

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)  
1131 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818

**Project Title:** CAL FIRE North Fork of the Mokelumne River Acquisition

**Project Location – Specific:** Two separate areas of land named Tiger Creek and Panther Creek. Each area is composed of several parcels identified by Amador County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs). Tiger Creek parcels Portions of APNs: 024-050-011; 024-070-011; 024-070-012; 024-050-12; and 024-050-013. Panther Creek parcels Portions of APNs: 024-060-015; 024-060-016; 024-060-017; and 024-060-018

**Project Location – City:** Pioneer

**Project Location – County:** Amador

**Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:**

The project is transfer of PG&E land (portions of nine parcels totaling approximately 1,120 acres) to CAL FIRE pursuant to PG&E bankruptcy stipulated settlement agreement. PG&E will retain land and facilities delineated within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (e.g., Hydroelectric and water delivery facilities, etc.) boundaries (approx. 211 acres). The land donated is forest land. The land represents a unique niche of rare forest ecosystems that are not well represented in the existing CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest system, thus making these lands especially attractive to the State.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** CAL FIRE

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Maureen Geeter, Sup. Real Estate Officer, Real Estate Services Division, Department of General Services

**EXEMPT STATUS:** California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061(b)(3): General Rule/Common Sense Exemption

**Reason Why Project Is Exempt:**

The acquisition activity is exempt under the "common sense exemption" at California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061, subdivision (b)(3). The common sense exemption states a project is exempt from CEQA if "the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." The land acquisition agreements that transfer the ownership to the State do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Any future approval of any use of the site is conditioned upon full CEQA compliance per California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15004, subdivision (b)(2)(A), which states prior to completion of CEQA compliance regarding the use of site, "agencies may designate a preferred site for CEQA review and may enter into land acquisition agreements when the agency has conditioned the agency's future use of the site on CEQA compliance."

**Contact Person:** Daniel O'Brien, Supervising Environmental Planner, (916) 376-1603

Environmental Services, Project Management and Development Branch, Real Estate Services Division, Department of General Services

**Date Received For Filing:**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 23 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director  
Resource Protection and Improvement  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection