

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: El Dorado

From: (Public Agency): City of South Lake Tahoe
1901 Lisa Maloff way
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(Address)

Project Title: South Lake Tahoe High School Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Project Applicant: City of South Lake Tahoe

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: South Lake Tahoe Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The South Lake Tahoe High School Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project encompasses approximately 80.1 acres and is designed to reduce wildfire risk, enhance community safety, and improve ecological integrity. The project will implement minor alterations to vegetation through targeted hand thinning, chipping, and mechanical fuel removal. Treatments focus primarily on removing smaller-diameter trees, ladder fuels, and brush, without significant soil disturbance or extensive removal of mature healthy scenic trees. This effort directly benefits students, staff, and residents by improving defensible space around school facilities, reducing wildfire hazards, and enhancing overall forest health.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of South Lake Tahoe

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department

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: Section 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines §15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land) because it involves minor alterations to vegetation and fuels management practices that will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment. Specifically, activities include targeted hand thinning, chipping, and mechanical removal of understory vegetation and smaller-diameter trees to reduce wildfire risk and enhance forest health. The project explicitly avoids significant grading, earth-moving activities, and extensive removal of mature, healthy, or scenic trees. Furthermore, no sensitive species, habitats, or cultural resources will be adversely impacted. Therefore, the project meets all criteria for exemption under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Jay Manning Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-307-3953

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: [Signature] Date: 6/27/2025 Title: DIVISION CHIEF

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: _____