

# 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: Nevada

950 Malcu Ave

Nevada City, CA 95959

From: (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_  
Tahoe Truckee Unified School District  
\_\_\_\_\_  
11603 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee, CA 96161

(Address)

Project Title: Donner Trail Fuels Reduction 2026

Project Applicant: Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

Project Location - Specific:

52755 Donner Pass Rd., Kingvale, CA.

Project Location - City: Kingvale

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The treatment area includes 2.6 acres on the west side of this 4.5 acre parcel where the dominant tree species is Lodgepole Pine where the stand is excessively dense. The purpose of the project is to decrease the wildfire danger through reducing contiguous levels of flammable fuels. The project's prescription includes manual thinning of small diameter conifers and shrubs. Beneficiaries of the project include the students and staff of the Donner Trail Elementary, the residents of the surrounding community, and the property that could be lost in the event of a wildfire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tahoe Truckee Unified School District

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: Class 4, 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4. This exemption applies to minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves selective removal of suppressed, small-diameter understory trees and brush species through methods including hand thinning and broadcast chipping. These activities are specifically designed to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels adjacent to the community, significantly lowering wildfire risk. All vegetation treatment will retain the ability for natural regrowth, and the project will not result in the conversion of forestland to non-forest uses. A field review was conducted by the Truckee Fire Protection District Forester, who confirmed that the vegetation targeted for removal is in poor health and does not include any healthy, mature, or scenic trees. The review further determined that fuel reduction in the project area is critical and necessary for public and firefighter safety, particularly given current hazardous fuel loads. The proposed activities do not involve: The taking or disturbance of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species; Sedimentation or adverse impacts to surface waters; Any action that would trigger an exception to the use of a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Pat McKechnie Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-308-1128

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:  Date: May 28, 2026 Title: Maintenance Coordinator

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_