



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

To: State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Bill Solinsky
CAL FIRE, Resource Management
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report Dupen Timberland Conversion Project November 1, 2016

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the Lead Agency and is Responsible for the preparation of an Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Dupen Timberland Conversion Project (Proposed Project) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, CAL FIRE, as Lead Agency, has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform all responsible and trustee agencies that an MND will be prepared. The purpose of the NOP is to describe the Proposed Project and potential environmental effects in order to allow agencies and interested parties to provide input on the scope and content of the MND. A copy of this NOP and the figures referenced herein is provided on CAL FIRE's website: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgmt/resource_mgmt_EPRP_PublicNotice.php. Comments on this NOP are due to CAL FIRE by 5:00 PM on November 30, 2016.

Project Summary

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to convert approximately 7 acres net of land to commercial orchard crops (Project Site) of 20 acres gross under a Timber Harvest Plan/Timberland Conversion Project (THP/TCP). The Project Site is located within an approximately 20-acre property identified as Yuba County assessors parcel numbers (APN) 054-240-008 and 054-240-009. A Timberland Conversion Permit (TCP) is required for the Project Site, which triggers preparation of a CEQA document for the Proposed Project. Given the potential for environmental impacts, a Mitigate Negative Declaration (MND) is being prepared. The environmental impacts of the TCP, and the development of the orchard on the Project Site will be evaluated against the CEQA baseline of the Project Site.

In addition, a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is being prepared concurrently for the harvest of 20 acres of forest within the 20 acre Project Site and will be processed separately by CAL FIRE. The THP will be evaluated by CAL FIRE through a CEQA equivalent process consistent with the Forest Practice Rules. The MND will include the THP, the TCP, and attachments to the MND.

Project Location

The Project Site is located on an approximately 20-acre property within Section 24 of Township 19N Range 8E of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM). The property is in two parcels which are identified as Yuba County APN 054-240-008 and 054-240-009. The property is located at 17962 and 17898 State Highway 49, near the Town of Camptonville in western Yuba County, California, as shown in **Figure 1**. Land uses in the vicinity of the property include agriculture, rural residences, USFS land and open space. Adjacent property elevations surrounding the project area range from approximately 3,200 feet to 3,800 feet above mean sea level. Soils on the property are predominantly Jocal-Sites-Mariposa Complex 2-30%. The slopes range from 0 to 10%.

The property drains into Oak Valley creek and Perier creek south of the property. They then combine to drain into Willow creek. That watercourse is located across highway 49 from the project area about 100 feet. A map of the property with the Project Site identified is included as **Figures 2 and 3**.

As part of the THP process, a discussion of the biological resources up to 1.5 miles of the Project Site and immediate surrounding area has been included in the THP. The following habitats have been identified to date within the property: Sierra mixed conifer forest.

General Plan/Zoning Designations

The Project Site parcels are zoned Agricultural/Residential and Agricultural/Residential – General Commercial.

Project Description

The Proposed Project will convert approximately 7 acres to orchard within a 20-acre property that will all be under a THP.

The Project Site is not located within a Timberland Production Zone (TPZ). However, since the Proposed Project would convert "non-TPZ timberland to a non-timber growing use" through timberland operations in which "future timber harvests will be prevented or infeasible because of land occupancy and activities thereon," a TCP and approval is required from CAL FIRE consistent with the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act (Division 4, Chapter 8, Public Resources Code) and California Forest Practice Rules (Title 14, California Code of Regulations). CAL FIRE will therefore be the CEQA Lead Agency on the MND.

Harvested timber will be shipped to destinations in Northern California. All non-merchantable trees and vegetation would be removed, chipped, and/or burned on-site, consistent with CAL FIRE, and Yuba County Air Quality Management District standards. Suitable forest products such as sawlogs, firewood and wood chips will be marketed as is economically feasible. Material leaving the site would exit Highway 49. Two new seasonal road segments will be built with lengths of 330 feet and 350 feet. One road segment extends from an existing seasonal road in the project area and will be used to facilitate log haul and orchard operations. The second new seasonal road segment is off the property and out of the TCP project area but is included in the THP on a neighbor's property to support log haul from the THP onto Highway 49, as it is a better suited approach for accessing Highway 49 for log haul. In addition 1,085 of existing seasonal road will be reconstructed in the THP project area, which includes widening and installation of road drainage.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

Anticipated impacts of the Proposed Project on the following list of resource areas will be analyzed in the MND per CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 CCR Division 6, Chapter 3). The impacts of the Proposed Project will be determined by evaluating against the CEQA baseline, which is the Project Site as it currently exists (prior to the THP).

