Print Form

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: Alpine, Amador, El Dorado

From: (Public Agency): Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
15083 Comanche Parkway South, Valley Springs, CA 95252
(Address)

Project Title: Amador Aspen Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Project Location - Specific:
Amador Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest

Project Location - City: NA Project Location - County: Alpine, Amador, El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Amador Aspen Restoration Project will restore five clusters of aspen stands, totaling 604 acres of aspen, by removing encroaching and overtopping conifers, selectively girdling conifers, installing temporary fencing, and implementing prescribed fire treatments. The project also will erect temporary fencing generally around individual or small groups of aspen suckers within an additional 124 acres of aspen that are heavily browsed, for a total proposed project area of 728 acres. The project was designed by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) in cooperation with the Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District (ARD) and the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). The project objectives are to reestablish historic aspen stands and promote regeneration and sustainability of aspen stands that are currently either limited in age classes, suppressed, stunted, or declining in acreage, or a combination of these conditions due to conifer encroachment, overtopping, intense herbivory , and suppression of wildfire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority, JPA

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Richard Sykes

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: 15304 and 15308
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is designed to protect and restore forest health and natural resources and nearby communities from high severity wildfire. The Forest Service completed all required NEPA compliance for the proposed activities. A NEPA Categorical Exclusion document was prepared for the project. The NEPA Lead Agency (Forest Service) determined this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of Public Law 91-190 (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as Forest and Grassland Management Activities with a Primary Purpose of Meeting Restoration Objectives or Increasing Resilience (36 CFR § 220.6(e)(25)). There are no extraordinary circumstances that warrant further analysis and documentation in an Initial Study or EIR.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Karen Quidachay Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-903-0116

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: Richard Sykes Date: June 1, 2026 Title: Executive Officer, UMRWA

▪ 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: _____

POST 30 DAYS
POSTED: 05-22-2026
REMOVE: 06-21-2026

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Alpine County Clerk
P.O. Box 158
Markleeville, CA
96120

From: UMRWA
15083 Camanche Pkwy. South
Valley Springs, CA 95252
karenq.landmark@outlook.com

Project Title: Amador Aspen Restoration Project

Project Location-Specific:
Eldorado National Forest, Amador County, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed, east of Pioneer, California.

Project Location-City:
Amador Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest/North of Highway 88.

Project Location-County:
Alpine, Amador and El Dorado Counties

"Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Amador Aspen Restoration Project will restore five clusters of aspen stands, totaling 604 acres of aspen, by removing encroaching and overtopping conifers, selectively girdling conifers, installing temporary fencing, and implementing prescribed fire treatments. The project also will erect temporary fencing generally around individual or small groups of aspen suckers within an additional 124 acres of aspen that are heavily browsed, for a total proposed project area of 728 acres. The project was designed by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) in cooperation with the Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District (ARD) and the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). The project objectives are to reestablish historic aspen stands and promote regeneration and sustainability of aspen stands that are currently either limited in age classes, suppressed, stunted, or declining in acreage, or a combination of these conditions due to conifer encroachment, overtopping, intense herbivory[1], and suppression of wildfire.

There is a need to encourage aspen regeneration, improve aspen health, increase stand size, and develop multiple age classes in order to reduce high-intensity fire risk to aspen stands and adjacent forest areas, and restore the natural fuel breaks provided by this more mesic vegetation community[2] (Bigler et al. 2005). In addition, there is a need to promote health and resilience of aspen stands in order to reduce the likelihood of loss of this important tree species and the unique communities it supports.

The project's aspen stands are situated entirely within National Forest System lands administered by ARD within El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties, California. The project is southwest of Lake Tahoe and east of Jackson, in the vicinity of the Highway 88 corridor at the headwaters of the Mokelumne, Cosumnes and South Fork American Rivers. The aspen stands proposed for treatment are situated above 7,000 feet elevation, in three headwater areas of statewide significance, supplying water to over 1.3 million downstream users.

The Forest Service determined this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of Public Law 91-190 (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as *Forest and Grassland Management Activities with a Primary Purpose of Meeting Restoration Objectives or Increasing Resilience* (36 CFR § 220.6(e)(25)). The Forest Service prepared the Amador Aspen Restoration Project Decision Memo in compliance with regulations pertaining to categorically excluded projects under purview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. The Decision Memo was signed by the Forest Supervisor, the Responsible Official, on May 18, 2026.

FILED

MAY 22 2026

TEOLA L TREMAYNE, ALPINE COUNTY CLERK

BY michelle minden

[1] Herbivory refers to the act of an animal consuming plant material.

[2] A mesic community is an ecological community with a moderate or well-balanced amount of moisture throughout the growing season.

Name of Person or Agency Approving and Carrying Out Project:

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Exempt Status: (Check One)

__Ministerial

__Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a)) __Emergency Project (Sec. 1507l(a) and (c))

_X_Categorical Exemption

K._Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land); Sec15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of Natural Resources); Sec 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment)

___Other:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is designed to restore forest health and protect natural resources and nearby communities from high severity wildfire. The Forest Service completed all required NEPA compliance for the proposed activities.

Contact Person Richard Sykes, Executive Officer
Area Code/Telephone
(510) 390-4035

Richard Sykes, Executive Officer

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Amador County Clerk
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

From: UMRWA
15083 Camanche Pkwy. South
Valley Springs, CA 95252
kareng.landmark@outlook.com

Project Title: Amador Aspen Restoration Project

Project Location-Specific:
Eldorado National Forest, Amador County, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed, east of Pioneer, California.

Project Location-City:
Amador Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest/North of Highway 88.

Project Location-County:
Alpine, Amador and El Dorado Counties

"Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Amador Aspen Restoration Project will restore five clusters of aspen stands, totaling 604 acres of aspen, by removing encroaching and overtopping conifers, selectively girdling conifers, installing temporary fencing, and implementing prescribed fire treatments. The project also will erect temporary fencing generally around individual or small groups of aspen suckers within an additional 124 acres of aspen that are heavily browsed, for a total proposed project area of 728 acres. The project was designed by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) in cooperation with the Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District (ARD) and the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). The project objectives are to reestablish historic aspen stands and promote regeneration and sustainability of aspen stands that are currently either limited in age classes, suppressed, stunted, or declining in acreage, or a combination of these conditions due to conifer encroachment, overtopping, intense herbivory[1], and suppression of wildfire.

There is a need to encourage aspen regeneration, improve aspen health, increase stand size, and develop multiple age classes in order to reduce high-intensity fire risk to aspen stands and adjacent forest areas, and restore the natural fuel breaks provided by this more mesic vegetation community[2] (Bigler et al. 2005). In addition, there is a need to promote health and resilience of aspen stands in order to reduce the likelihood of loss of this important tree species and the unique communities it supports.

The project's aspen stands are situated entirely within National Forest System lands administered by ARD within El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties, California. The project is southwest of Lake Tahoe and east of Jackson, in the vicinity of the Highway 88 corridor at the headwaters of the Mokelumne, Cosumnes and South Fork American Rivers. The aspen stands proposed for treatment are situated above 7,000 feet elevation, in three headwater areas of statewide significance, supplying water to over 1.3 million downstream users.

The Forest Service determined this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of Public Law 91-190 (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as *Forest and Grassland Management Activities with a Primary Purpose of Meeting Restoration Objectives or Increasing Resilience* (36 CFR § 220.6(e)(25)). The Forest Service prepared the Amador Aspen Restoration Project Decision Memo in compliance with regulations pertaining to categorically excluded projects under purview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. The Decision Memo was signed by the Forest Supervisor, the Responsible Official, on May 18, 2026.

File No 0305222026
Posted On 05-22-2026
Posting Removed _____

ENDORSED
FILED

MAY 22 2026

KIMBERLY L. GRADY, County Clerk
AMADOR COUNTY
By A. HANNA Deputy

[1] Herbivory refers to the act of an animal consuming plant material.

[2] A mesic community is an ecological community with a moderate or well-balanced amount of moisture throughout the growing season.

Name of Person or Agency Approving and Carrying Out Project:

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Exempt Status: (Check One)

__Ministerial

__Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a)) __Emergency Project (Sec. 1507l(a) and (c))

_X_Categorical Exemption

K._Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land); Sec15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of Natural Resources); Sec 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment)

___Other:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is designed to restore forest health and protect natural resources and nearby communities from high severity wildfire. The Forest Service completed all required NEPA compliance for the proposed activities.

Contact Person Richard Sykes, Executive Officer
Area Code/Telephone
(510) 390-4035

Richard Sykes, Executive Officer

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: El Dorado County Clerk
360 Fair Lane Road
Placerville, CA 95667

From: UMRWA
15083 Camanche Pkwy. South
Valley Springs, CA 95252
kareng.landmark@outlook.com

Project Title: Amador Aspen Restoration Project

Project Location-Specific:
Eldorado National Forest, Amador County, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed, east of Pioneer, California.

Project Location-City:
Amador Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest/North of Highway 88.

Project Location-County:
Alpine, Amador and El Dorado Counties

"Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Amador Aspen Restoration Project will restore five clusters of aspen stands, totaling 604 acres of aspen, by removing encroaching and overtopping conifers, selectively girdling conifers, installing temporary fencing, and implementing prescribed fire treatments. The project also will erect temporary fencing generally around individual or small groups of aspen suckers within an additional 124 acres of aspen that are heavily browsed, for a total proposed project area of 728 acres. The project was designed by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) in cooperation with the Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District (ARD) and the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). The project objectives are to reestablish historic aspen stands and promote regeneration and sustainability of aspen stands that are currently either limited in age classes, suppressed, stunted, or declining in acreage, or a combination of these conditions due to conifer encroachment, overtopping, intense herbivory[1], and suppression of wildfire.

There is a need to encourage aspen regeneration, improve aspen health, increase stand size, and develop multiple age classes in order to reduce high-intensity fire risk to aspen stands and adjacent forest areas, and restore the natural fuel breaks provided by this more mesic vegetation community[2] (Bigler et al. 2005). In addition, there is a need to promote health and resilience of aspen stands in order to reduce the likelihood of loss of this important tree species and the unique communities it supports.

The project's aspen stands are situated entirely within National Forest System lands administered by ARD within El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties, California. The project is southwest of Lake Tahoe and east of Jackson, in the vicinity of the Highway 88 corridor at the headwaters of the Mokelumne, Cosumnes and South Fork American Rivers. The aspen stands proposed for treatment are situated above 7,000 feet elevation, in three headwater areas of statewide significance, supplying water to over 1.3 million downstream users.

The Forest Service determined this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of Public Law 91-190 (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as *Forest and Grassland Management Activities with a Primary Purpose of Meeting Restoration Objectives or Increasing Resilience* (36 CFR § 220.6(e)(25)). The Forest Service prepared the Amador Aspen Restoration Project Decision Memo in compliance with regulations pertaining to categorically excluded projects under purview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. The Decision Memo was signed by the Forest Supervisor, the Responsible Official, on May 18, 2026.

FILED
MAY 27 2026
JANELLE K. HORNE, Recorder-Clerk
By L Rogers

[1] Herbivory refers to the act of an animal consuming plant material.

[2] A mesic community is an ecological community with a moderate or well-balanced amount of moisture throughout the growing season.

Name of Person or Agency Approving and Carrying Out Project:

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Exempt Status: (Check One)

__Ministerial

__Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a)) __Emergency Project (Sec. 1507l(a) and (c))

_X_Categorical Exemption

K._Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land); Sec15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of Natural Resources); Sec 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment)

___Other:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is designed to restore forest health and protect natural resources and nearby communities from high severity wildfire. The Forest Service completed all required NEPA compliance for the proposed activities.

Contact Person Richard Sykes, Executive Officer
Area Code/Telephone
(510) 390-4035

Richard Sykes, Executive Officer