

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	Calforests Disaster Recovery of Private Land – Big Creek Lumber		
PROJECT LOCATION	Near Davenport, CA: Privately owned timberland within portions of the Waddell Creek Creek, Scott Creek, Big Creek, and Little Creek Planning Watersheds. Legal Description: Within portions of T9S-R3W, Sec 31, T9S-R4W, Sec 35 & 36, T10S-R3W, Sec 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, & Rancho Agua Puerca Y Las Trancas, T10S-R4W, Sec 1 & Rancho Agua Puerca Y Las Trancas (MDBM)	COUNTY	Santa Cruz
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to expedite priority restoration measures in high severity burn areas on approximately 520 acres of privately owned timberland owned and managed by Big Creek Lumber within proximity to the community of Davenport, California. Funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. CAL FIRE funding, as it relates to on the ground treatments, will focus entirely upon tree and woody debris removal (chipping, mastication, piling, burning), site preparation, and control of competing vegetation. The project supports a local workforce within a census designated priority population. In addition to the short-term benefit of restoring and reforesting severely burned forested acres, implementation of the project would promote resilience in the natural ecosystem services, such as overall watershed improvements through improved regulation of surface runoff and groundwater infiltration, increased uptake of carbon dioxide, provide for slope stabilization, and restoration of lost forest based habitat for species that rely upon these environments.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) a project is exempt from CEQA when it “maintain[s], repair[s], restore[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.” Implementation of the project would restore forested landscapes, restore carbon sequestration capacity of targeted forested landscapes, restore and increase capacity as it relates to above and below ground carbon storage, and restore forest habitat destroyed by the CZU Lightning Complex Fire. The action is therefore exempt from CEQA because it would restore property damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster for which a state of emergency was proclaimed, pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a).

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DocuSigned by:

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5/14/2025

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

Date