

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: Fresno

2281 Tulare Street

Fresno CA 93721

From: (Public Agency): Sierra Resource Conservation District
PO Box 693
Auberry CA 93602

(Address)

Project Title: Upper San Joaquin Kaiser East Protection Project

Project Applicant: Sierra Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

Township 7S, Range 25E and 26E. Township 8S, Range 25 E and 26E. Mount Diablo

Project Location - City: Lakeshore Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Upper San Joaquin Kaiser East Protection Project is a forest health, fire protection, and watershed protection project for the Sierra National Forest, Southern California Edison, adjacent communities, and communities downstream the San Joaquin upper watershed. Treatments include fuel reduction, thinning, removal of dead or infested trees, piling, chipping, pruning, mastication, biomass utilization, herbicide, prescribed and cultural fire, and reforestation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Resource Conservation 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: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

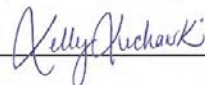
CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, thinning, reforestation, and habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a State or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. This project was reviewed under the NEPA Kaiser East Decision Memo, signed April 8th 2026. The NEPA record of decision is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/sierra/projects/65402>

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kelly Kucharski Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-855-5840

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: 06/19/2026 Title: District Manager

• 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: _____