Aesthetics: The Project Site is located within the viewshed of vehicles traveling on State Highway 49. An analysis of potential impacts to aesthetics from the Proposed Project will be provided in the MND.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources: The impacts of the Proposed Project to these resources will be a primary subject of the MND. An analysis of impacts to agricultural and forestry resources in the vicinity of the Project Site and local region will be included in the MND.

Air Quality: Non-merchantable trees and vegetation will be removed, chipped, and/or burned on-site, consistent with El Dorado County Air Quality Management District standards. An analysis of potential impacts to air quality from the Proposed Project will be provided in the MND.

Biological Resources: An analysis of potential impacts to biological resources as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Project will be provided in the MND.

Cultural Resources: Although the preliminary cultural resources survey of the Project Site did not identify any significant historic or cultural resources on the Project Site. Further analysis of potential impacts to cultural resources as a result of the Proposed Project will be provided in the MND, specifically processes to adhere to in order to mitigate any impacts should any cultural resources be found during the conversion process.

Geology/Soils: Further analysis of potential impacts to local geology/soils will be provided in the MND.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: An analysis of potential impacts due to the Proposed Project's greenhouse gas emissions attributed to construction, operation, and canopy removal will be provided in the MND.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: An analysis of hazards and hazardous materials as they pertain to construction and operation of the Proposed Project will be provided in the MND.

Hydrology/Water Quality: An analysis of impacts from the Proposed Project to local hydrology, water quality, and the water supply will be provided in the MND. Groundwater from an existing well will be the water source for the vineyard and will be discussed further in the MND.

Land Use/Planning: No significant impacts are anticipated. As stated above, the Proposed Project would result in the development of a orchard within the 20-acre Project Site, which is consistent with the current Yuba County zoning designation, Agricultural/Residential and Agricultural/Residential – General Commercial. An analysis of impacts to land use/planning due to the Proposed Project will be provided in the MND.

Mineral Resources: No known mineral resources that are of State, regional, or local value are identified on or within the vicinity of the Proposed Project site, and therefore no significant impacts are anticipated. No further analysis will be provided in the MND.

Noise: No significant impacts are anticipated. No further analysis will be provided in the MND.

Population/Housing: The Proposed Project would not induce substantial population growth and would displace neither existing housing nor people; therefore, no significant impacts are anticipated. No further analysis will be provided in the MND.

Public Services: The Proposed Project would not result in a substantial increase of demand on public services, and therefore no significant impacts are anticipated. No further analysis will be provided in the MND.

Recreation: The Proposed Project would not include construction of any recreational facilities and would not increase the use of existing recreational facilities, and therefore no significant impacts are anticipated. No further analysis will be provided in the MND.

Transportation/Traffic: There are two new short segments of new seasonal roads proposed for construction and one 1,085 segment of seasonal road reconstruction within the 20-acre Project area. An analysis of transportation/traffic issues as they pertain to construction and operation of the Proposed Project, including the off-site hauling of logs due to the THP, will be provided in the MND.

Utilities/Service Systems: The Proposed Project would not result in any additional demands on utilities and service systems. Groundwater will be pumped from an existing and/or proposed on-site well and serve as the irrigation water source, and no wastewater will be generated. Therefore, no significant impacts are anticipated, and no further analysis will be provided in the MND.

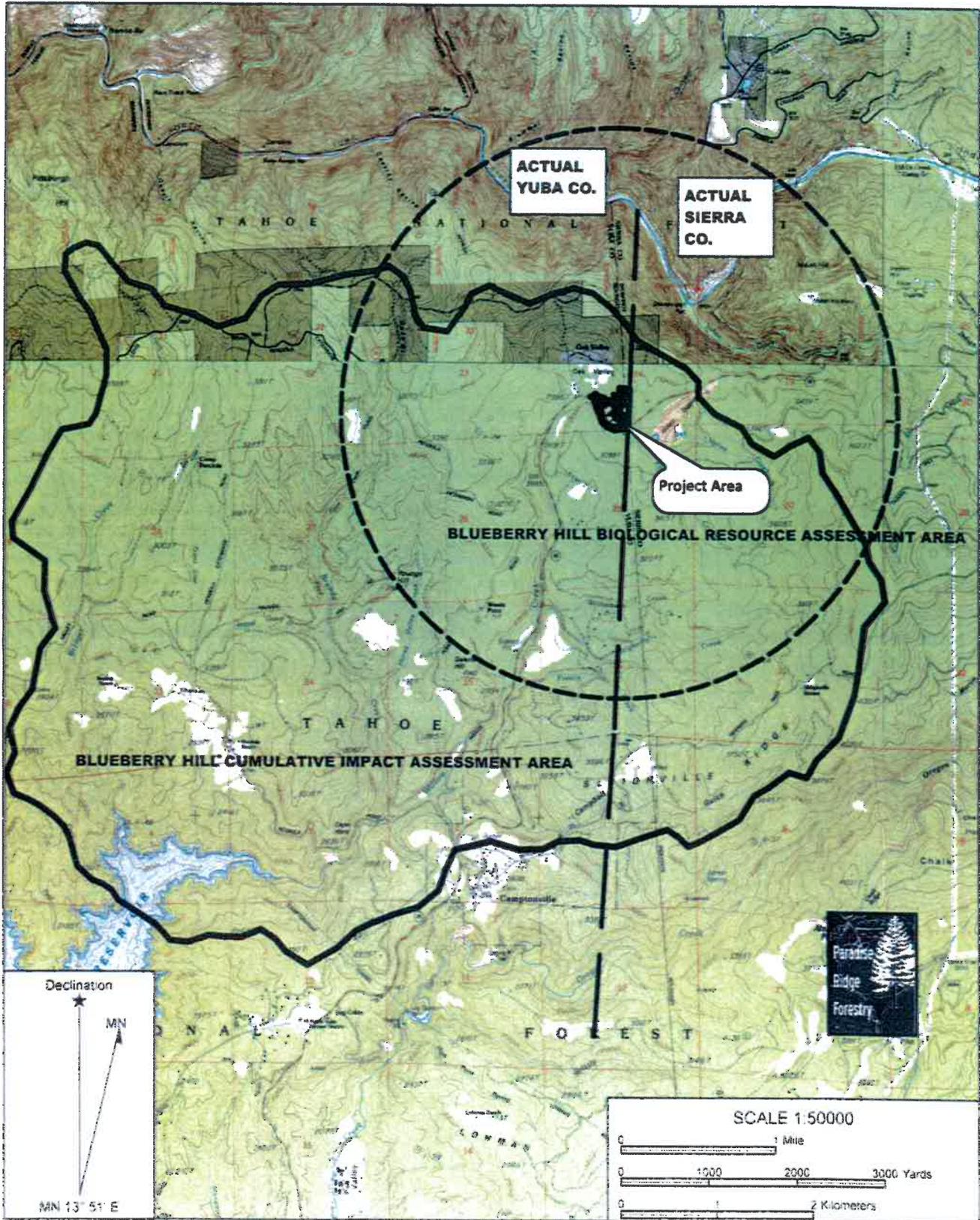
Mandatory Findings of Significance: A complete analysis of mandatory findings of significance, including cumulative impacts of the Proposed Project, will be provided in the MND.

In order for your comments to be considered, please submit your written comments no later than **5:00 PM on November 30, 2016** to:

Bill Solinsky
CAL FIRE, Resource Management
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Email: SacramentoPublicComment@fire.ca.gov (Please include "Dupen Timberland Conversion" in email subject line).

Comments by Fax will not be accepted.



Camptonville & Strawberry Valley Quads
Contour interval: 40'
Scale: 1 inch = 4,166 ft.

