Notice of Determination

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812

From: Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
PO Box 2403
Mariposa, CA, 95338
Melinda Barrett

To: ☒ Mariposa County Clerk
PO Box 247, 4982 10th Street
Mariposa, CA, 95338

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OR 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCE CODE.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: Upper Chowchilla River Watershed Forest Health and Fire Recovery Project

Project Location: East-northeast of Mariposa in Mariposa County, California.

Project Description: The proposed project consists of vegetation treatments on up to 1,667.3 acres for forest health and fire recovery on private land in Mariposa County, California. Treatments would be conducted on three private properties: "Anderson Ranch," "Macready Ranch," and "Stookey Preserve." Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) holds two perpetual conservation easements on the Anderson Ranch, a single perpetual conservation easement on the Macready Ranch, and owns the Stookey Preserve in fee. The proposed treatment types (i.e., fuel breaks and ecological restoration) and the treatment activities (i.e., manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory) are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR. Maintenance treatments would involve the same treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments.

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), in partnership with SFC, has prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum (PSA/addendum) for the project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). MCRCD is the CEQA lead agency. MCRCD will enter into a partnership with SFC to implement the proposed treatments. The partnership may entail the provision of resources to SFC by MCRCD, including staffing and technical input. In the PSA/Addendum, SFC is referred to as the project proponent and primary "implementing entity," reflecting its role as the implementer of treatments in the project area.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency) has approved the above-described project on June 3, 2026 and has made the following determinations related to the PSA and Addendum (PSA/Addendum):

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Upper Chowchilla River Watershed Forest Health and Fire Recovery Project PSA/Addendum (SCH# 2019012052) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. 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.
    a. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in treatment areas within the CalVTP treatable landscape are within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), as documented in the PSA.
    b. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and revisions to standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR would not result in the occurrence of any of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR; therefore, an Addendum has been adopted to address these changes to the program.
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.

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 the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Upper Chowchilla River Watershed Forest Health and Fire Recovery Project PSA/Addendum and record of project approval are available to the general public. The custodian of these documents is the Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Please contact Bridget Pithian at bridget@sierrafoothill.org or (209) 742-5556 to arrange document viewing.

Signature: _____

David Mecchi

Title: *President of the Board, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District*

Date: June 3, 2026

Dated Received for filing at OPR: 6/4/26

Authority cited: Sections 21082 and 21087, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.