

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): _____
Nevada County Resource Conservation District

County Clerk

County of: Nevada
950 Maidu Ave.

(Address)

Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Serene Lakes Ingress Egress Shaded Fuel Break

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:

Soda Springs Rd. Truckee CA, 39°19'02.0"N 120°22'43.4"W

Project Location - City: Truckee Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Serene Lakes Ingress-Egress Shaded Fuel Break is a wildfire mitigation project designed to enhance evacuation safety for the Serene Lakes Community and ensure safe ingress for fire suppression resources during a wildfire event. This project will establish a shaded fuel break along Soda Springs Road, the sole access route to the community. The project will treat approximately 32 acres of vegetation, creating a 100-foot clearance on either side of the road. This expanded treatment zone significantly increases defensibility and evacuation safety for residents while improving access for emergency personnel.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Nevada County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nathan Alcorn

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: 15304, class 4
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor private alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves removal of an abundance of small-diameter understory trees and brush species adjacent to habitable structures to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels, reduce wildfire intensity and severity near developed communities, and to comply with PRC 4291 and local ordinances. Field review by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District Forester confirmed that fuel clearance in the project area is required to reduce hazardous fuel conditions adjacent to habitable structures for the safety of the public and emergency responders. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor treatments to vegetation in the form of hand thinning and chipping. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state and are not considered healthy. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, nor do they cause sedimentation to surface waters. This project will not convert forestland to non-forest uses, and all treated vegetation will have the ability to grow back. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District 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, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the department is kept on file at the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, located at 113 Presley Way, suite 1, Grass Valley CA. The NCRCD Board of Directors has authorized staff to file appropriate documentation and, furthermore, made a determination that the current fuel overgrowth poses a significant threat to Nevada County communities and that it is an urgent priority to implement wildfire mitigation projects to protect life, property, and the environment from wildfire.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Nathan Alcorn Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-263-9490

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: Nathan Alcorn Date: 5/13/2025 Title: Program 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: _____