

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

120 TOMA COURT, SAN ANDREAS CA 95249

PROJECT TITLE	Douds Fuels Reduction Project – DAVIES Unit; USFS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT 23-CA-11051600-014		
PROJECT LOCATION	Three miles east of Avery, CA USGS - Stanislaus USGS 7.5 min quadrangle Portions of Section 17 T4N, R15E, MDBM; Lat/Long: 38.19822, -120.35266	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	Calaveras County Water District (CCWD)		
CONTACT	Michael Minkler		
ADDRESS	120 Toma Court, San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	(209) 754-3090

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Douds Fuels Reduction-Davies Unit Project ("Project") is approximately 3 miles east of Avery and in Calaveras County, CA. It will maintain a critical portion of the Highway 4 Wildfire Defense System which runs from Vallecito on the west to Camp Connell on the east. This project will treat flammable fuels with herbicides on approximately 163 acres on the rim of the North Fork Stanislaus River Canyon on the land of Ina Davies Properties, LLC, POB 102, Avery CA 95224 c/o Mary Fowler.

The elevation range is between 3,200 and 3,800 feet. Reducing fuels in the project area will provide protection to the Highway 4 communities from fires emanating from the North Fork Stanislaus River Canyon (historical fire patterns). The project area is located within the Cal Water Hydrologic Unit 18040010; Stanislaus River. Situated on the rim of the North Fork Stanislaus River, the project is integral to the Highway 4 Strategic Wildfire Defense System.

The project area proposes to apply herbicide on approximately 163 acres of private land to maintain the Last Chance Fuelbreak. The site includes a mixture of Sierran hardwood and conifer species. The fuels reduction treatment will occur as follows:

- Herbicide will not be applied inside the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone;
- All herbicide applications will follow California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and label directions;
- Herbicide will be applied by manual (hand) methods, prescribed by a licensed Pest Control Advisor.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1), 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA. An environmental review was conducted to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included on-the-ground field inspections by a Registered Professional Forester in the Spring of 2026. Project input was solicited to CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board; no project-related input was received from either Agency.

The Calaveras County Water District has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, wildfire or to utilities and service systems.

Documentation of the environmental review completed by CCWD is kept on file at 120 Toma Court, San Andreas, CA 95249.

(ENDORSED)
FILED

County of Calaveras
Rebecca Turner
County Clerk-Recorder

05-2026-045

06/16/2026


ssimpson, Deputy Clerk

 6/16/26
MICHAEL MINKLER, CCWD GENERAL MANAGER DATE

**2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT**

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:

05-2026-045

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL mminkler@ccwd.org	DATE 06/16/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING CALAVERAS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE

DOUDS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT - DAVIES UNIT; USFS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT 23-CA-11051600-014

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL mminkler@ccwd.org	PHONE NUMBER (209) 754-3090
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 120 TOMA CT	CITY SAN ANDREAS	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95249

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☒ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227.50	\$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$ _____

☒ Exempt from fee☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
☐ County documentary handling fee		\$ _____
☐ Other		\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other**TOTAL RECEIVED** \$ _____ \$0.00

SIGNATURE

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Stacy Simpson, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder