

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1054

Applicant: Nevada Irrigation District

Project Title: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: Central

County(ies): Nevada

Funding Amount Requested: \$981,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$981,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,054,920

Final Score: 88.25

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The Scotts Flat Fuels Reduction Project Phase 4 is located on the north and east shores of the Scotts Flat Reservoir in the Deer Creek watershed near Nevada City in Nevada County. This storage reservoir is integral to the water supply infrastructure that Nevada Irrigation District (NID) manages for communities in Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties. The project will treat 300 acres and will significantly reduce catastrophic fire risk and promote healthy and functional forest and watershed conditions, improve carbon sequestration, and protect an existing water storage and hydropower facility.

Phase 4 will thin a minimum of 300 acres of heavily overgrown forest to complete treatments on NID land around the perimeter of Scotts Flat Reservoir. The treatments will consist of approximately 190 acres of mastication, 48 acres of hand-thinning, and 62 acres that will be a combination of the two. Treatments will remove understory brush and small trees up to 10" diameter to open up the forest and reduce canopy cover. In addition to protection of water resources, this project will also help protect residential areas around the reservoir in partnership with Cascade Shores and Banner Mountain Firewise Communities, as well as NID camping and recreational facilities around the lake. This grant will also fund a public outreach and education component.

This project expands on other recent forest thinning projects around the reservoir. Phase 3, just south and east of the dam between the shoreline and Pasquale Road, was completed by NID in 2018 through a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Proposition 1 grant. Other recent work at the west end of the reservoir was funded under a CAL FIRE

CFIP grant as well as NID resources. The work on NID land around Scotts Flat directly ties into other landscape-scale efforts in the Deer Creek watershed, including the 2008 Nevada County Community Shaded Fuelbreak (partially funded through an SNC Proposition 84 grant) and the current Western Nevada County Community Defense Project (WNCCDP) on the Tahoe National Forest. Two coordinated SNC funding efforts are currently supporting the WNCCDP: a \$500,000 Proposition 1 grant to the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County and a \$1 million CAL FIRE GGRF grant through the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), both to treat overgrown forest in the Upper Deer Creek watershed immediately above Scotts Flat Reservoir.

Nevada Irrigation District is a diversified water resource district that provides water for over 30,000 customers in Nevada County as well as a portion of Placer County. NID has successfully completed several SNC grant projects in the past (including the just completed Scotts Flat Phase 3) and has a current Proposition 1 planning grant in the Yuba headwaters.

NID has worked with CAL FIRE through their CFIP program and is committing significant NID resources to Phase 4 by covering all project management and administrative costs in-kind. NID has and continues to actively outreach and work with the communities surrounding Scotts Flat.

This project strongly supports Proposition 1 goals of protection of water resources and watershed health. Completion of the work around Scotts Flat will help ensure that the water and hydropower resources of the reservoir will be protected from wildfire impacts. The project also supports the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration. The reservoir forms the bottom of the Upper Deer Creek watershed, which is a focal point for WIP, and specifically the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative through implementation of the WNNCDP to improve hundreds of thousands of acres of Forest Service and surrounding lands.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project Management and Administration by NID staff	June 2019 – January 2022
Site Preparation and Supervision by Forester	June 2019 – December 2021
Project Implementation	June 2019 – December 2021
Pre- and Post-Project Monitoring and Evaluation	June 2019 – December 2021
Education and Outreach	June 2019 – December 2021
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
SNC Final Report	December 2021
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2022

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Project Management (NID in-kind)	\$0
Registered Professional Forester (site preparation/flagging, field supervision, monitoring)	\$138,000
Hand-thinning and Mastication	\$840,000
Project and Interpretive Signage; Public Education	\$3,000
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$0
TOTAL:	\$981,000

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
- Nevada County Resource Conservation District
- Cascade Shores Homeowners Association

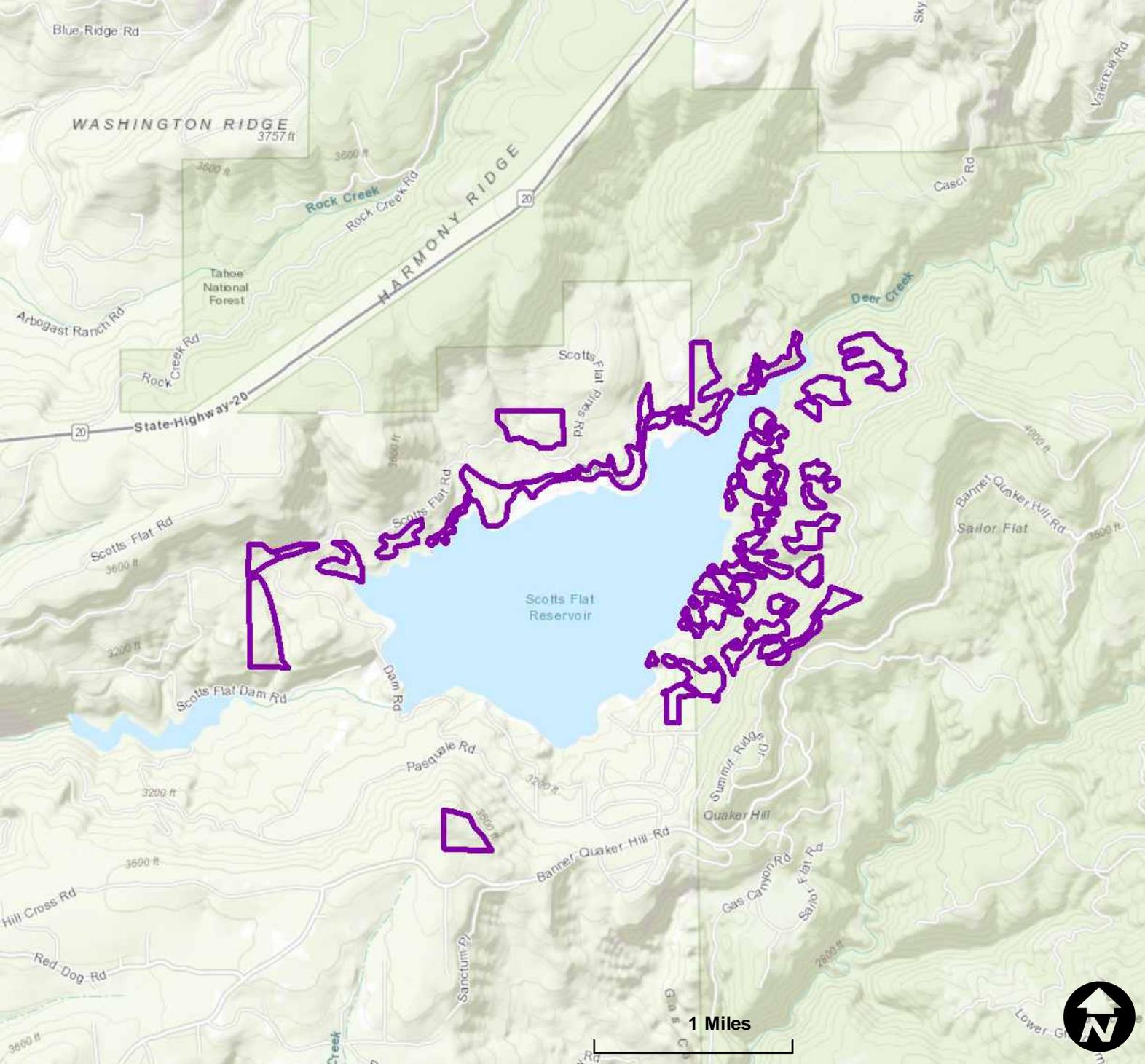
OPPOSITION:

