



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

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Castle Fire Ecological Restoration Project		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Western Divide Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest 32588 Highway 190 Springville, CA 932656	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tulare
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) TULARE Unit		
<b>CONTACT</b>	David Shy, Unit Forester 1968 S. Lovers Ln. Visalia, CA 93292	<b>PHONE</b>	(559)280-5077
<b>ADDRESS</b>			

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) will implement mechanical fuels treatments, dead tree removal, manual piling, and assist in prescribed burn unit preparation across 39,335 acres of the Sequoia National Forest. Treatments will take place within the perimeter of the Castle Fire footprint and will support the ecological restoration of the severely damaged forest lands. Project treatments will support not only ecological restoration but will help reduce fuel loading in and around the wildland urban interface.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

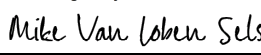
- Categorical Exemption Type and Section:
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): **Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)**
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

The proposed project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Public Resources Code (PRC) § 4799.05(d)(1). This exemption applies to wildfire and fuel reduction projects on federal lands that have undergone NEPA review, provided a state or local agency is involved through funding, staffing, or a Good Neighbor Authority agreement.

All work planned on the Sequoia National Forest follows the Castle Fire Ecological Restoration NEPA decision signed 12/28/2023. A physical copy is located at CAL FIRE Tulare Unit Headquarters located at 1968 S. Lovers Ln. Visalia, CA 93292.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

DocuSigned by:  
  
 6/3/2026  
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 Mike van Loben Sels, Southern Region Chief  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection