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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 – (SPI, Monument Fire)		
PROJECT LOCATION	Near the communities of Junction City and Hayfork, California. Within portions of T33N – R10W, Sec 30, 31; T33N - R11W, Sec 36; T32N – R10W, Sec 6, 7, 8, 18, 19; T32N – R11W, Sec 1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27; (MDBM); and T4N, R6E, Sec 1, 11; (HBM).	**COUNTY**	Trinity
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Topher Byrd		
ADDRESS	P.O. Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460	**PHONE**	(408) 499-4255

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to expedite priority restoration measures in high severity burn areas on approximately 4,993 acres of privately owned timberland owned and managed by Sierra Pacific Industries within proximity to the communities of Junction City and Hayfork, 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 entirely upon site preparation and fuel reduction (chipping, mastication, piling, or burning), control of competing vegetation, tree planting, and post planting vegetation control. 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):
- ☐ 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 Monument 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
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5/27/2025

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