

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: NW Calaveras Fuel Reduction Project

Lead Agency: Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)

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Project Location: Valley Springs, CA Calaveras County
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The NW Calaveras Fuel Reduction Project will occur on private lands within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Communities of Rancho Calaveras, Quail Oaks Road, and surrounding neighborhoods. The Project area is oriented north and west of the Valley Springs subdivision Rancho Calaveras and south of California Highway 12 and is situated diagonally SW to NE toward the intersection of State Highways 12 and 26. The Project area is comprised of 357 private parcels totaling approximately 3,080 acres. CCRCD has obligated grant funding through CAL FIRE (Grant Agreement 5GA22228) to treat approximately 470 acres mechanically and by hand, anticipated for fall 2025 implementation. At the time of publication of this document, ROE was obtained from 146 parcels, with approximately 391 acres identified for a combination of mechanical and hand treatments (anticipated in fall 2025). Treatments will reduce heavy vegetative fuels, increase tree canopy spacing, and cut dead trees which present a hazard to infrastructure. Proposed treatment methods include the following: mastication, hand cutting and piling, hand cutting and lopping/scattering, hand cutting and chipping (broadcast or chip/haul), prescribed fire (broadcast or pile burning), and prescribed herbivore grazing.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The proposed Project has the potential to significantly impact the following special status species (biological resources): nongame nesting birds, bald eagle, tricolored blackbird, California tiger salamander, Crotch's bumble bee, Swainson's hawk, Western pond turtle, and California red-legged frog. Mitigations have been incorporated into the project to avoid and/or reduce impacts to these species, and are summarized by the following:
Mitigation #1: Botanical Resources - Protections for Selected Food Plant Genera of Crotch's Bumble Bee - prework surveys; avoidance of select food genera; herbivore and prescribed fire exclusion where select food genera is present.
Mitigation #2: Protections for Western Pond Turtle - prework surveys; Mitigation #3: Protections for California Tiger Salamander - prework surveys ahead of implementation by a qualified individual to identify suitable upland habitat within 1.25mi from aquatic breeding habitat; prework surveys for burrows, avoidance of burrows in upland habitats; prework surveys of equipment and following rain events; operations start/stop restrictions to allow for passage; Mitigation #4: Protections for California Red-legged Frog - prework protocol surveys ahead of implementation by a qualified biologist OR a 300' exclusion buffer from aquatic habitat; evaluation of large woody debris prior to treatments; drying periods;
Mitigation #5: Protections for Swainsons Hawk, Tricolored Blackbird, Bald Eagle, and nongame nesting birds - prework surveys, performance based exclusion buffers around nests or nesting colonies; monitoring where applicable. See draft IS-MND for full descriptions of proposed mitigations.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

N/A

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

- CAL FIRE (Responsible Agency)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Trustee Agency)
- California State Historic Preservation Office (Trustee Agency)
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 5)
- Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (APCD)
- Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)