- None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

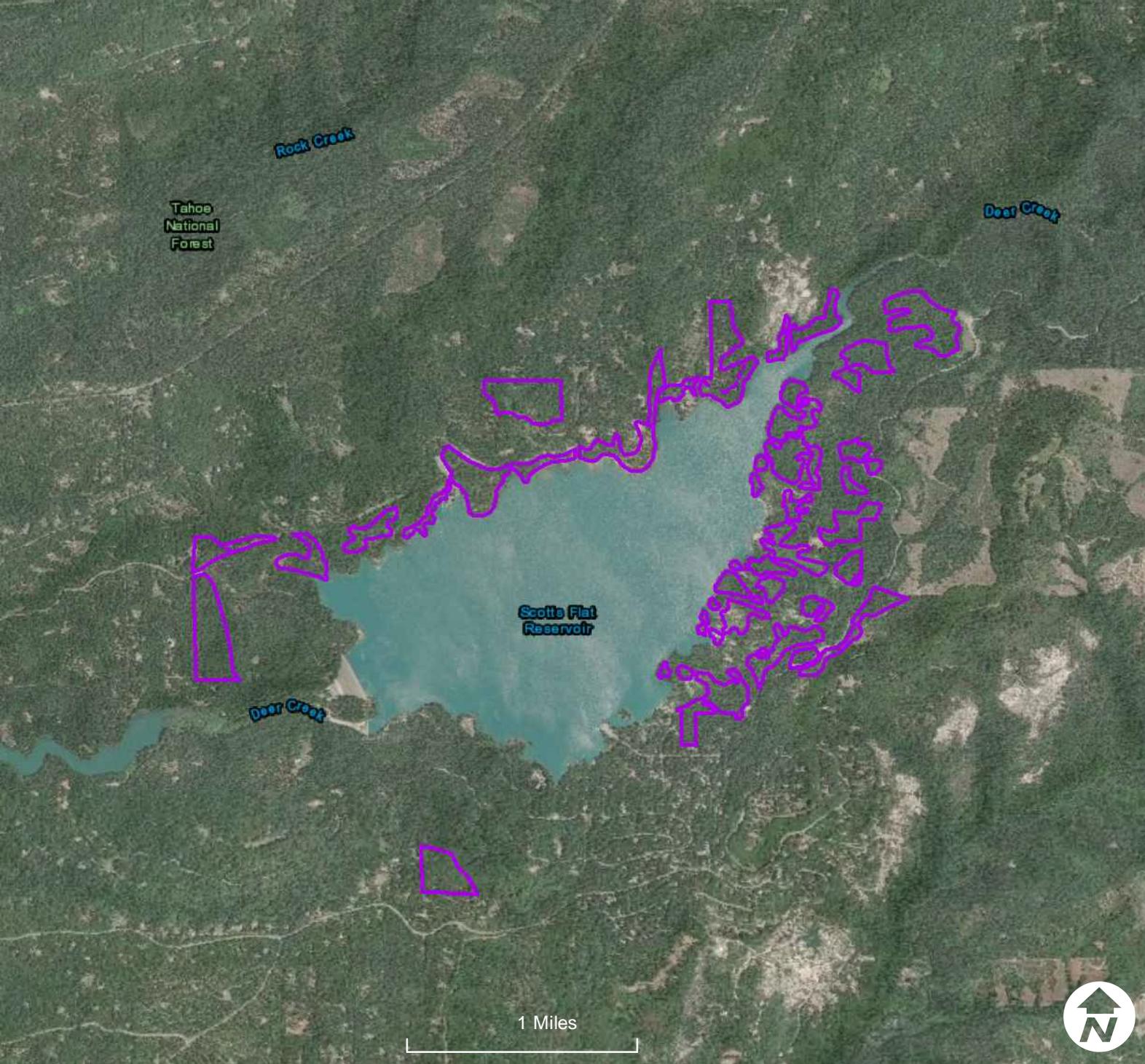
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4
Nevada Irrigation District



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4
Nevada Irrigation District

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1054

Project Title: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4

Applicant: Nevada Irrigation District

CEQA Compliance:

Categorically Exempt under Class 4 Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land.

