

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



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

PROJECT TITLE	Murphys-to-Forest Meadows WUI Fuel Break, CAL FIRE CCI Grant #5GG19147		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections: 3, 4, 5, 9, T3N, R14E, MDBM	COUNTY	Calaveras
	Portions of Sections: 25, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, T4N, R14E, MDBM		
LEAD AGENCY	Calaveras County Resource Conservation District		
CONTACT	Gordon Long, Executive Director		
ADDRESS	Calaveras County Resource Conservation District		
	P.O. Box 1041	PHONE	(530) 604-3588
	San Andreas, CA 95249		

Project Description

This proposed Fire Prevention project would create a shaded fuel break across an area between Murphys and Forest Meadows in Calaveras County. This area is located on the south side of State Highway 4 between Murphys and Forest Meadows (aka the Ebbetts Pass Corridor, a designated scenic byway). The project will bracket the "Forest Meadows Middle" fuel break that was completed by CAL FIRE in the summer of 2018, and link to the "Last Chance" fuel break to the east, which is a current US Forest Service project.

The project area has been identified by CAL FIRE Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit as high priority in their Fire Plan and CWPP and is in a designated Very High Hazard Severity Zone. The project is part of a larger network of fuel breaks along the Ebbetts Pass Corridor (known as the "Highway 4 Fuel Reduction Project," which runs on both sides of Highway 4 from Murphys to Big Trees Subdivision). This landscape-scale collection of fuel break and fire prevention projects is being planned, coordinated and implemented by several agencies, including CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service, the Calaveras Foothills Firesafe Council, the Calaveras Amador Forestry Team (CalAm), Sierra Pacific Industries, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Homeowner Associations, and private landowners.

The entire project is on private land, impacting approximately 95 private parcels, with approximately 50 habitable structures. The prescription for treatment will include the mastication or chipping of downed fuels, brush, and small-diameter hardwood and conifer trees up to approximately 12-inches diameter at breast height (dbh) to achieve a desired average spacing of 30 feet between residual trees. Approximately 95% of the proposed project area will be treated with mechanical mastication equipment, with the remaining 5% treated by a variety of hand treatments, including cutting and chipping or lopping. It is expected that most of the work performed on the project area will result in a mulch layer less than 12" deep that would effectively suppress or retard regrowth of undesirable plants such as manzanita, live oaks, and toyon. Biomass may be removed from the project site if transportation to a cogeneration facility is feasible and affordable. Prescribed burning may be considered depending on CAL FIRE recommendations. In a few areas there will be dead trees to remove, but no merchantable timber will be cut. Residual trees will be pruned to a height of 10 feet, to reduce the potential for vertical "fuel ladders." The project area perimeter has been flagged with fluorescent pink flagging. The CCRCDC has received signed Right-of-Entry (ROE) forms from virtually all affected private property owners, and will receive all required ROE's prior to work on those parcels. Work will be done outside the required PRC 4291 defensible space of 100 feet around homes. The elevation range of this project is approximately 2,200 to 3,600 feet. The project location can be found on the Murphys USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map.

The predominant vegetation types over the project areas include an over-story of oaks and conifers, with a dense understory of various brush species, including manzanita, toyon, and *ceanothus*.

(ENDORSED)
FILED

County of Calaveras
Rebecca Turner
County Clerk-Recorder

05-2021-022

04/06/2021

Beth Cole
bcole, Deputy Clerk



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

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The project will reduce fuel loads in an important WUI Fuel Break. Upon completion of the project, the following benefits will be received:

(1) Create a shaded fuel break in a location that will greatly benefit residents in the Murphys and Forest Meadows communities and surrounding areas.

Sub-goals to attain the primary goal of saving lives are:

- Reduce fuels along roads in the project area to improve ingress and egress.
- Reduce fuels at vital locations to develop/improve staging areas, landing zones, shelter zones, all of which are defensible space from which to make a stand against wildfire.

(2) Protect water quality by reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires

(3) Provide continuity of fuel reduction activities in the Ebbetts Pass Corridor by combining this fuel-reduction project with other past, present, and future fuel-reduction projects in the region.

EXEMPTION STATUS

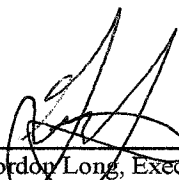
- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: CEQA Article 19 Categorical Exemptions 15304 pertaining to fuels reduction
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of CEQA Article 19 Categorical Exemptions 15304 pertaining to fuels reduction

Field review by Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The CCRCD has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the CCRCD is kept on file at the CCRCD office in San Andreas, California.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



 Gordon Long, Executive Director Date
 Calaveras County Resource Conservation District 4/6/21



Rebecca Turner
Calaveras County
County Clerk-Recorder
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6372
<http://calaverasgov.us>

Receipt: 21-5226

Product	Name	Extended
FISH	FISH AND WILDLIFE FILING	\$0.00
	# Pages	2
	Document #	05-2021-022
	Document Info:	CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
	Filing Type	NOE
	No F & W Fee	false
	File Endorsed Label	3
Total		\$0.00
Change (Cash)		\$0.00

THANK YOU. PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2021 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/21) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 05-2021-022
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL glong@calaverasrcd.org	DATE 04/06/2021
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING CALAVERAS		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE
 MURPHYS-TO-FOREST MEADOWS WUI FUEL BREAK, CAL FIRE CCI GRANT #5GG19147

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL glong@calaverasrcd.org	PHONE NUMBER (209) 731-0286
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS PO BOX 1401	CITY SAN ANDREAS	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95249

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity


CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- | | | |
|---|------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR) | \$3,445.25 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) | \$2,480.25 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$1,171.25 | \$ _____ |
|
 | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy) | | |
| <hr/> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee | | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | \$ _____ |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ \$0.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Beth Cole, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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