NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Blue Mountain Remote Automated Weather Station Installation		
PROJECT LOCATION	T6N, R15E, Portion of Section 30 MDBM	**COUNTY**	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection		
CONTACT	Gary Whitson		
ADDRESS	785 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	**PHONE**	(209) 754-2708

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will entail the placing of a remote automated weather station at the site of the Blue Mountain Lookout. The remote automated weather station is designed to be free-standing and will be placed on an existing level rocked pad. No excavation or vegetation removal will be necessary. Assembly and erection of the remote automated weather station is expected to take approximately two hours. Several metal stakes may be driven into the ground to anchor the station. The project area is located in Eastern Calaveras County just below the peak of Blue Mountain. The project area is approximately 6000 feet in elevation above sea level. Vegetation consists of a mixed conifer forest. The project area has been developed and occupies weather station previously occupied the site. No vegetation will need to be removed, and no watercourses exist within 500 feet of the project.

EXEMPTION STATUS

☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 3 - 14 CCR §15303. New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
Class 4 - 14 CCR § 15304- 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

The Classes of Exemption to be used are 14 CCR §15303 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and Class 4 - 14 CCR § 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The construction of remote automated weather station will be done by hand and will be erected on an existing excavated pad. No ground disturbance is anticipated, and the project is over 200 feet from any watercourse. No impacts to biological or cultural resources are anticipated. CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff 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 utilities and service systems. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which 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/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 Department is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Tuolumne/Calaveras Unit Headquarters in San Andreas.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
AUG 05 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

8/5/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection