



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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE**      2014 Washington Ridge Conservation Camp Well Drilling Project

**PROJECT LOCATION**    11425 Conservation Camp Road, Nevada City, CA 95959      **COUNTY**    Placer

**LEAD AGENCY**      California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT**      CAL FIRE – NEU  
**ADDRESS**      Elsa Hucks      **PHONE**    (530) 889-0111 x127  
                          13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA 95603

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will help mitigate a significantly deficient water supply system for a California Department of Corrections inmate facility. CAL FIRE proposes to drill additional wells at Washington Ridge Conservation Camp in order to improve the deficient water supply. Currently, the Camp is experiencing a water shortage that requires between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons of daily water delivery to maintain existing water demands. The proposed project plans to rehabilitate two existing wells, drill one additional well, and trench approximately 800 feet for waterline installation. The areas within the project where ground disturbance will occur have been surveyed and the determination made that no environmental impacts will occur from project implementation. All disturbed soils from trenching will be backfilled and exposed soils will be stabilized. Because the project area is on federal lands within the Tahoe National Forest (TNF), National Environmental Protection Act compliance has been completed for the project area.

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption**    Type/Section: Class 1 & 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**

This project fits under the Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guideline – 14 CCR §15304 covering Minor Alterations to Land. 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 Unit Headquarters in Auburn. No environmental impacts are anticipated from this project.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

*Duane Shintaku*    8/8/14  
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 Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director      Date  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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AUG 08 2014

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