D	0.17
E	0.38

Kirkwood, CA

Project:

Kirkwood CEQA NOE

Client:

Alpine County