

# Memorandum

**To:** CEQA Administrative Record

**Date:** April 24, 2012

**Telephone:** (916) 653-0839

**Website:** [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

**From:** Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Subject:** Heavy Fire Equipment Operator's 2012 Recertification Training Project  
Madera County, California  
State Clearinghouse Number: 2012031072  
Adoption of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Project Approval

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is proposing to approve a project in Madera County which is subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project proposes bulldozer manipulative skill testing through the reconstruction and construction of a temporary forest road, repairing a seasonal road and reblading existing terraced areas. The total project area will be approximately 0.9 acres in size. CAL FIRE is the Lead Agency for CEQA compliance.

An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was completed for the project by CAL FIRE staff. The IS/MND describes the environmental impact analysis conducted for the proposed project utilizing information gathered from research and field review of the proposed project area and consultation with environmental planners and other experts on staff at other public agencies.

The IS/MND was circulated to responsible agencies and trustee agencies for a 30-day public review period through its distribution by the State Clearinghouse within the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. A copy of the document was also sent to Madera County Planning Department. Opportunity for public review of the IS/MND was provided utilizing one of the three notification procedures specified in CEQA Guidelines § 15072(b). The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) was posted on and off site in the area where the project is located as specified in CEQA Guidelines § 15072(b)(2). The NOI was also posted at the Madera County Clerk/Recorder's Office as specified in CEQA Guidelines § 15072(a). A complete copy of the CEQA document was posted on the Department's Internet Web Site during the entire 30-day public review period. Additionally, the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study, Notice of Intent and supporting documentation was available for review at Cal FIRE Ahwahnee Fire Station and CAL FIRE Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Headquarters.

There were no written comments from public agencies or members of the general public.

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) has been developed in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15097(a) and (c). CAL FIRE has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the whole record before it, including the Initial Study for the project prior to approving the project. The Initial Study, prepared in compliance with CEQA, assessed the project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Pursuant to CEQA § 21082.1, CAL FIRE has independently reviewed and analyzed the Final IS/MND and

finds it to be a complete and accurate document which reflects CAL FIRE's independent judgment. The lead agency further finds that the proposed project, which includes mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment.

Based on the whole record before it, CAL FIRE has determined that:

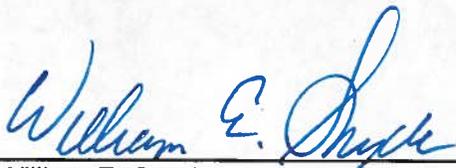
- The proposed project would have no effect related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, and cultural resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems.
- The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on green house gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials and noise.
- The proposed project, as mitigated, would not have significant impacts related to geology and soils and hydrology and water quality.
- There are no mandatory findings of significance.

In accordance with CEQA § 21080(c) and CEQA Guidelines § 15074, I hereby adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

In accordance with CEQA § 21081.6(a)(1) and CEQA Guidelines § 15074(d), I hereby adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the project.

As Deputy Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection with delegated authority for project approval, and, upon consideration of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study, Mitigation, and the Notice of Determination, I hereby approve the Heavy Fire Equipment Operator's 2012 Recertification Training Project.

CAL FIRE hereby directs the filing of the Notice of Determination, which as been prepared in accordance with CEQA § 21108 and CEQA Guidelines § 15075, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse. I hereby authorize the payment of the required fee in the amount of \$2101.50 to the Department of Fish and Game in compliance with Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code for the Environmental Filing Fee associated with Mitigated Negative Declarations.



William E. Snyder  
Deputy Director for Resource Management  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date Signed: 4/30/12