



File No. 0311012022031
Posted On 11-01-2022
Posting Removed

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:
Amador County
Clerk Recorder's Office
810 Court Street
Jackson, Ca 95642

FROM: (LEAD AGENCY)
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
Office of the Secretary - (510) 287-0404
375 Eleventh Street, MS 806
Oakland, CA 94607-4240
☒ Lead Agency is the Project Applicant
☒ Lead Agency is Public Agency Approving Project
☒ Lead Agency is Carrying Out Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

- TITLE: Electra Fire Restoration Project
- LOCATION: (City, County, and specific location)
Tabaud Road and Ponderosa Way, Amador County, 38.351831, -120.636122 (see attachment A)
- DESCRIPTION: The project will consist of revegetating and stabilizing denuded and burned areas along the slopes of Ponderosa Way located within the Mokelumne River Canyon. This will be achieved through the application of native erosion control seed mix, providing soil cover with a blown-on layer of certified weed free rice straw, and binding the materials with a water soluble tackifier. The purpose of the project is to start revegetating corridors along Ponderosa Way and stabilize soils left bare from the effects of the Electra fire. The project will reduce the risk of erosion and help minimize impacts directly affecting water quality and long-term health in the Mokelumne River watershed. (See attachment A)

EXEMPTION FINDING (Check one)

This project is exempt from CEQA because:

- ☐ Activity is not a project
- ☐ Activity is Ministerial (Sec.21080(b)(1); Guideline 15268)
- ☐ Activity is a Declared Emergency (Sec.21080(b)(3); Guideline 15269(a))
- ☐ Activity is an Emergency Project (Sec.21080(b)(4); Guideline 15269(b)(c))
- ☒ Activity is Categorically Exempt Under Guideline 15301
- ☐ Activity is Statutorily Exempt Under Guideline
- ☒ Reasons why project is exempt: This project is exempt under Guideline 15301. Existing Facilities; and can be categorized under example (h) for the following reasons:
1) This project involves the maintenance and restoration of native growth (vegetation) to a forest landscape that was burned away in a vegetation fire; and 2) The activities will not alter any topographical features and will not result in expansion of existing or former use of the landscape; and 3) The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species; and 4) The activities will not result in significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters

ENDORSED
FILED

NOV 01 2022

KIMBERLY L. GRADY, County Clerk
AMADOR COUNTY

By M. MORRIS Deputy

APPROVAL BY INITIATING UNIT: 490

10/7/2022	Justin Mynk	Charles Beckman
1. DATE PREPARED	2. PREPARED BY (Initial)	3. REVIEWED BY (Unit Supv. initial)
Charles Beckman		
4. RECOMMENDED BY (Division/Section Manager)		
Justin Mynk	MOK	Ranger Supervisor
5. CONTACT PERSON	MAIL SLOT #	TITLE
		PHONE
		209-772-8258

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION APPROVED FOR FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

10/10/22	<u>Michael T. Tavel</u>	RECEIVED
DATE	DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR	
<u>10/31/2022</u>	<u>Rosalee S. Cole</u>	NOV 07 2022
DATE FORWARDED TO COUNTY CLERK	SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT	

ATTACHMENT A

EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Electra Fire Restoration- Ponderosa Way

Overview and Background

4,600 acres of land within the Mokelumne River Canyon was impacted by the Electra fire in July 2022. The fire burned within a footprint of a much larger fire, the Butte fire, that burned intensely through the area in 2015. Following the Butte fire, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) partnered with the local community on erosion control, stabilization, and restoration efforts on canyon slopes along Ponderosa Way. Ponderosa Way is an unpaved dirt road that intersects Highway 26 in Calaveras County and runs north to Tabeaud road in Amador County.

After the Electra fire, the potential for erosion and adverse impacts to water quality are once again a concern. The steep canyon slopes are hydraulically connected to the river and a lack of vegetation leaves soils exposed to rainfall and storm water runoff. Ponderosa Way also experienced impacts from dozer work during fire suppression efforts resulting in loose disturbed soils along the road.

Project Purpose and Objectives

The focus of this project is to mitigate impacts directly affecting water quality and long-term watershed health within the Electra fire burn. The lack of ground cover on steep slopes presents the potential for accelerated erosion. Soil displacement and mobilization from rainfall and storm water runoff will raise turbidity levels in receiving waters and create unnatural sedimentation in tributary drainages.

Stabilizing bare soils by providing ground cover and binding compounds will help soils from becoming displaced and eroding away. Keeping soils in place is the main objective to address erosion and sediment load issues to receiving waters.

The fire had an impact on whatever was present before the burn. The application of native seed will kick start the revegetation process. Growth from the seed early in the season will help provide root structure to assist with soil stability as well as providing a vegetative buffer to filter stormwater and assist with infiltration. The tree seedling planting will help with early reforestation benefiting the health of the watershed.

Project Location

The projects will occur at two sites (Figure 1). The *Calaveras Site* is located along Ponderosa Way off Highway 26, 5.6 miles east of Mokelumne Hill. The *Amador Site* is located along Ponderosa Way off Tabeaud Road, 11.2 miles east of Highway 49 in Jackson.

Calaveras Site

The Calaveras site consists of 3 linear segments along Ponderosa Way. This site is on a north facing slope with few sparse patches of brush that survived the fire. Most of the vegetation has been burned leaving bare soil. The slopes are steep in this area and the drainages connect directly to the Mokelumne River. Loose soil has sloughed off the roadbed due to dozer grading activities. The scope of work on the site will consist of treating 1.2 linear miles of slope and road bank, 30 feet off the edge of the road on both sides totaling 8.7 acres. Revegetation efforts will include applying native erosion control seed mix to the area and where appropriate planting Incense Cedar and Ponderosa Pine seedlings. Certified weed free rice straw will be blown over the treatment area to provide cover to the seed and bare soils. M-Binder, a water soluble tackifier will be sprayed over the straw and seed to create a bonded matrix. The bonded matrix will promote soil and seed retention and stabilize the treated area through the first couple seasonal rains.

Amador Site

The Amador site is located on a south facing slope and was predominately grassland prior to the fire. This site has steep slopes with drainages that directly connect to the Mokelumne River. The scope of work on the site will consist of treating 1.85 linear miles of slope, 30 feet off the edge of the road on both sides totaling 13 acres. Revegetation efforts will include applying native erosion control seed mix to the area. Certified weed free rice straw will be blown over the treatment area to provide cover to the seed and bare soils. M-Binder, a water soluble tackifier will be sprayed over the straw and seed to create a bonded matrix. The bonded matrix will promote soil and seed retention and stabilize the treated area through the first couple seasonal rains.

Permits and Approvals

The project sites are on properties not owned by EDMUD. In Calaveras County, Ponderosa Way is maintained by the county Public Works Department. Calaveras County will be informed and appropriate authorization to access will be acquired. Right of Entry agreement will be made for access on Ponderosa Way in Amador County. All required permits from the regulatory agencies will be obtained before commencing work.

EBMUD Practices and Procedures

Standard construction, biological, environmental, and safety practices applicable to all EBMUD construction projects have been incorporated into the Project. California Storm water Quality Association (CASQA) Best Management Practices will be utilized. These standard practices minimize impacts to the public resulting from EBMUD construction projects.

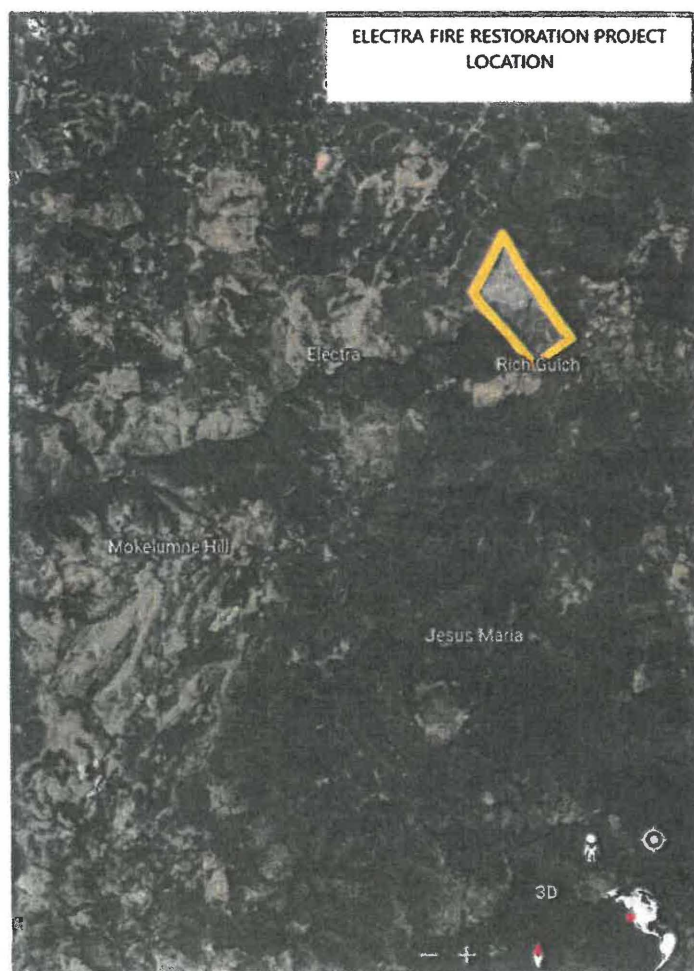
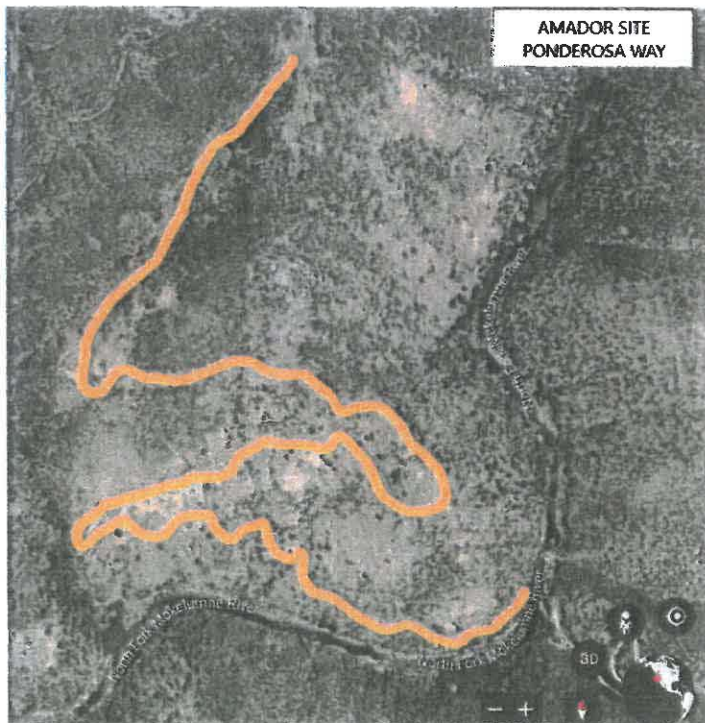
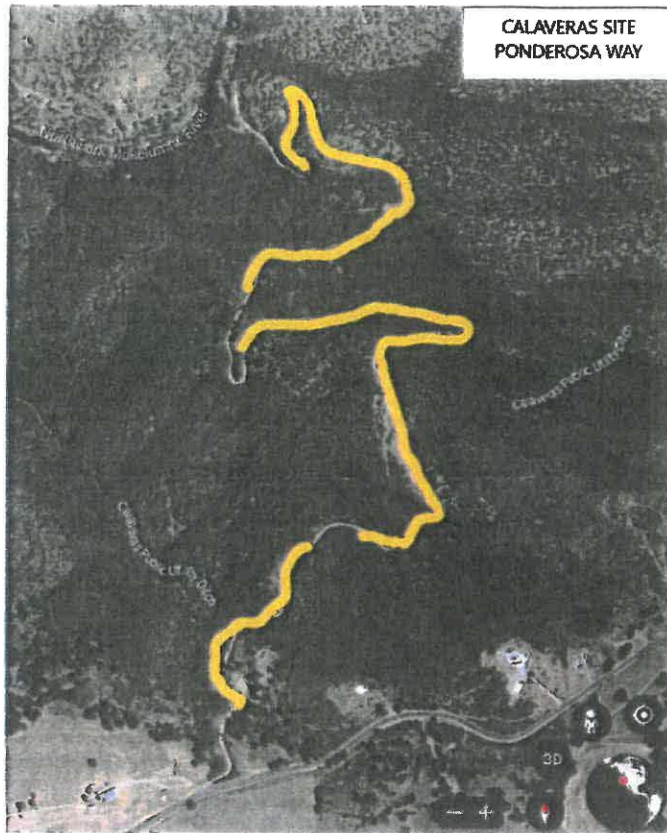


Figure 1.





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
**2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT**
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/22) Previously DFG 753.5a

meers

Print

StartOver

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

03 — 11/01/2022 — 031

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY

East Bay Municipal Utility District

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

DATE

11/01/2022

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

Amador

DOCUMENT NUMBER

0311012022031

PROJECT TITLE

Electra Fire Restoration Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

East Bay Municipal Utility District

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

cbeckman@ebmud.com

PHONE NUMBER

(209) 772-8258

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

375 Eleventh Street, MS 806

CITY

oakland

STATE

CA

ZIP CODE

94607-4240

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,539.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,548.00	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,203.25	\$	0.00

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☒ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE

X

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

M. Morris, Deputy Clerk