

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): _____
Nevada County Resource Conservation District

County Clerk
County of: Nevada
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

(Address)

Project Title: PG&E Charitable Donation - Defensible Space Assistance Program

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:
19175 Applejack Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95949; 17415 Norlene Way, Grass Valley, CA

Project Location - City: Grass Valley, Nevada City Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The program is designed to assist vulnerable property owners by reducing hazardous vegetation and establishing defensible space in accordance with Public Resources Code (PRC) §4291 and Nevada County Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance standards.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Nevada County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nathan Alcorn

- 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: _____
 - Statutory Exemptions. State code number: PRC 21080.49 (b) & 21080.49 (c)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Statutory Exemption under Public Resource Code (PRC) 21080.49(b) and 21080.49(c). Pursuant to Section 21080.49(b) this project consists of "defensible space" fire clearance of up to 100 feet, as measured from the center line of the roadway, for a public roadway identified as an egress and evacuation route for a subdivision or community of 30 or more dwelling units, to remove flammable vegetation or trees of less than 12 inches in diameter as measured at chest height. Also pursuant to Section 21080.49(c), this project consists of the establishment or enhancement of residential home hardening or defensible space for wildfire risk reduction within 200 feet of a legal structure located in a high or very high wildfire hazard zone. The project involves removal of an abundance of small-diameter understorey trees and brush species adjacent to habitable structures to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels, reduce wildfire intensity and severity near developed communities, and to comply with PRC 4291 and local ordinances. Field review by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District Forester confirmed that fuel clearance in the project area is required to reduce hazardous fuel conditions adjacent to habitable structures for the safety of the public and emergency responders. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor treatments to vegetation in the form of hand thinning and chipping. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state and are not considered healthy. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, nor do they cause sedimentation to surface waters. This project will not convert forestland to non-forest uses, and all treated vegetation will have the ability to grow back. The Nevada County Resource Conservation District has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildlife. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the department is kept on file at the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, located at 113 Presley Way, suite 1, Grass Valley CA. The NCRCD Board of Directors has authorized staff to file appropriate documentation and furthermore make a determination that the current fuel overgrowth poses a significant threat to Nevada County communities and that it is an urgent priority to implement wildfire mitigation projects to protect life, property and

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Nathan Alcorn Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-263-9490

- 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: Nathan Alcorn Date: 2/27/2026 Title: Program Director

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.