**BLUEBERRY HILL THP
ASSESSMENT AREAS**

Fig. 1

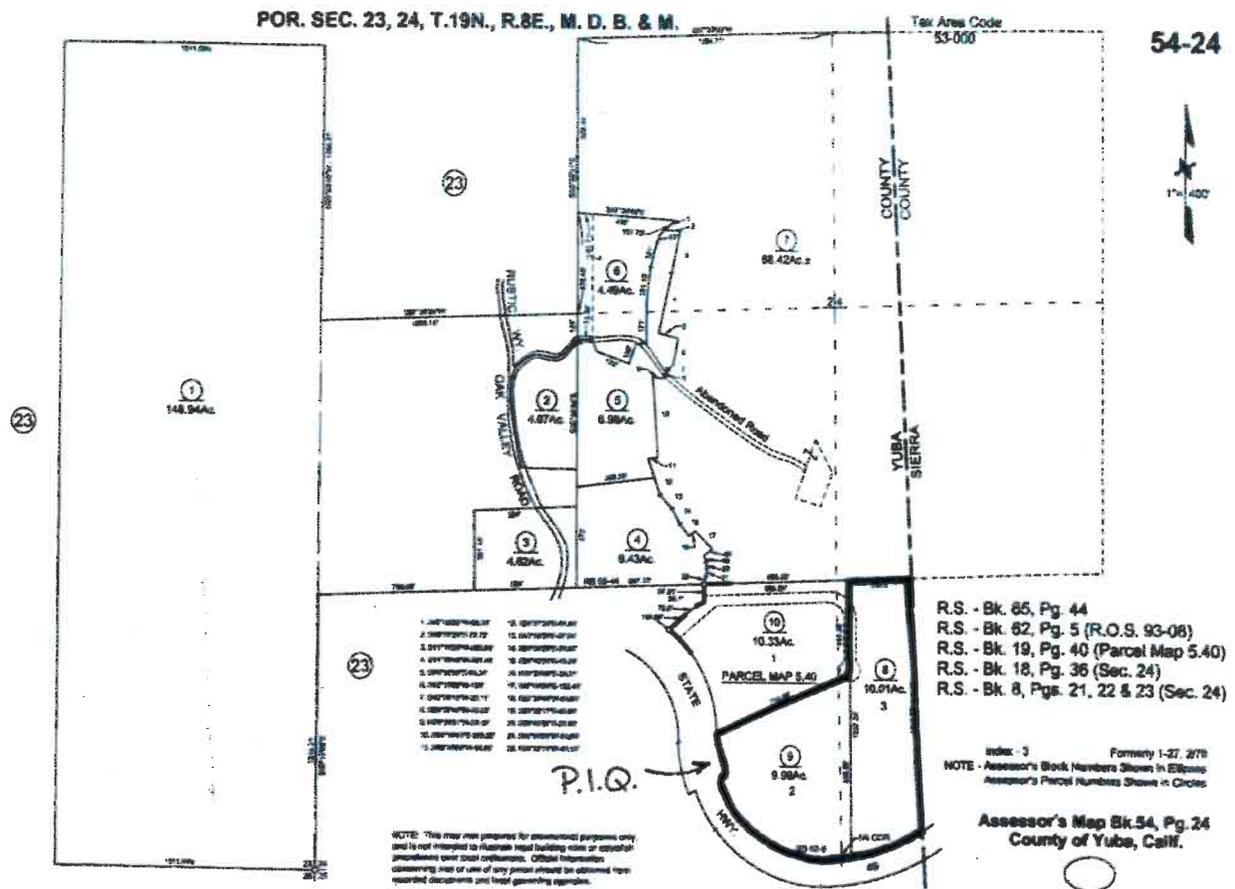
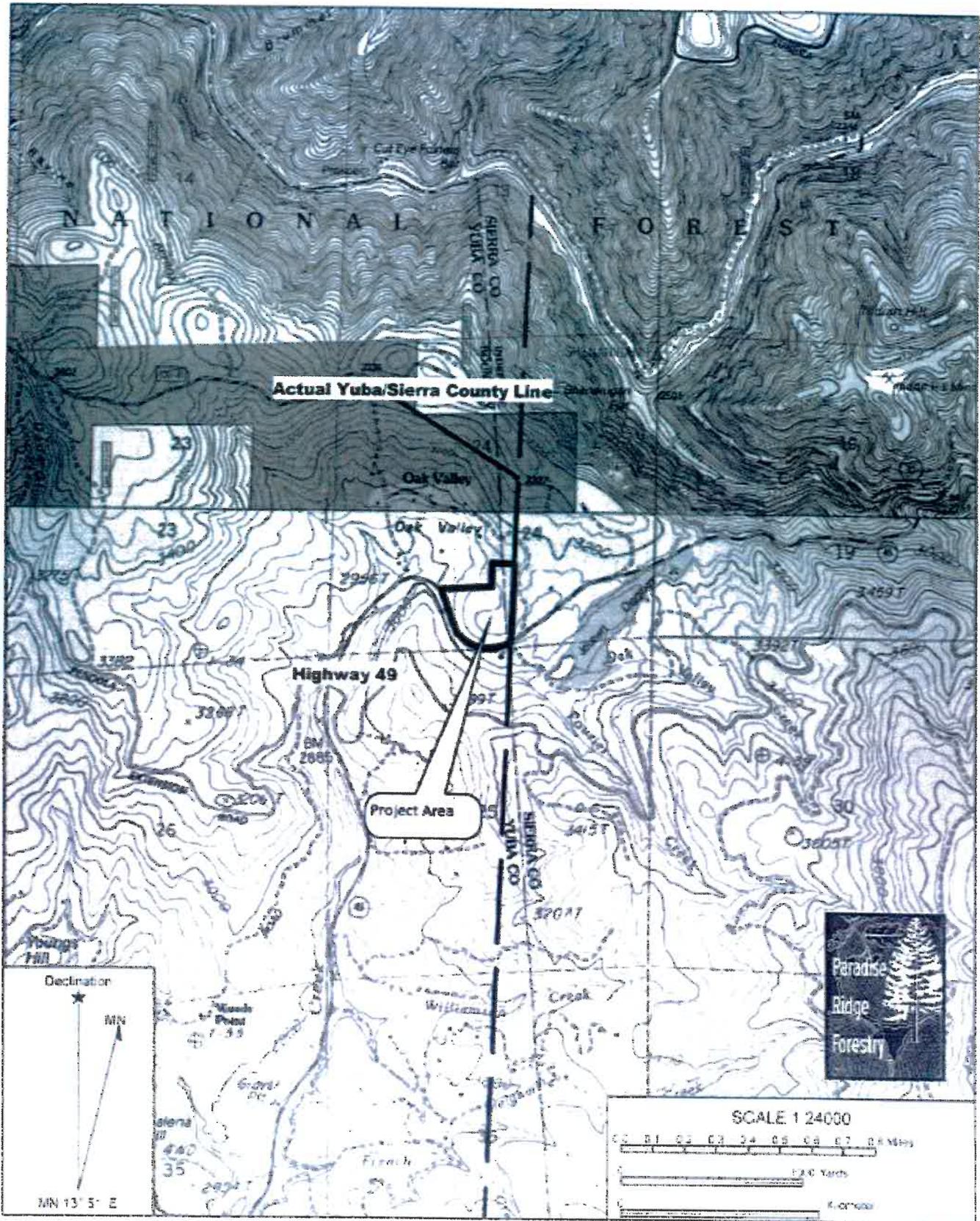


