

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Project Name: Shake Omo Vegetation Management Plan**

Notice Date: April 3, 2020

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 *et seq.*) notification is hereby given to responsible agencies, trustee agencies and the public that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection proposes to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Shake Omo Vegetation Management Project.

Project Description: CAL FIRE is working with landowners Sierra Pacific Industries, and Peter J. Garibaldi to implement fuels reduction treatments, including tree thinning, pruning, and shrub removal establishment and maintenance of Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles (shaded fuel breaks) that are a part of the Community Fuel Break System in northern Amador County and southern El Dorado County. The project will consist of fuels reduction projects that will utilize fire crew brush cutting, mechanical treatments, pile burning, tractor mastication, and broadcast prescribed fire. The fuels treatment mechanism that is most favored is broadcast prescribed fire. The desired width of Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles is 500 feet however the width will be increased to a much as 1,400 feet where the topography remains under 30%.

Proposed treatments are maintenance of historical Amador El Dorado Unit Vegetation Management Plans that overlap the proposed Shake Omo VMP. These are:

1. Rx South-048-AEU (Shake Omo 1998 VMP) Involved using needle cast and bear clover regrowth in a previously logged area to carry broadcast prescribed fire to reduce deer brush regrowth to maintain a shaded fuelbreak on the ridgetop to protect timberlands and surrounding subdivisions from uncontrolled wildfire.
2. Rx South-057-AEU (Garibaldi 2002 VMP) Treated 120 acres by cutting and burning of piled vegetation by hand crews and 60 acres treated by mechanical piling and burning of vegetation.
3. Rx South-062-AEU (Omo Ranch Extension 2005 VMP) 1500 acres of fuel reduction projects that utilized fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire to create an open and park like condition of larger diameter trees with enough understory vegetation removed to prevent vertical fire spread in the event of wildland fire or defensive wildland firefighting.
4. Rx South-067-AEU (Shake Omo 2005 VMP) Consisted of 3000 acres of fuel reduction projects that utilized fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire to create an open and park like condition of larger diameter trees with enough understory vegetation removed to prevent vertical fire spread in the event of wildland fire or defensive wildland firefighting.

The goal of establishing and maintaining the fuel break is to create and maintain Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles (Shaded Fuel Breaks) as a part of the Community Fuel Break System which is designed to protect the community and the watershed values of the area from uncontrolled wildfire, provide a defensible location for firefighting operations and evacuations, preserve the conifer overstory and enhance wildlife habitat. All the treatments indicated above will be utilized individually or in combination to create the final desired condition. The final desired condition will be an open and park like condition of larger diameter trees with enough of the understory vegetation removed to prevent vertical fire spread in the event of wildland fire or defensive wildland fire fighting operations. Tree species that will be favored for retention will be Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, California Incense Cedar, Black Oak, Douglas Fir, and True Fir. The total project area is 3572 acres. This project will not involve new road construction or significant ground-disturbing activities. The only roads to be for the project used are existing roads. No commercial timber products will be removed under this project. Project activities will likely commence Spring 2020 and be complete by December 2028.

Project Location: Amador and El Dorado Counties, CA, Portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, T8N, R12E, Portions of Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 16, 24, 25, 33, 34, 35, & 36, T8N, R13E, Portions of Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, & 30, T8N, R14E Portions of Section 36, T9N, R12E, & Portions of Sections 31 & 32, T9N, R13E Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian.

Public Review Dates: The draft mitigated negative declaration will undergo a 30-day public review period during which comments may be submitted. The review period begins on April 6, 2020 and ends on May 5, 2020. Written comments regarding the contents of the mitigated negative declaration should be sent to: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Attn: Patrick McDaniel, 2840 Mt. Dansher Rd., Camino, CA 95709 or patrick.mcdaniel@fire.ca.gov

Location of Documents: The mitigated negative declaration and related documents are available for review at CAL FIRE, 1416 9th St, 15th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Contact person is Matthew Reischman.

The Notice of Intent will be posting at the following locations:

CALFIRE Dew Drop Station
29300 Dew Drop Bypass
Pioneer, CA 95666

CALFIRE Pine Grove Station
19597 CA-88
Pine Grove, CA 95665

The Notice of Intent will also be posted on and off site in the area where the project is to be located.