

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Placer County Water Agency

P.O. Box 6570

Auburn, CA 95604

(Public Agency and Address)

☒ County Clerk, County of: Placer, Eldorado

Project Title: Mosquito Wildfire Resilience Project

Project Location - Specific: The project area is located south of Mosquito Ridge from the Middle Fork of the American River to the Georgetown Divide, including the following legal land locations in all or portions of the listed sections: T. 12 N., R. 11 E., sections 1, 5; T. 12 N., R. 12 E., Sections 1 through 12; T. 12N., R. 13E., Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; T. 13N., R. 10E., Sections 11, 12 through 16, 22, thorough 28; T. 13N., R. 11E., Sections 1 through 36; T. 13N., R. 12E., Sections 1 through 36; T. 13N., R. 13E., Sections 1 through 10, 13, 14, 16 through 35, T. 13N., R. 14E., Sections 17 through 22, 27 through 30; T. 14N., R. 11E., Sections 35, 36 T. 14N., R. 12E., Sections 20-21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 through 36; T. 14N., R. 13E., Sections 1, 2, 10 through 12, 13 through 15, 20 through 36; T. 14N., R. 14E., Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31., Mount Diablo Meridian.

Project Location - City: Unincorporated area

Project Location - County: Placer, Eldorado

Description of Project: The Mosquito Wildfire Resilience Project proposes activities to directly address post-fire conditions associated with the Mosquito Fire and other activities to manage vegetation and reduce fuel loading within the fire footprint and surrounding area. Treatments would reduce hazardous fuel levels, remove dead and dying trees in accessible areas, regenerate tree cover, develop shaded fuel breaks and conduct maintenance on existing fuel breaks, treat invasive plant species, and perform roadwork and culvert replacement on NFS lands in portions of the Georgetown Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest. These actions align with the 1989 Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter Eldorado Forest Plan), as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment and the 2007 Sierra Nevada Forests Management Indicator Species Amendment (forest plan; USDA Forest Service 1989a and b, 2004b, and 2007).

The proposed action would use a combination of vegetation management treatments. Post-fire recovery planning includes consideration of priority treatment areas (totaling 6,295 acres), as well as conditions-based treatments intended to address needs of the larger post-fire landscape over the long term. Priority treatments are expected to be implemented in the first five years of the project. The conditions-based treatments will occur approximately within the subsequent 15 to 20 years, as needed to return ecosystems to desired conditions or moderate hazardous site conditions. All project activities will apply National Best Management Practices (USDA Forest Service 2012) and design features found in the final Environmental Assessment at the link referenced below.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

Placer County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Eldorado National Forest and Placer County Water Agency

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 Exemption. State code number: PRC Section 4799.05(d)

Reasons why project is exempt: CEQA Statutory Exemption (PRC Section 4799.05(d)) as extended by Assembly Bill

No. 211 (September 27, 2022): This bill, as extended, provides that, until January 1, 2028, under specified conditions, CEQA would not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Additionally, post-thinning herbicide, post-planted stand treatment herbicide, and post-mastication herbicide qualify as habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction under 4799.05(d) as these are related activities. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under the following Eldorado National Forest NEPA documents available at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/eldorado/projects/66160>

Lead Agency Darin Reintjes, Director of Resource
Contact Person: Management

Area Code/
Telephone/Extension: 530-823-4850

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: Heather Trejo Date: 9/17/26 Title: Environmental Scientist
Heather Trejo

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____