fig 2



Camptonville USGS 7.5' Quads
Contour interval: 40'
Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 ft.

Blueberry Hill Timber Harvest Plan
20 acres
Section 24, T19N, R8E, M O B M

P. 3

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A DRAFT INITIAL STUDY
AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CEQA PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2016**

To: Public Agencies, Organizations and Other Interested Parties

From: Anders Dupen, P.O. Box 44, Camptonville CA 95922
Paradise Ridge Forestry, 1715 Grand Court, Paradise CA 95969

Subject: Anders Dupen (Landowner) is releasing a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the conversion of 7 acres of timberland to be used for agriculture purposes. The 7 acres is part of two parcels totaling 20 acres in size. The present Yuba County zoning of these parcels includes Agriculture/Rural Residential and Agriculture/Rural Residential - General Commercial. This Draft IS/MND is for review and comment from all agencies, organizations and interested persons. Reviewers should focus on the content and accuracy of the Draft IS/MND in discussing potential impacts upon the environment. This Notice of Intent to Adopt a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft IS/MND is being circulated for a 30-day review period. Persons responding are urged to submit their comments in writing. Written comments should be delivered to the office of the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) who has prepared the timberland conversion for the landowner, at the Contact Person address listed below, by **no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 28, 2016**. Submittal of written comments via e-mail (PDF or Word format) is also acceptable.

Project Title: Timberland conversion to agriculture use

Applicant: Anders Dupen, P.O. Box 44, Camptonville CA 95922

Contact Person: Terry L Rogers, California Registered Professional Forester, License #2537

Address: 1715 Grand Court, Paradise, CA 95969

Telephone: (530) 321-1401

E-mail: rpf2537@yahoo.com

Project Location: The project location is along California State Highway 49 at the Yuba/Sierra counties line.

