POST 30 DAYS
POSTED: 11/05/2026
REMOVE: 12/04/2026

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Alpine County Clerk
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FILED
NOV 05 2026
TEOLA L TREMAYNE, ALPINE COUNTY CLERK
BY

Project Title: Mokelumne Amador Calaveras (MAC) Forest Health and Resilience Project

Project Location-Specific:
Stanislaus National Forest (SNF), Upper Mokelumne River Watershed, Alpine County, California.

Project Location-City:
Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest

Project Location-County:
Alpine, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Mokelumne Amador Calaveras (MAC) Project spans both the Amador Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest and the Calaveras Ranger District on the Stanislaus National Forest. Although the environmental analysis for the Project is documented in a single, joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), implementation responsibilities are divided between the two forests. Accordingly, two separate Records of Decision (ROD) were issued—one by the Eldorado National Forest and one by the Stanislaus National Forest—each authorizing only those activities that occur within its respective administrative boundary. This CEQA NOE applies solely to the portion of the MAC Project located on the Stanislaus National Forest.

The following tables provide a brief summary of the forest thinning, fuel reduction, fuelbreak treatments, prescribed burning and associated road construction and native plant protection proposed as part of the project. Further descriptions of the proposed action can be found in the MAC Forest Health and Resilience Project Environmental Impact Statement and associated Record of Decision for the Stanislaus National Forest found at the link: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/stanislaus/projects/65796.

The project includes 37,224-acres of forest thinning treatments as described in the EIS Chapter 2.1A and EIS Table 3 (MAC SNF ROD Table 1, MAC ROD Map 1).

Table 1. Authorized Forest Thinning.

Treatment Type	Successional Class[1]	Other Forest	CSO PAC[2]	CSO Territory	IRA[3]	W&S River Eligible[4]	W&S River Suitable[4]	Project Total
Forest Thinning Slope <45%	Mid-Closed	11,312	859	3,710	0	4	0	15,881
	Late-Closed	12,308	1,088	3,465	0	1	0	16,857
	Total	**23,617**	**1,946**	**7,175**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**32,738**
Forest Thinning Slope >45%	Mid-Closed	1,262	190	525	0	10	0	1,978
	Late-Closed	1,344	350	815	0	18	0	2,508
	Total	**2,606**	**540**	**1,340**	**0**	**28**	**0**	**4,486**

The project includes 29,998-acres of mechanical fuel reduction treatments consistent with the description in the EIS Chapter 2.1 B and EIS Table 6 (MAC SNF ROD Table 3, MAC STF ROD Map 1).

Table 2. Authorized Fuel Reduction

Treatment Type	Other Forest	CSO PAC[2]	CSO Territory	IRA[3]	WSR Eligible[4]	WSR Suitable[4]	Project Total
Fuel Reduction	14,255	7,408	5,335	0	20	0	26,998

The project includes 10,677-acres of fuelbreak consistent with the description in the EIS Chapter 2.1 C and EIS Table 8 (MAC SNF ROD Table 4, MAC STF ROD Map 1).

Table 3. Authorized fuelbreak treatments.

Treatment Type	Other Forest	CSO PAC[2]	CSO Territory	IRA[3]	WSR Eligible[4]	W&S River	Project Total

						Suitable[4]	
Forest Thinning	**2,446**	**231**	**1,526**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4,203**
Fuel Reduction	3,450	824	1,631	0	0	0	5,906
Other[5]	357	75	137	251	0	121	569
Total	**6,253**	**1,130**	**3,294**	**251**	**0**	**121**	**10,677**

The project includes 123,631 acres of prescribed burning anywhere on national forest system (NFS) land within the MAC project area on the Calaveras Ranger District consistent with the description in the EIS Chapter 2.1 E (MAC SNF ROD, Map 1, ROD Table 5).

Table 4. Authorized prescribed fire.

Treatment Type	Other Forest	CSO PAC	CSO Territory	IRA[4]	W&S River Eligible[4]	W&S River Suitable[4]	Project Total
Follow-up Prescribed Fire	46,733	11,024	17,144	251	53	121	74,900
Additional Prescribed Fire	32,030	7,380	9,321	19,863	60	8,175	48,731
Total	**78,763**	**18,404**	**26,465**	**20,115**	**113**	**8,296**	**123,631[6]**

[1] See Appendix B, Table B-1

[2] PAC = Protected Activity Center

[3] Inventoried Roadless Areas

[4] IRA and Wild & Scenic River acres do not contribute to project total because they may overlap with CSO PAC, CSO Territory and Other Forest categories. Therefore, these acres are not mutually exclusive.

[5] "Other" = barren areas not needing any vegetation management, or areas with steep slopes where mechanical treatments are not feasible. In these areas, hand thinning may occur.

The project approves the use of herbicides (*glyphosate and triclopyr*) to maintain fuelbreaks on up to 300 acres per year under the MAC Project as described in the EIS Chapter 2.1D. The project also approves the reconstruction and maintenance of roads and landings and non-native invasive weed control measures as-needed throughout the project footprint.

Name of Person or Agency Approving and Carrying Out Project: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Exempt Status: (Check One)

___Ministerial

___Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071(a)) __Emergency Project (Sec. 1507l(a) and (c))

__Categorical Exemption

X__Other: 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 fuels 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 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.).

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is designed to restore forest health and protect natural resources and nearby communities from high severity wildfire. The Forest Service completed all required NEPA compliance for the proposed activities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Richard Sykes **Area Code/Telephone Extension:** (510) 390-4035

Richard Sykes, Executive Officer