



E202610000271
County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk, County of Fresno
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

FILED

SEP 03 2026

TIME *9:58am*

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

For County Clerk's Stamp

FROM: Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare Street (corner of Tulare and "M") Suite "A", Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT TITLE: Environmental Review No. 8975 – California Climate Investments Hazardous Tree Removal

PROJECT APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Fresno County Water and Natural Resources Division

PROJECT LOCATION – COUNTY: The project site is located in Eastern Fresno County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The proposed project will consist of the removal of hazardous dead, dying, or diseased trees along Huntington Lake Road, Camp Sierra Road, Huntington Lodge Road, and within communities in Zone 10 (see attached map) that pose a public hazard, threaten safe ingress and egress, or threaten habitable structures. The project is approximately 19 miles long and includes a project boundary of approximately 470 acres. Standing dead hazard trees will be assessed and marked by, or under the direct supervision of, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for removal. Watercourse and wet areas will be flagged and buffered per California Forest Practice Rules with equipment limitation and exclusion zones as appropriate. The project footprint includes U.S. Forest Service and utilities parcels. While working on U.S. Forest Service land, County staff and RPFs will work directly with District employees to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Fresno County Board of Supervisors

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Fresno County Public Works and Planning, Water and Natural Resources

EXEMPT STATUS: Statutory Exemption – 15269(c) Emergency Projects; Categorical Exemption - Section 15301(h) Existing Facilities, Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs.

REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The project is subject to a statutory exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) (Emergency Projects) as the proposed activities involve the removal of hazardous dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health, safety, and welfare along existing roadways used for public access and emergency ingress and egress. The project is intended to reduce wildfire hazards and minimize risks associated with tree failure within the project area.

The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(h) (Existing Facilities), which exempts the maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs. The proposed work consists of vegetation management and removal of hazardous trees within existing disturbed roadway corridors and does not involve the expansion of existing facilities or uses.

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Further, the project includes measures to avoid impacts to biological, cultural, and water resources through preconstruction review, resource flagging, and establishment of avoidance buffers, as applicable. The project will not negatively affect scenic resources or wetland habitats, nor will it expose people or the environment to hazardous waste materials. As such, no significant adverse environmental or cumulative impacts were identified.

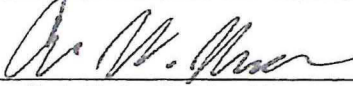
LEAD AGENCY

CONTACT PERSON: Kaite Bolton

AREA CODE/TELEPHONE: (559) 600-4205

If filed by the 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: 
Chris Motta, Division Manager

Date: 8/20/2025

- ☒ Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: _____
☐ Signed by Applicant

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Environmental Review No. ____: California Climate Investments Hazardous Tree Removal

PROJECT APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, Water and Natural Resources Division

LOCATION: Eastern Fresno County

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Removal of hazardous dead, dying, or diseased trees along Huntington Lake Road, Camp Sierra Road, Huntington Lodge Road, and within communities in Zone 10 (see attached map) that pose a public hazard, threaten safe ingress and egress, or threaten habitable structures. The project is approximately 19 miles long and includes a project boundary of approximately 470 acres. Standing dead hazard trees will be assessed and marked by, or under the direct supervision of, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for removal. Watercourse and wet areas will be flagged and buffered per California Forest Practice Rules with equipment limitation and exclusion zones as appropriate. The project footprint includes U.S. Forest Service and utilities parcels. While working on U.S. Forest Service land, County staff and RPFs will work directly with District employees to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Note: Two Environmental Review Applications will be submitted for this project. One Environmental Review Application will only include U.S. Forest Service parcels with NEPA on file. The second Environmental Review Application will only include Southern California Edison parcels.

Hazard trees will be felled, masticated in place, chipped and broadcasted, hauled off-site, or decked by Licensed Timber Operators. Smaller diameter trees and slash that is chipped and broadcasted will not to exceed 6" in depth.

These treatments will reduce the risk of hazards that may have an impact to surrounding communities, helping protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure while supporting a healthier, more resilient landscape. Funding for this project is provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

EXEMPT STATUS: Statutory Exemption – 15269(c) *Emergency Projects*; Categorical Exemption - Section 15301(h) *Existing Facilities*, Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs.

REASONS WHY THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The project is subject to a statutory exemption due to the hazardous nature of dead, dying, or diseased trees and excessive fuel loads. Additionally, it is categorically exempt under Section 15301(h). No cumulative impacts or

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significant effects were identified. No scenic resources or wetland habitats (USFW) will be negatively affected, and the project will not expose any people to hazardous waste materials.

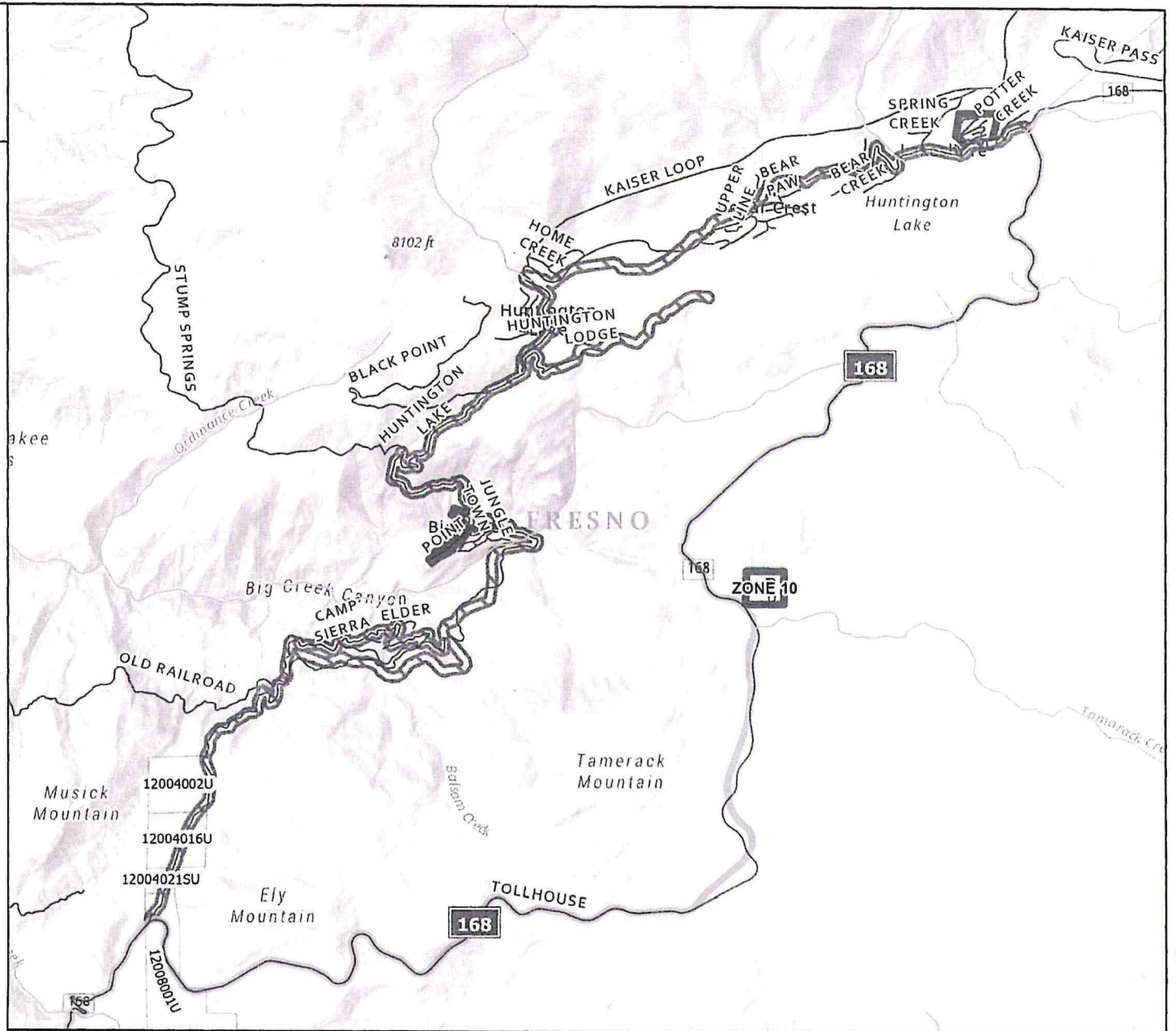


PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
COUNTY OF FRESNO

-  Waterways
-  Street
-  Highway
-  Proposed Roadside Clearance
-  SCE Parcels
-  Proposed Community Protection Zones



Miles



PROJECT NAME: 2025-26 Huntington Lake Road, Camp Sierra Road, & Huntington Lodge Road Hazardous Fuels Reduction, and Community Protection



7/29/2026

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