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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	CAL FIRE Kneeland Helitack Base Land Acqusition		
PROJECT LOCATION	CA- Highway 299 and Snow Camp Road – Lord Ellis Summit	**COUNTY**	Humboldt
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Christina Snow		
ADDRESS	1131 S Street Sacramento, CA 95811	**PHONE**	(916) 216-0553

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE is proposing to purchase property located at the junction of California State Highway 299 and Snow Camp Road at Lord Ellis Summit (also known as Bald Mountain) in Humboldt County. The acquisition will include the following assessor parcel umbers (APNs) and acreages: APN 316-111-006-000 (24 acres), APN 316-116-001-000 (41.5 acres), 316-115-006 (56 acres), and 316-112-030-000 (11.5 acres). Total acreage is approximately 133 acres and will be purchased to serve as the future site for relocating the Kneeland Helitack Base.

No improvements are proposed at this time.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Common Sense Review for Exemption §15061 (b)(3)

☐ 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

The acquisition activity is exempt under the common-sense exemption in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15061, subdivision (b)(3). This exemption states, a project is exempt from CEQA "[w]here it can be seen that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment the activity is not subject to CEQA." The land acquisition agreements that transfer ownership to the State do not have the potential to cause significant effects on the environment.

Any future approval of any use of the site is conditioned upon full CEQA compliance per California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Section 15004, Subdivision (b)(2)(A), which states prior to completion of CEQA compliance regarding the use of a site, "agencies may designate a preferred site for CEQA review and may enter into land acquisition agreements when the agency has conditioned the agency's future use of the site on CEQA compliance." Documentation of the environmental review completed by CAL FIRE is kept on file at 1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
John Melvin
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9/8/2025

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