

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Nevada County Resource Conservation District
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley CA, 95945

County Clerk

County of: Nevada County

(Address)

Project Title: Donner Summit Firewise Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

Project Applicant: Nevada County RCD

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located along Hampshire Rocks Road, between Cisco Grove 39°18'41.6

Project Location - City: Soda Springs

Project Location - County: Placer/ Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Donner Summit Roadside Fuels Reduction Project will reduce hazardous wildfire fuels along approximately 40 acres of critical roadside corridors serving the communities of Eagle Lakes, Cisco Grove, Big Bend, Rainbow, Troy, Pta Vado, and Kingsvale in eastern Nevada County. The project consists of selective hand thinning, removal of ladder fuels, pruning, and treatment of dead and downed vegetation within existing roadside rights-of-way to establish shaded fuel breaks that improve emergency access, evacuation routes, and firefighter safety while reducing the risk of high-intensity wildfire. Vegetation will be treated using hand crews, with cut material chipped, piled, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with applicable environmental requirements. All work will occur within previously disturbed roadside corridors, with no new road construction or significant ground disturbance proposed. Any remaining material that cannot be chipped will be log-end-scattered on site. This project helps actively manage the land with no negative impacts, creating a landscape that is more resilient and resistant to high intensity wildfires.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Nevada County RCD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nathan Alcorn

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 DONNER SUMMIT ROADSIDE FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT QUALIFIES FOR THE CEQA CLASS 4 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION (CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15304 - MINOR ALTERATIONS TO LAND) BECAUSE THE PROPOSED WORK CONSISTS OF MINOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN EXISTING ROADSIDE CORRIDORS TO REDUCE HAZARDOUS FUELS, IMPROVE EMERGENCY ACCESS, AND ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY WITHOUT SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERING THE LAND OR ITS NATURAL FEATURES. PROJECT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE SELECTIVE REMOVAL OF BRUSH, UNDERSTORY VEGETATION, SMALL-DIAMETER TREES, LADDER FUELS, AND DEAD OR DYING VEGETATION, ALONG WITH LIMBING RETAINED TREES AND TREATING VEGETATIVE DEBRIS THROUGH CHIPPING OR PILING. NO NEW ROADS, STRUCTURES, OR SIGNIFICANT GRADING ARE PROPOSED, AND ANY SOIL DISTURBANCE WILL BE MINOR AND INCIDENTAL TO IMPLEMENTATION. THE PROJECT PROPONENT EVALUATED THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE USE OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS UNDER CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15300.2 AND DETERMINED THAT NONE APPLY. THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN PREVIOUSLY DISTURBED ROADSIDE RIGHTS-OF-WAY, INCORPORATES AVOIDANCE MEASURES TO PROTECT BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, WILL NOT RESULT IN CUMULATIVE OR UNUSUAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT SCENIC RESOURCES OR DESIGNATED SCENIC HIGHWAYS, IS NOT LOCATED ON A HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE, AND WILL NOT CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL ADVERSE CHANGE TO ANY HISTORICAL OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE. THEREFORE, THE PROJECT QUALIFIES FOR THE CLASS 4 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION, AND A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION WILL BE FILED UPON PROJECT APPROVAL.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Nathan Alcorn

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-263-9490

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:

Nathan Alcorn

Date:

7/28/26

Title:

Executive Director

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.