- **Notice of Exemption:** See Below

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
(Address)

County Clerk / County of Nevada
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 210
Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4

Project Applicant: Nevada Irrigation District

Project Location – Specific:

Treatments are centered at approximately 39°16'39.47"N and 120°54'57.49"W

Project Location - City: Nevada City, CA **Project Location - County:** Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$981,000 in funding for forest fuel reduction treatments on 300 acres in the Scotts Flat Reservoir watershed, situated largely in the area near or immediately adjacent to the reservoir. The project objectives are to improve forest health, ecosystem resiliency, and reduce the risk and severity of wildfire. Fuel treatments would benefit the health of the Scotts Flat Reservoir, which provides water to communities in Nevada, Placer, and Yuba counties. Treatment activities would include mechanical and hand treatment of ladder fuels; mechanical removal of small-diameter trees; and on-site wood chipping of biomass, which would remain onsite to promote organic decomposition of material back into the ecosystem.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nevada Irrigation District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project would result in minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation associated with forestry management activities, including mechanical and hand treatments of ladder fuels and mechanical removal of small diameter trees. The project applicant has received an exemption from CAL FIRE pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(j) and has incorporated all required environmentally protective measures into the project. The proposed activities would improve the health and fire-resiliency of the site without materially changing the appearance, use, or environmental conditions of the project area.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date received for filing at OPR: _____
Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15304**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 68 Grant Application Number 1054
Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Project (Phase 4)**

Description of Activities

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$981,000 in funding to the Nevada Irrigation District (District) for fuel treatment and thinning activities on approximately 300 acres of land adjacent to Scott's Flat Reservoir within the Deer Creek watershed. The project would lead to multiple benefits for treated lands and adjacent areas, including a reduction in wildfire severity, intensity, and risk; restoration of healthy forest ecosystem functions; increased carbon sequestration; and protection of aquatic and water resources, most notably the Scott's Flat Reservoir.

Treatment activities would include mechanical and hand treatment of ladder fuels; mechanical removal of small-diameter trees; and on-site wood chipping of biomass, which would remain onsite to promote organic decomposition of material back into the ecosystem. Some pile burning may occur to remove excessive biomass. Dense understory vegetation and small diameter trees would be targeted for removal. The project is contiguous with the Nevada County Community Shaded Fuel Break and would therefore provide more effective fire protection through connection to the larger area than it would as a standalone treatment area.

Specific project objectives are as follows:

- Reduce surface fuels loading to limit surface fire flame length and surface fire intensity.
- Raise canopy base height through removal of approximately 400 trees per acre of trees less than 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh).
- Reduce canopy closure by reducing crown density and basal area by an average of 60 to 80 square feet per acre.
- Enhance stand heterogeneity without increasing in fuel bed depth.
- Reduce stand density to a minimum spacing between trunks of 25 to 35 feet.
- Establish education and outreach activities to raise awareness about forest health and wildfires and increase community participation in fire prevention programs.

Reasons Why the Project is Exempt

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a categorical exemption provides for an exemption from CEQA environmental documentation requirements for a class of projects determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. Categorical Exemptions are addressed in Article 19 of the CEQA Guidelines, where a list of 32 classes of projects has been identified. Projects falling within one of these classes of projects are generally exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land

The Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Project (Phase 4) is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project involve mechanical and hand treatments of ladder fuels and mechanical removal of small diameter trees. The project applicant has received an exemption from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(j) and has incorporated all required environmentally protective measures into the

project. The proposed activities would improve the health and fire-resiliency of the site without materially changing the appearance, use, or environmental conditions of the project area.

No Exceptions to a Categorical Exemption

Categorical exemptions represent activities that generally do not result in significant environmental impacts. However, there are six exceptions to categorical exemptions, defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. Generally, a categorical exemption does not apply if a project would occur in certain specified sensitive environments, would affect scenic resources within an official state scenic highway, or would be located on a designated hazardous waste site. In addition, a categorical exemption would not apply if the project causes substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource or would be considered significant within the cumulative context. Table 1 identifies the exceptions from CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and includes a brief rationale as to why each exception does not apply to the Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Project (Phase 4).

Table 1	
Categorical Exemption Exceptions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2)	
Exception	Applicability
<p>(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.</p>	<p>The goals of this 300-acre fuel reduction treatment project are to improve forest health, ecosystem resiliency, and reduce the risk and severity of wildfire. Fuel treatments would benefit the health of the Scotts Flat Reservoir, which provides water to communities in Nevada, Placer, and Yuba counties.</p> <p>Treatment activities would include mechanical and hand treatment of ladder fuels; mechanical removal of small-diameter trees; and on-site wood chipping of biomass, which would remain onsite to promote organic decomposition of material back into the ecosystem. Project work would not occur on areas know to contain hazardous substances, nor would project activities occur in locations that contain known significant cultural or biological resources.</p>
<p>(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.</p>	<p>Fuels treatment activities would result in beneficial effects to the project area forest, creeks, watersheds, associated lands, and adjacent forested areas by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and promoting forest health and improved water quality. The project would therefore not adversely affect environmental resources and would not contribute to a cumulative environmental impact when considered along or in combination with other projects or conditions in the region.</p>
<p>(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.</p>	<p>This fuels treatment project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Environmental resource areas are discussed below:</p> <p>Aesthetics. See Recreation and Scenic Resources, below.</p> <p>Agriculture/ Forestry. The project area does not contain any agricultural or grazing resources. It would not convert forests to non-forest land uses.</p>

Air Quality/GHGs. The project activities would result in nominal fugitive dust, particulate, and mobile source emissions. Mobile source emissions would be limited to those associated with vehicle trips to/from the project area, and the use of forestry equipment (e.g., chippers, chainsaws). Activities that emit fugitive dust and particulate (e.g., pile burning) would be conducted in accordance with requirements of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, which would minimize environmental effects.

Nearby sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the region's applicable air quality plan and would not violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation.

Biological Resources. The project area was evaluated for sensitive biological resources by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) during preparation of a Timber Harvest Plan exemption application. CAL FIRE reviewed the application and issued an exemption pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(j). The District has agreed to all environmentally protective conditions of the exemption, including avoiding operations at known sites of rare, candidate, threatened or endangered plants or animals. No project activities would occur within a buffer zone of a listed or sensitive species defined by 14 CCR § 895.1.

The project area was reviewed through the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and the California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS). No special status plant or animal species are known to occur within the project area. A list of potentially-occurring special status species to avoid was provided to the District. No fuel reduction will occur within riparian habitat in Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZ). The project would result in a low risk of noxious weed introduction and spread due to implementation of standard management practices and monitoring. An RPF and Licensed Timber Operator will oversee all operations, and CAL FIRE enforces compliance with the Forest Practice Rules and exemption conditions.

Cultural Resources. See (f).

Geology/Soils. The forest restoration activities would not expose people or structures to loss, injury, or death due to seismic activity or unstable soils. In the long-term, the project would have beneficial effects on slope and soil stability by

	<p>reducing the severity of future wildfires and promoting faster forest recovery.</p> <p>Operations would not occur in wetlands or stream courses. Slash would be masticated and spread to prevent soil erosion and add nutrient value back into the forest floor. The project would not affect channel stability. Direct impacts to channels would be avoided or minimized with design measures including delineation of WLPZs, designation of stream crossings and protection or avoidance of these features, and other best management practices.</p> <p>Hazards/Hazardous Materials. See (e).</p> <p>Hydrology/Water Quality. See Geology/Soils.</p> <p>Noise. Forest fuels treatments would generate temporary noise. However, given that project activities would be limited to daytime hours (the least sensitive hours of the day), and the limited extent to which these activities could expose sensitive receptors to increased noise levels, the project would not cause significant noise effects.</p> <p>Recreation and Scenic Resources. No specific recreational developments or improvements are proposed as part of the forest restoration activities. The project area is located along roadways that are accessed by recreational visitors. It is possible that during project implementation, recreation access could be temporarily limited. However, by treating fuels in this area, the project would reduce the potential for negative impacts on recreation and scenic resources that could occur from a catastrophic wildfire. The project treatments are designed to achieve an aesthetically-pleasing and natural-looking forest setting.</p> <p>Transportation. There would be limited additional trips on local roadways during project implementation. No permanent changes to transportation patterns would result from the project. No vehicular transportation over sensitive habitat would occur. The vehicles would not block traffic and no traffic delays would occur due to project activities.</p> <p>Other CEQA Issues. The project would have no effect on land use, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, or utilities and service systems.</p>
<p>(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar</p>	<p>The project area is not visible from a scenic highway, and would not result in the removal of, or damage to, any trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings or other resources within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The project would maintain and protect a forested viewshed surrounding the Scotts Flat Reservoir.</p>

<p>resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.</p>	
<p>(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>	<p>The project is not located on a site which is included on a hazardous waste site contained on a list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.</p>
<p>(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.</p>	<p>No prehistoric or historic resources would be affected by the project. An RPF will perform a field survey and submit a confidential archeological letter, including site records. If previously undiscovered resources are encountered or suspected during project implementation, work would be halted immediately and would not resume until the area is cleared by qualified individuals. No work would occur near sensitive cultural resources. The project would not result in an adverse change in the significance of any archaeological or historical resource and would not disturb or destroy any human remains or paleontological resources.</p>

Table 2 Special-Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area

Species	Status ¹			Habitat and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	CRPR		
brownish beaked-rush <i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i>			2B.2	Wetland. Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest. Mesic sites. 148 to 5610 ft in elevation. Blooms July-August.	Not expected to occur: No suitable wetland habitat within treatment areas.
Cantelow's lewisia <i>Lewisia cantelovii</i>			1B.2	Ultramafic. Broadleaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, chaparral. Mesic rock outcrops and wet cliffs, usually in moss or clubmoss; on granitics or sometimes on serpentine. 1083 to 4495 ft in elevation. Blooms May-October.	Not expected to occur: No ultramafic soils in the project area (NRCS 2019).
chaparral sedge <i>Carex xerophila</i>			1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Serpentinite, gabbroic. 902 to 2526 ft in elevation. Blooms March-June.	Not expected to occur: No ultramafic soils in the project area (NRCS 2019).
finger rush <i>Juncus digitatus</i>			1B.1	Wetland. Cismontane woodland (openings), lower montane coniferous forest (openings), vernal pools. In full sun, in the vernal damp ground of seeps, vernal pools and swales on gentle slopes over volcanic bedrock. 1969 to 2592 ft in elevation. Blooms (April), May-June.	Not expected to occur: No suitable wetland habitat within treatment areas.
inundated bog-clubmoss <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>			2B.2	Wetland. Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps. Peat bogs, muddy depressions, pond margins. 148 to 4019 ft in elevation. Blooms June-September.	Not expected to occur: No suitable wetland habitat within treatment areas.

Table 2 Special-Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area

Species	Status ¹			Habitat and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Pine Hill flannelbush <i>Fremontodendron decumbens</i>	E		1B.2	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Rocky ridges; gabbro or serpentine endemic; often among rocks and boulders. 1394 to 2510 ft in elevation. Blooms April-July.	Not expected to occur: No ultramafic soils in the project area (NRCS 2019).
Scadden Flat checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea stipularis</i>		E	1B.1	Wetland. Marshes and swamps. Wet montane marshes fed by springs. 2297 to 2428 ft in elevation. Blooms July-August.	Not expected to occur: No suitable wetland habitat within treatment areas.
Sheldon's sedge <i>Carex sheldonii</i>			2B.2	Wetland Lower montane coniferous forest, marshes and swamps, riparian scrub. Mesic sites; along creeks and in wet meadows. 3937 to 6611 ft in elevation. Blooms May-August.	Could occur: Potentially suitable riparian habitat within treatment areas. Below elevational range of the species, but not sufficiently below to reduce probability of occurrence.
Sierra blue grass <i>Poa sierrae</i>			1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest. Shady, moist, rocky slopes. Often in canyons. 1198 to 4921 ft in elevation. Blooms April-July.	Could occur: Potentially suitable habitat within treatment areas. Within elevational range of the species.
Stebbins' morning-glory <i>Calystegia stebbinsii</i>	E	E	1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. On red clay soils of the Pine Hill formation; gabbro or serpentine; open areas. 984 to 2379 ft in elevation. Blooms April-July.	Not expected to occur: Soils of the Pine Hill formation do not occur in the project area (NRCS 2019).
Stebbins' phacelia <i>Phacelia stebbinsii</i>			1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps. Among rocks and rubble on metamorphic rock benches. 2001 to 6594 ft in elevation. Blooms May-July.	Could occur: Potentially suitable habitat within treatment areas. Within elevational range of the species.
sticky pyrrocoma <i>Pyrrocoma lucida</i>			1B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, Great Basin scrub. Alkaline flats, clay soils. 2493 to 6857 ft in elevation. Blooms July-October.	Not expected to occur: Alkaline soils do not occur in the project area (NRCS 2019).

Table 2 Special-Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Area

Species	Status ¹			Habitat and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State	CRPR		
True's mountain jewelflower <i>Streptanthus tortuosus</i> <i>ssp. truei</i>			1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest. Partial shade on steep rocky slopes. 2510 to 2822 ft in elevation. Blooms June-July (September).	Not expected occur: No suitable rocky cliff habitat within treatment areas. Species only known from area of Middle Fork Yuba River.
Van Zuuk's morning-glory <i>Calystegia vanzuukiae</i>			1B.3	Ultramafic. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Gabbro, serpentinite. 1640 to 3871 ft in elevation. Blooms May-August.	Not expected to occur: No ultramafic soils in the project area (NRCS 2019).

Notes: CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; ESA = Federal Endangered Species Act; CESA = California Endangered Species Act; CNPPA=California Native Plant Protection Act

¹ Legal Status Definitions

Federal :

E Endangered (legally protected by ESA)

California Rare Plant Ranks:

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)

State:

E Endangered (legally protected by CESA)

2 Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)

Threat Ranks

0.1-Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2-Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3-Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

² Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present on the project site due to poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

Could occur: Suitable habitat is available at the project site; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Known to occur: The species, or evidence of its presence, was observed at the project site during reconnaissance surveys, or was reported by others.

Sources: CNDDDB 2012; CNPS 2012; Bufferlands 2012; data compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2012

Table 1 Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Species	Listing Status ¹		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State		
Amphibians and Reptiles				
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	T	SC	Aquatic, artificial flowing waters, artificial standing waters, freshwater marsh, marsh & swamp, riparian forest, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters, Sacramento/San Joaquin standing waters, south coast flowing waters. Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Could occur: Potentially suitable aquatic habitat near treatment areas. One recorded occurrence approximately 3-miles from the project area (CDFW 2019).
coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>		SC	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, desert wash, pinyon and juniper woodlands, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	Not likely to occur: Potentially suitable habitat near the dam; however, no treatments are planned for that location. Habitat within treatment areas not likely suitable for the species.
foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>		CE	Aquatic, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, Klamath/north coast flowing waters, lower montane coniferous forest, meadow and seep, riparian forest, riparian woodland, and Sacramento/San Joaquin flowing waters. Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Could occur: Potentially suitable riparian habitat within and near treatment areas. Multiple recorded occurrences within 2-miles of the project area (CDFW 2019).
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog <i>Rana sierrae</i>	E	T	Aquatic. Always encountered within a few feet of water. Tadpoles may require 2 to 4 years to complete their aquatic development.	Could occur: Potentially suitable aquatic habitat within and near treatment areas. Within range of the species, but at lower elevation than recent detections.

Table 1 Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Species	Listing Status ¹		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State		
				Known occurrences within 7-miles of the project area (CDFW 2019).
western pond turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i>		SC	Aquatic, including artificial flowing waters. A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 feet elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Could occur: Potentially suitable aquatic habitat near treatment areas. One recorded occurrence approximately 3-miles from the project area (CDFW 2019).

Birds

bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	D	E FP	Lower montane coniferous forest, old growth. Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	Could occur: Potentially suitable nesting and foraging habitat in and near treatment areas. Nearest recorded occurrence approximately 16-miles from the project area (CDFW 2019).
California black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>		T FP	Brackish marsh, freshwater marsh, marsh and swamp, salt marsh, wetland. Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	Unlikely to occur: No suitable marsh or similar habitat in or near project area. Nearest known occurrence south east of Grass Valley (CDFW 2019).
great gray owl <i>Strix nebulosa</i>		E	Lower montane coniferous forest, old growth, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Resident of mixed conifer or red fir forest habitat, in or on edge of meadows. Requires large diameter snags in a forest with high canopy closure, which provide a cool sub-canopy microclimate.	Not likely to occur: No potentially suitable meadow habitat in or near treatment areas. Nearest recorded

Table 1 Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Species	Listing Status ¹		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State		
				occurrence approximately 13-miles from the project area (CDFW 2019).
northern goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		SC	North coast coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Within, and in vicinity of, coniferous forest. Uses old nests, and maintains alternate sites. Usually nests on north slopes, near water. Red fir, lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens are typical nest trees.	Could occur: Potentially suitable habitat in and near treatment areas. Nearest recorded occurrences within 10-miles from the project area (CDFW 2019).

Mammals

fisher - West Coast DPS <i>Pekania pennanti</i>	C	SC	North coast coniferous forest, old growth, riparian forest. Intermediate to large-tree stages of coniferous forests and deciduous-riparian areas with high percent canopy closure. Uses cavities, snags, logs and rocky areas for cover and denning. Needs large areas of mature, dense forest.	Could occur: Potentially suitable habitat within treatment areas. Only one historic occurrence within nine quad search area (CDFW 2019).
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver <i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>		SC	Riparian forest, riparian scrub, riparian woodland. Dense growth of small deciduous trees and shrubs, wet soil, and abundance of forbs in the Sierra Nevada and east slope. Needs dense understory for food and cover. Burrows into soft soil. Needs abundant supply of water.	Could occur: Potentially suitable riparian habitat in and near treatment areas. Only one historic occurrence within nine quad search area (CDFW 2019).
Sierra Nevada red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	FC	T	Alpine, alpine dwarf scrub, broadleaved upland forest, meadow and seep, riparian scrub, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest, wetland. Historically found from the Cascades down to the Sierra Nevada. Found in a variety of habitats from wet meadows to forested areas. Use dense vegetation and rocky areas for	Unlikely to occur: Project is outside the current range of the species. Three historic occurrences within nine quad search area (CDFW 2019).

Table 1 Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur in the Project Region and their Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Species	Listing Status ¹		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence ²
	Federal	State		
			cover and den sites. Prefer forests interspersed with meadows or alpine fell-fields.	
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>		SC	Broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, chenopod scrub, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadow & seep, Mojavean desert scrub, riparian forest, riparian woodland, Sonoran desert scrub. Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	Could occur: Potentially suitable roosting habitat in and near treatment areas. Two recent (2015) occurrences within nine quad search area (CDFW 2019).

Note: CNDDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

¹ Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

- C Candidate
- E Endangered (legally protected)
- T Threatened (legally protected)
- D Delisted

State:

- C Candidate
- D Delisted
- FP Fully protected (legally protected)
- SC Species of special concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)
- E Endangered (legally protected)
- T Threatened (legally protected)

² Potential for Occurrence

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present in the project area due to poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

Could occur: Suitable habitat is available in the project area; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Known to occur: The species, or evidence of its presence, was observed in the project area during reconnaissance surveys, or was reported by others.

Potential for occurrence based on CNDDDB records and aerial images of treatment areas.

Source: CNDDDB 2019