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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Blue Rush, 10S18 RTM - Good Neighbor Authority		
PROJECT LOCATION	Blue Canyon and Rush Creek, High Sierra Ranger District, Sierra National Forest Township 10 south, Range 24 east, Sec.11-13,24;Township 10 south, range 25 east, sec.1-35;Township 11 south, Range 25 east, Sec.2-10 and 16; and Township 10 south, Range 26 east, Sec.7,18,19,29,30	**COUNTY**	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fresno-Kings Unit		
CONTACT	Nick Kent, Forester II, Unit Forester		
ADDRESS	210 S. Academy Ave. Sanger, CA 93657	**PHONE**	(559) 246-4368

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will implement prescribed fire preparation, fireline creation, pile creation, pre-commercial thinning and release, prescribed burning including pile and broadcast burning, seedling release and fuel break creation and maintenance with herbicides, hazard tree removal, shaded fuel break creation and maintenance and fuel reduction using hand crews, masticator, excavator, and dozers on the Sierra National Forest over 4,837 acres, consistent with the NEPA decision listed below.

Under 16 UCS 2113a, the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) enables CAL FIRE to use its standard procedures, policies, and contracting mechanisms to accomplish authorized restoration work on federal lands. For this project, work will be consistent with Good Neighbor Authority Agreement Sierra Nevada #25-GN-11052007-009 signed 9/12/2025.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☐ Categorical Exemption Type and Section:
- ☒ Statutory Exemption (state code section): **Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)**
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with the provisions in Public Resoruces Code 4799.05(d)(1). It states: "Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.) if either of the following is satisfied: (A) The primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. (B) A state or local agency is undertaking those projects pursuant to the federal Good Neighbor Authority (Public Law 113-79) 1 or a stewardship agreement with the federal government entered pursuant to Public Law 113-79."

All work coordinated in conjunction with the Sierra National Forest are included in Blue Rush Project NEPA decision (December, 2017). This decision can be found here: Sierra National Forest | Project Summary (#53128) | Forest Service or at CAL FIRE Tollhouse Fire Center, 27444 Tollhouse Road, Tollhouse, CA 93667. The Good Neighbor Authority Agreement is kept on file at the Sacramento Headquarters Office at 715 P St. Sacramento, CA 95814.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
Mike Van Loben Sels
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9/29/2026

Mike van Loben Sels, Southern Region Chief — Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection