



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019100402

PROJECT TITLE	Independence Lake		
PROJECT LOCATION	Independence Lake Preserve; Section 35: NE ¼; NW ¼; E ½ of SW ¼; Lots 1 and 2 of SW ¼; and SE ¼; APN 019-060-006	COUNTY	Sierra
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Chris Fichtel, The Nature Conservancy, One East First St, Suite 1007, Reno, NV 89501		
ADDRESS		PHONE	775-322-4990 x 3114

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will use prescribed burning on approximately 203 acres at the east end of its Independence Lake Preserve. This will be a broadcast burn from mid-late October until mid-November of 2019. The environmental setting is mixed conifer forest, Jeffery pine forest, and mountain chaparral. The Preserve surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest. TNC will contract with a burn contractor – Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression – for the burn. There will be 22 burn professionals and 3-4 fire engines on-site during the burn and mop-up. Burning and mop-up should be completed within 5 days.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 Minor alterations to land
- 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 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" - "Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes."

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or 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 or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 2180 Harvard St., Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95815.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 21 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

10-21-19

Dentus O. Hall, Assistant Deputy Director Date
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection