



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Cultural Fire Management Council, "Skey-wok kee' we Mech (It Needs Fire) Phase 1" - Sudden Oak Disease		
PROJECT LOCATION	Yurok Reservation; Township 11N, Range 3E, SE ¼ Section 28, SW ¼ Section 33, Humboldt Base and Meridian/ Township 10N, Range 3E, Sections 2,3,4, and N ½ Section 11, Humboldt Base and Meridian	COUNTY	Humboldt
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
LEAD AGENCY CONTACT	Shannon Johnson, Staff Chief PO Box 94426, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460 shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov	PHONE	530-338-8197
PROJECT PROPONENT	Cultural Fire Management Council		
PROJECT PROPONENT CONTACT	Margaret Robbins, Executive Director Site 10, Box 13, Hoopa, CA 95546 margo@culturalfire.org	PHONE	707-502-8654

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE is providing funding to the Cultural Fire Management Council to immediately treat Sudden Oak Death (SOD) across 1,999 acres of the Upper Yurok Reservation on Tribal Trust and Private Fee lands in Humboldt County. Proposed activities include site preparation through manual handlines and targeted mastication adjacent to existing fuel breaks and/or bulldozer lines, followed by prescribed fire, including pile and broadcast burning. These treatments are intended to reduce SOD spore loads and limit further spread. Without treatment, SOD could continue to expand across the landscape, causing additional oak mortality and compounding impacts to forest health fuels, and ecosystem resilience. Tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) is also a cornerstone of Yurok lifeways, supporting traditional food sovereignty, ceremonial practices, and cultural heritage; continued loss of tanoak would therefore result in both ecological and cultural impacts.

A portion of the 1,999-acre treatment area overlaps with the Skey-wok Kee' We Mech (It Needs Fire) Phase 1 Project, which includes cultural and prescribed fire and oak restoration treatments intended to restore native fish and wildlife habitat, reduce wildfire risk to local resources, and improve forest resilience. Pursuant to PRC Section 21080.53, this separate project received CDFW Director concurrence in December 2024.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

CEQA does not apply to fuel reduction, reforestation, & habitat restoration projects undertaken, in whole or in 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. The proposed project was reviewed under the Yurok Sudden Oak Death NEPA Categorical Exclusion (TR-4314-P5 J52), approved September 23, 2026.

The NEPA record of project approval is available to the General Public at: <https://www.culturalfire.org/compliance>

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

John Melvin

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

9/23/2026

Date