



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Calforests Disaster Recovery of Private Land – Collins Company		
PROJECT LOCATION	Near Chester and Westwood, CA: Privately owned timberland within portions of Hamilton Branch, Indian Falls, Johnson Creek, Moonlight Pass, Moonlight Creek, Rush Creek, Soda Creek, Lower Coyote Creek, Lower Robbers Creek, Lower Wolf Creek, Soldier Creek, Upper Cooks Creek, and Upper Wolf Creek Planning Watersheds. Legal Description: Within portions of T26N, R09E, Sec 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, & 34; T27N, R06E, Sec 1, 12, 13, 14, & 24; T27N, R07E, Sec 6, 7, 17, & 18; T27N, R08E, Sec 12, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, & 36; T27N, R09E, Sec 1, 2, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 33; T27N, R10E, Sec 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, & 16; T28N, R09E, Sec 27, 33, 34, 35, & 36; T28N, R10E, Sec 31, & 32; T29N, R09E, Sec 19, 30, and 31; MDBM	COUNTY	Lassen and Plumas
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 11,625 acres of privately owned timberland owned and managed by the Collins Company within proximity to the communities of Chester and Westwood, California. Funding supports the broader goal of post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. CAL FIRE funding, as it relates to ground treatments, will focus on site preparation: tree removal (cut, skid, and pile to burn), control of competing vegetation, and planting conifer seedlings. 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. The project has expanded to include additional treatment acres within the Dixie Fire footprint. The entire project, as widened, was considered for determining whether it fits the NOE.

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 Dixie 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).

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

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

10/28/2025

Date