NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

PROJECT TITLE	Teakettle Experimental Forest Vegetation Sampling		
PROJECT LOCATION	T11S, R27E, Sec. 21, MDB&M	**COUNTY**	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will involve a sampling of surface fuels (e.g. coarse woody debris, fine woody debris, litter and duff) and understory vegetation (shrubs and herbs) in 2016, a complete inventory of the Teakettle Experimental area that includes all forest carbon pools (e.g. soils, fuels, understory vegetation, trees, etc.) in 2017-2019, and the collection of tree cores in late 2019. The work will be conducted by a crew of field technicians, which will be managed by the experimental forest lab/field manager. The work will be performed on foot using standard non-destructive vegetation sampling methods.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- [x] Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 6 14 CCR § 15306—Information collection
- [ ] Statutory Exemption (state code section): 15269 Emergency Projects.
- [ ] 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 vegetation sampling that will occur as a part of this project will involve a small crew walking through the woods and periodically measuring soils, litter, duff, woody debris, understory vegetation (herbs, shrubs) and trees over small plot areas. All vegetation sampling will involve non-destructive techniques. The work is consistent with basic data collection that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. 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. Further information related to this project can be obtained from CAL FIRE at 1300 U St., Sacramento, CA 95818.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

7/12/16

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

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JUL 14 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE