

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

UTICA WATER & POWER AUTHORITY

1168 BOOSTER WAY, ANGELS CAMP, CA 95222

PROJECT TITLE	Hunter Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project; Agreement #5GG21171		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections: 17, 18, 19, 20; T4N, R15E, MDBM	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	Utica Water & Power Authority (UWPA)		
CONTACT	Joel Metzger, UWPA General Manager		
ADDRESS	1168 Booster Way, Angels Camp CA 95222	PHONE	(209) 736-9419

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Hunter Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project is adjacent to and includes portions of the Avery Community on the Highway 4 corridor, approximately seven miles east of Murphys in Calaveras County. It is bounded by Highway 4 on the north, Hathaway Pines community on the west, steep lands of the North Fork Stanislaus River on the south, and private timberlands on the west. The elevation range is roughly 3,120 to 3,500 feet. Reducing fuels in the project area will provide protection to the Hathaway Pines and Avery communities from fires emanating from the North Fork Stanislaus River (historical fire patterns). The project area is located within the Cal Water Hydrologic Unit: #18040010; Stanislaus River. The Hunter Reservoir Fuels Reduction project is integral to the Highway 4 Strategic Wildfire Defense System. Latitude/Longitude location is: 38.197923 -120.360473 38.197923.

The project area includes 207 acres of private land consisting of 49 parcels with 23 habitable structures. The site includes a mixture of Sierran hardwood and conifer species. The fuels reduction treatment will be a mixture of pruning, thinning and mechanical mastication or hand work with chipping on site, targeting ladder fuels (brush and small trees).

EXEMPTION STATUS

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|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: Class 4, §15304 | Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) | | |
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REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption to CEQA. An environmental review was conducted to confirm that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This review included on-the-ground field inspections by a Registered Professional Forester on various dates from July 2021 to May 2023. A project description and Biological/Aquatic Data were provided to CDFG and the CA Central Valley Water Board on March 5, 2023; recommendations received were incorporated into the associated Environmental Review Report Form.

The Utica Water & Power Authority has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, 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, wildfire or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by UWPA is kept on file at 1168 Booster Way, Angels Camp, CA 95222.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

	06/06/2023
JOEL METZGER, UWPA GENERAL MANAGER	DATE
