

## Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Placer

2954 Richardson Drive  
Auburn, CA, 95603

From: (Public Agency): County of Placer  
Public Works & Facilities

3091 County Center Dr, Ste. 220, Auburn, CA 95603

(Address)

Project Title: Placer County Tree Mortality Removal Project- Divisions 8 through 17 (refer to attached map)

Project Applicant: Placer County Department of Public Works & Facilities

Project Location - This NOE includes 10 divisions encompassing the western half of the County on private and Placer County owned land and Right of Way within 200 feet of county roadways or facilities (i.e. trees that threaten roads, facilities and public safety).

Project Location - City: various sites

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: This is a continuation of the Placer County Tree Mortality Removal Project; removing dead trees on private and county lands along county roadways and those that threaten county facilities. Trees will be cut to alleviate the risk of dead trees falling and hitting roadways or other county owned facilities. Cut trees will in general, be removed and hauled away. If a tree is within a Type 1 or 2 stream zone, or on slopes greater than 50%, the tree will generally be cut and left on the ground in a manner that does not impede stream flow. In some cases, landowners have asked that the tree be left on their property for personal uses. Approximately 600 trees have been marked in the area and as additional mortality occurs during project implementation, additional trees will be marked and included for removal. Tree marking has been completed under the supervision of International Society of Arborists Certified Arborist and the general direction of a Registered Professional Forester. All trees have been inspected for the presence of nesting wildlife. If an animal is nesting in a dead tree that has been marked for removal, cutting will be deferred until after offspring have fledged and left the nest. Archeological sites will be protected. Project generated slash may be left on the ground as whole limbs or chipped and spread, depending on the surrounding forest fuels or preference of the landowner. No landings or storage areas will be utilized; trees will be loaded directly onto a truck which will be staged on the roadway. No project generated slash or other material will be left on roadways and traffic controls will be used to provide for public safety. Additional areas in Placer County are planned for tree removal (refer to map).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Placer County Board of Supervisors

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Placer County Department of Public Works & Facilities

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☒ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTED MAY 02 2019

Through \_\_\_\_\_

RYAN RONCO, COUNTY CLERK

By \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk

Reasons why project is exempt:

On October 30, 2015 an Emergency Proclamation (EP) for dead/dying tree removal in High Hazard Zones (HHZs), provides CEQA relief for projects undertaken or approved by State/Local agencies. The project's implementation will result in multiple benefits, including public safety and reduction of forest fuels helping to protect the community of Foresthill, California. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitats. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site. The project will avoid all archeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The Project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

19-132

Contact Person: Alice Atherton

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530)745-7511

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: Ken Grehm Date: 5/2/19 Title: Ken Grehm, Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 2011

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 02 2019**

**CO. CLERK-RECORDER**

**FILED**

**MAY 02 2019**

By: Ryan Rocco  
COUNTY CLERK OF EL DORADO COUNTY  
BY: [Signature]  
DEPUTY

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**MAY 02 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

2019058028

**Executive Department**

**State of California**

**PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS** the State of California is experiencing record drought conditions, which have persisted for the last four years; and

**WHEREAS** on January 17, 2014, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist throughout the State of California due to severe drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS** a lack of precipitation over the last four years has made trees in many regions of California susceptible to epidemic infestations of native bark beetles, which are constrained under normal circumstances by the defense mechanisms of healthy trees; and

**WHEREAS** these drought conditions and resulting bark beetle infestations across broad areas have caused vast tree mortality in several regions of the state, with the United States Forest Service estimating that over 22 million trees are dead and that tens of millions more are likely to die by the end of this year; and

**WHEREAS** recent scientific measurements suggest that the scale of this tree die-off is unprecedented in modern history; and

**WHEREAS** this die-off is of such scale that it worsens wildfire risk across large regions of the State, presents life safety risks from falling trees to Californians living in impacted rural, forested communities, and worsens the threat of erosion across watersheds; and

**WHEREAS** such wildfires will release thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants; and

**WHEREAS** the circumstances of the tree die-off, by reason of its magnitude, is or is likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist within the State of California due to these events; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of section 8571 of the California Government Code, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought.



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NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within the State of California.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Energy Commission shall immediately identify areas of the State that represent high hazard zones for wildfire and falling trees using best available science and geospatial data.
2. State agencies, utilities, and local governments to the extent required by their existing responsibilities to protect the public health and safety, shall undertake efforts to remove dead or dying trees in these high hazard zones that threaten power lines, roads and other evacuation corridors, critical community infrastructure, and other existing structures. Incidental vegetation such as shrubs that restrict access for safe and efficient removal of the dead and dying trees also may be removed. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall issue emergency guidelines setting forth the relevant criteria, and the California Conservation Corps shall assist government entities in implementing this directive to the extent feasible.
3. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall identify potential storage locations for removed trees across impacted areas in partnership with federal agencies and local jurisdictions.
4. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, Title 23, United States Code section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for removal of dead and dying trees that are adjacent to highways.
5. The Department of General Services will identify state facilities, and the California Department of Transportation shall identify highway and road corridors, where woodchips produced from dead trees can be used as mulch.
6. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall work with impacted counties to distribute portable equipment across high hazard zones so that isolated communities can remove and process wood waste locally where appropriate.
7. The California Air Resources Board and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall work together and with federal land managers and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to expand the practice of prescribed burns, which reduce fire risk and avoid significant pollution from major wildfires, and increase the number of allowable days on a temporary basis to burn tree waste that has been removed in high hazard areas.

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8. The California Public Utilities Commission shall utilize its authority to extend contracts on existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from high hazard zones.
9. The California Public Utilities Commission shall take expedited action to ensure that contracts for new forest bioenergy facilities that receive feedstock from high hazard zones can be executed within six months, including initiation of a targeted renewable auction mechanism and consideration of adjustments to the BioMat Program defined pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 399.20. No later than six months after the BioMat program begins, the California Public Utilities Commission shall evaluate the need for revisions to the program to facilitate contracts for forest bioenergy facilities.
10. The California Public Utilities Commission shall prioritize facilitation of interconnection agreements for forest bioenergy facilities in high hazard zones, and shall order the use of expedited mediation or other alternative dispute resolution processes when conflicts delay development of projects.
11. The California Energy Commission shall prioritize grant funding from the Electric Program Investment Charge for woody biomass-to-energy technology development and deployment, consistent with direction from the California Public Utilities Commission.
12. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Energy Commission, and other appropriate agencies shall work with land managers to estimate biomass feedstock availability, storage locations, and volumes that may be available for use as bioenergy feedstock at existing and new facilities.
13. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Energy Commission shall work with bioenergy facilities that accept forest biomass from high hazard zones to identify potential funds to help offset higher feedstock costs.
14. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will work with affected counties and existing wood product markets to determine the feasibility for expanded wood product markets in California.
15. For purposes of carrying out directives 1, 2, and 5 through 8, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended. This suspension applies to any actions taken by state agencies, and for actions taken by local agencies where the state agency with primary responsibility for implementing the directive concurs that local action is required, as well as for any necessary permits or approvals required to complete these actions.

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16. In order to ensure that equipment and services necessary for emergency response can be procured quickly, the provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code applicable to state contracts, including, but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements, are hereby suspended as necessary to carry out this Proclamation. Approval by the Department of Finance is required prior to the execution of any contract entered into pursuant to these directives.
17. For purposes of this Proclamation, Chapter 3.5 (commencing with section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code is suspended for the development and adoption of regulations or guidelines needed to carry out the provisions in this Order. Any entity issuing regulations or guidelines pursuant to this directive shall conduct a public meeting on the regulations and guidelines prior to adopting them.
18. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide local government assistance as appropriate under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, California Government Code section 8680 et seq. and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 2900 et seq.
19. State agencies shall actively monitor tree removal efforts directed by this Proclamation to assess their effectiveness in protecting forest health and strengthening forest resilience.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

I **FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the State of California to  
be affixed this 30th day of October  
2015.

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 02 2019

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MAY 11

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**Placer County Tree Mortality**  
Division Map Overview

Created By: MCE Inc. 11/3/2017  
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

**Division**

Division 01	Division 06	Division 12
Division 02	Division 07	Division 13
Division 03	Division 08	Division 14
Division 04	Division 09	Division 15
Division 05	Division 10	Division 16
	Division 11	Division 17

County Maintained Roads

Created By: MGE Inc. 11/3/2017  
Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme,  
Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS,  
NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri,  
Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, MapmyIndia,  
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**Sheila Brown**

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**From:** Laura Perron <LAPerron@placer.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:34 PM  
**To:** OPR State Clearinghouse  
**Subject:** NOE for Tree Mortality Project Div. 8-17  
**Attachments:** NOE Tree Mortality Division 8-17.pdf

Hello SCH:

Attached is a Notice of Exemption that has been posted with our County Recorder today. I would like to submit the document to SCH and request a date stamped copy returned for our file.

If you require anything else, please let me know.

Thanks ☺

**Lori Perron**  
Staff Services Analyst II  
Public Works | Roadway & Bridge Engineering  
(530) 745-7598 | [www.placer.ca.gov](http://www.placer.ca.gov)



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