



State of California  
 The Natural Resources Agency  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project - Good Neighbor Authority

**PROJECT LOCATION** The project area is located on Pine Mountain between Highway 33 and Reyes Peak, directly on the boundary of the Ojai and the Mt. Pinos Ranger Districts of the Los Padres National Forest. Located in Ventura County, California (San Bernardino Meridian), the project area runs from east to west along Pine Mountain, approximately 3 miles south of the community of Camp Scheideck, California, which is identified as a community at risk in the 2006 Mt. Pinos Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The legal description for the project is: part of section 12 in Township 7 North, Range 23 West; parts of sections 35 and 36 in Township 7 North, Range 24 West; parts of sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 in Township 6 North, Range 23 West; part of sections 1 and 2 in Township 6 North, Range 24 West. Approximately 41 percent of the project lies within the Sespe-Frazier Inventoried Roadless Area. There are no wilderness areas within the project area. However, the Sespe Wilderness lies northeast and adjacent to the project area, the Matilija Wilderness lies to the southwest, and the Dick Smith Wilderness lies northwest of the project area.

**COUNTY** Ventura

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)  
 San Luis Obispo Unit

**CONTACT** SLU Unit Forester David Erickson

**PHONE** 805-543-4244

**ADDRESS** 100 Cross Street, Suite 101  
 San Luis Obispo, Ca 93407

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will implement hazardous tree felling and prescribed burn preparation activities, including brushing, chipping, and containment line construction, on the Los Padres National Forest over 755 acres, consistent with the NEPA decision listed below.

Under 16 UCS 2113a, the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) enables CAL FIRE to use its standard procedures, policies, and contracting mechanisms to accomplish authorized restoration work on federal lands. For this project, work will be consistent with Good Neighbor Authority Agreement South & Central #25-GN-11052007-008, signed 9/12/2025.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section:
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): **Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)**
- 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 proposed project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with the provisions in Public Resources Code 4799.05(d)(1). It states: "Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.) if either of the following is satisfied: (A) The primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. (B) A state or local

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agency is undertaking those projects pursuant to the federal Good Neighbor Authority (Public Law 113-79) 1 or a stewardship agreement with the federal government entered pursuant to Public Law 113-79.”

All work coordinated in conjunction with the Los Padres National Forest are included in Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project NEPA decision. This decision can be found here

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/lospadres/newsroom/releases/los-padres-issues-decision-memo-reyes-peak-project>

The Good Neighbor Authority Agreement is kept on file at the Sacramento Headquarters Office at 715 P St. Sacramento, CA 95814.

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**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:

*Mike Van Loben Sels*

4/23/2026

**Mike Van Loben Sels, Region Chief, Southern Region**  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date