Project Description: The intended use is already covered under Yuba County's Chapter 12.25.020 - Permitted Uses of the Yuba County Zoning Ordinance (Title XII of the Yuba County Code). The County does not require an EIR or negative declaration to use lands of this type of zoned parcel. However, as a requirement from Cal Fire, an MND is being developed. The intent is to remove trees (conifer - selected on an intuitive basis) in order to establish an organic farm for the production of agriculture crops. Larger oak trees shall be retained when possible for aesthetics and shade in areas which will not affect the intended future land use. Blueberries are the choice of crop to cultivate and extensive research has been done to verify the high probability that this hardy crop will establish on-site, given the nature of the soil, growing season and other abiotic factors. This area of Yuba County has a long standing tradition of agriculture uses, with records dating back as far as the 1850's.

Project and CEQA Public Hearing Date: At this point no public hearing dates are known to be necessary as field inspections by Cal Fire and California Fish and Wildlife have already been performed as part of the timber harvesting plan process. This does not mean that a public hearing will not be done, just one has not been scheduled to date.

CEQA Project Status: A Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration have been prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The Draft Initial Study prepared for this project demonstrates that the proposed project will not have any significant or unmitigatable effects on the environment. As a result of the adoption of this document and the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the proposed project will not have any significant or unmitigatable effects on the environment. The site is NOT listed on any hazardous site lists per California Government Code 65962.5. The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and all related analysis are available to the General Public at CAL FIRE Resource Management - Environmental Protection Program, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

2016102069

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Dupen Timberland Conversion

Lead Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Contact Person: Bill Solinsky

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944246

Phone: (916) 657-0300

City: Sacramento

Zip: 95762

County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: Yuba

City/Nearest Community: Camptonville

Cross Streets: State Highway 49

Zip Code: 95922

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 39 ° 29 ' 42.9 " N / 121 ° 2 ' 1.86 " W Total Acres: 7

Assessor's Parcel No.: 054-240-008 & 009

Section: 24

Twp.: 19N

Range: 8E

Base: MDBM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: State Highway 49

Waterways: North Yuba River

Airports: na

Railways: na

Schools: na

Document Type:

- CEQA: [X] NOP [] Draft EIR [] Early Cons [] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [] Neg Dec [] Mit Neg Dec [] NEPA: [] NOI [] EA [] Draft EIS [] FONSI [] Other: [] Joint Document [] Final Document [] Other:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Local Action Type:

- [] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezone [] Annexation [] General Plan Amendment [] Master Plan [] Prezone [] Redevelopment [] General Plan Element [] Planned Unit Development [] Use Permit [] Coastal Permit [] Community Plan [] Site Plan [] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [X] Other: Non TPZ Conv.

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Development Type:

- [] Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ [] Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ [] Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ [] Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ / Employees _____ [] Educational: _____ [] Recreational: _____ [] Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ [] Transportation: Type _____ [] Mining: Mineral _____ [] Power: Type _____ MW _____ [] Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ [] Hazardous Waste: Type _____ [] Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [X] Aesthetic/Visual [] Fiscal [] Recreation/Parks [X] Vegetation [X] Agricultural Land [] Flood Plain/Flooding [] Schools/Universities [X] Water Quality [X] Air Quality [X] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [] Septic Systems [X] Water Supply/Groundwater [X] Archeological/Historical [X] Geologic/Seismic [] Sewer Capacity [] Wetland/Riparian [X] Biological Resources [] Minerals [X] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [] Growth Inducement [] Coastal Zone [] Noise [] Solid Waste [X] Land Use [] Drainage/Absorption [] Population/Housing Balance [X] Toxic/Hazardous [] Cumulative Effects [] Economic/Jobs [] Public Services/Facilities [X] Traffic/Circulation [] Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Agriculture Rural/Residential and Agriculture Rural/Residential - Commercial

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Conversion of 7 acres of non-TPZ land zoned Agriculture/Rural Residential and Agriculture/Rural Residential - Commercial into an organic blueberry orchard in Yuba County adjacent to State Highway 49.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>Reg.5</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date November 1 Ending Date November 30

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Paradise Ridge Forestry</u>	Applicant: <u>Anders Dupen</u>
Address: <u>1715 grand Court</u>	Address: <u>P.O. Box 555</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Paradise, CA 94244-2460</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Downieville, CA 95936</u>
Contact: <u>Terry L. Rogers</u>	Phone: <u>(831) 566-1706</u>
Phone: <u>(530) 321-1401</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Bill Salishy Date: 11/1/16

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.