

Notice of Determination

To:**Office of Planning and Research***U.S. Mail:*

P.O. Box 30441400

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:

Tenth St., Rm 113

Sacramento, CA 95814

From:**Public Agency:** Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**Address:** P.O. Box 94426, Sacramento, CA 92444-2460**Contact:** Shannon Johnson, Staff Chief**Phone:** (530) 338-8197**Email:** shannon.johnson@fire.ca.gov**Lead Agency, if different from above****Public Agency:** Mendocino County RCD**Address:** 115 East Smith Street, Ukiah, CA 95482**Contact:** Doug Turk, Forestry Program Manager**Phone:** (408) 410-7977**Email:** doug@mcrd.org**Project Proponent, if applicable****Title:** Eel River Recovery Project**Address:** PO BOX 214, Loleta, CA 95551**Contact:** Patrick Higgins, ERRP Managing Director**Phone:** (707) 839-4987**Email:** phiggin@sonic.net**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.****State Clearinghouse Number:** 2019012052**Project Title:** Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Project (2024-17)**Project Location:** Mendocino

Project Description: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is providing funding to help implement treatments on up to an additional fifty-five (55) acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) Lands in the Tenmile Creek Watershed near Laytonville in Mendocino County. CAL FIRE previously provided discretionary action for grant-funded treatments for up to 1,908 acres on November 13, 2024. The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District approved a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on September 26, 2024, and amended the PSA and Addendum on November 18, 2025, to include an additional 55 treatment acres. The treatment type (ecological restoration) and treatment activities (manual treatments and prescribed burning) for the additional 55 acres are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR and the writ of mandate issued by the Superior Court of San Diego County on November 14, 2025 in *California Chaparral Institute and Endangered Habitats League v. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection*, and pursuant to PRC §4483, have been designed to avoid type conversion in areas where chaparral is present. Maintenance treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments. The purpose of these treatments is to promote forest and watershed health, reduce fuel load, and demonstrate efficacy of climate beneficial prescriptions.

This is to advise that CAL FIRE (Lead Agency Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on March 6, 2026, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP Program EIR) was previously prepared (SCH# 2019012052) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. A Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum was prepared for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Project. This analysis determined the project is within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2).
4. The CalVTP Program EIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP Program EIR.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project specific mitigation measures are required.


Dated Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

5. The implementation of applicable CalVTP Program EIR mitigation measures and standard project requirements will be monitored and reported pursuant to the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that was adopted for this project.
6. The previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP Program EIR was reaffirmed and adopted for this project by CAL FIRE.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Project PSA and Addendum and record of project approval for the CalVTP Program EIR are available to the public on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection webpage with the environmental documentation associated with individual approved CalVTP projects: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/>.

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

Date: 3/6/2026