



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk, County of Fresno
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

FILED

MAY 22 2026

TIME
11:11am

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK

BY

DEPUTY

For County Clerk's Stamp

FROM: Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare Street (corner of Tulare and "M") Suite "A", Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT TITLE: Environmental Review No. 8895 – California Climate Investments Hazardous Tree Removal

PROJECT APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Fresno County Water and Natural Resources Division

PROJECT LOCATION – COUNTY: The project site is located in Eastern Fresno County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The proposed project will consist of the removal of hazardous dead or dying trees along Jose Basin Road and Italian Bar Road that pose a public hazard and threaten safe ingress and egress. The project is approximately 15 miles long and includes a project boundary of approximately 524.70 acres. Hazard trees will be assessed and marked by, or under the direct supervision of, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for removal. RPFs will also run a query through the California Natural Diversity Database for the project area for rare plants and animals, if any. Biological and Botanical surveys for these species will be done in concurrence with project layout, and will be flagged and avoided, if applicable. The RPFs, with CAL FIRE's approval, will request a records search for the known archaeological sites within and around the project area, and flag sites to be avoided, if applicable. Watercourse and wet areas will be flagged and buffered per California Forest Practice Rules with equipment limitation and exclusion zones as appropriate. When working on U.S. Forest Service land, the RPFs will work with District employees to ensure compliance with federal regulations. The project footprint includes U.S. Forest Service, private, and utilities parcels.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Fresno County Board of Supervisors

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Fresno County Public Works and Planning, Water and Natural Resources

EXEMPT STATUS: Statutory Exemption – 15269(c) Emergency Projects; Categorical Exemption - Section 15301(h) Existing Facilities, Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs.

REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The project is subject to a statutory exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) (Emergency Projects) as the proposed activities involve the removal of hazardous dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health, safety, and welfare along existing roadways used for public access and emergency ingress and egress. The project is intended to reduce wildfire hazards and minimize risks associated with tree failure within the project area.

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The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(h) (Existing Facilities), which exempts the maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs. The proposed work consists of vegetation management and removal of hazardous trees within existing disturbed roadway corridors and does not involve the expansion of existing facilities or uses.

Further, the project includes measures to avoid impacts to biological, cultural, and water resources through preconstruction review, resource flagging, and establishment of avoidance buffers, as applicable. The project will not negatively affect scenic resources or wetland habitats (USFW), nor will it expose people or the environment to hazardous waste materials. As such, no significant adverse environmental or cumulative impacts were identified.

LEAD AGENCY

CONTACT PERSON: Alyce Alvarez

AREA CODE/TELEPHONE: (559) 600-9669

If filed by the 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: _____



Tawanda Mtunga, Principal Planner

Date: _____



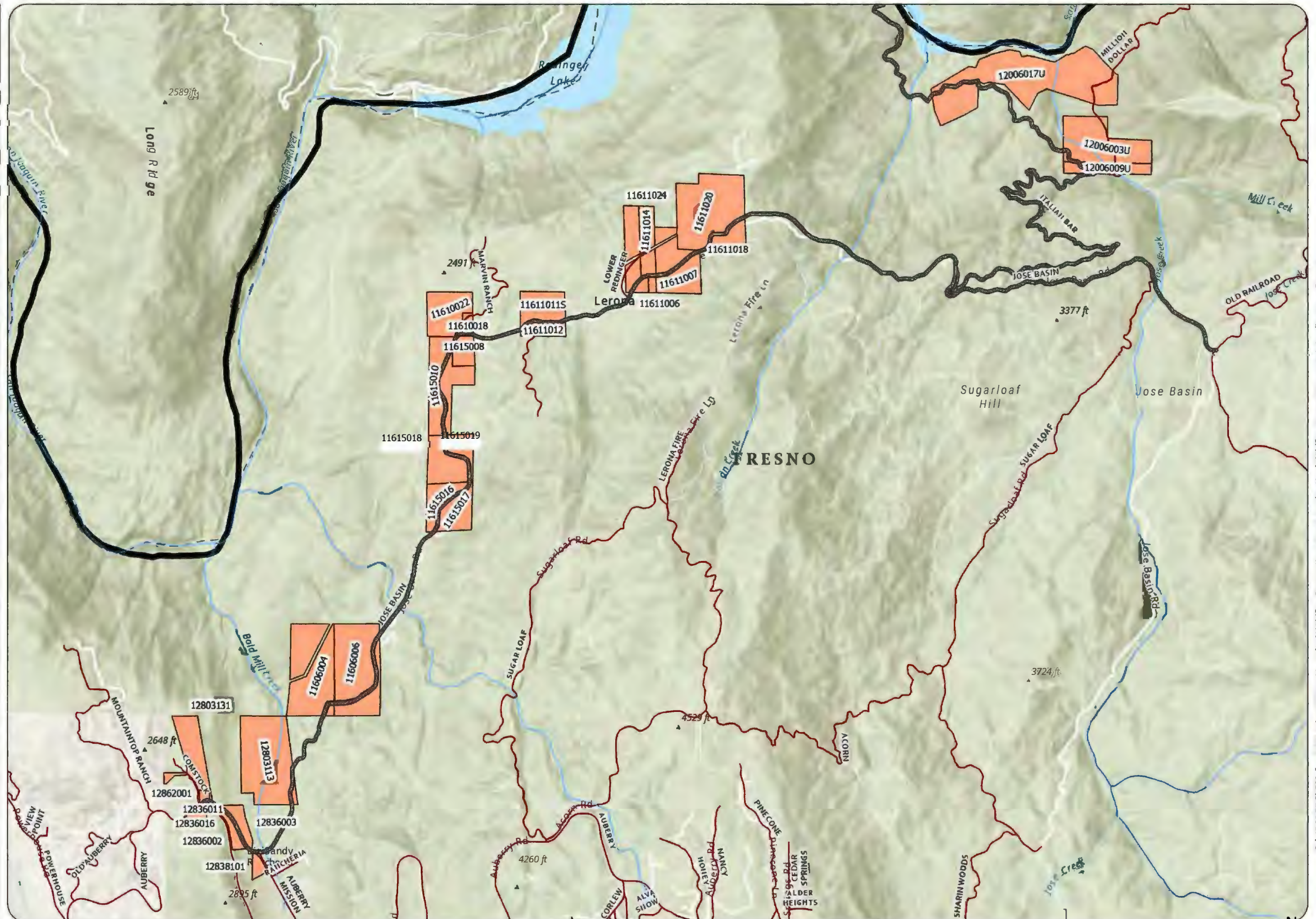
Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant



Legend

-  Waterways
-  Street
-  FRESNO COUNTY
-  Private and Utility parcels
-  County Maintained Roads
-  Jose Basin and Italian Bar Roads



PRIVATE AND UTILITY PARCELS ALONG JOSE BASIN & ITALIAN BAR ROADS

