



RESOLUTION No. 25-193

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR THE PONDEROSA WEST GRASS VALLEY DEFENSE ZONE PHASE 1 MAINTENANCE AND PHASE 2 PROJECTS THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM (CALVTP) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR), AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO SIGN AND FILE THE NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (NOD) FOR THESE PROJECTS WITH THE NEVADA COUNTY CLERK RECORDER'S OFFICE.

WHEREAS, Nevada County faces a severe and present threat from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services has applied for and was awarded funding from the USDA Forest Service to conduct hazardous fuels reduction activities to mitigate this threat in the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone project area (Res. 23-534 + Res. 22-519); and

WHEREAS, the planning phases of the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 1 Maintenance and Phase 2 are nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, environmental compliance with state and federal laws for these projects must be achieved before they can move into the implementation phase; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection developed the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CALVTP) to provide local and state agencies with powerful California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance tools, including a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) checklist and Addendum to the Program EIR (PSA/Addendum) to expedite wildfire resilience projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the CalVTP in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Program EIR evaluated the potential environmental effects of implementing vegetation treatments throughout the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and portions of the adjacent Local Responsibility Area (LRA) in California; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services has contracted with environmental consulting firms (Res. 24-043) to achieve environmental compliance through utilization of the CALVTP PSA/Addendum process in accordance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the firm Panorama has reviewed and completed the required documents under the CALVTP PSA checklist, which includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, an Addendum to an EIR is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168; and

WHEREAS, in this project, there are no changed circumstances, but the proposed revision or change in the project, compared to the Program EIR, is the inclusion of areas outside of and adjacent to the CalVTP treatable landscape and revisions to standard project requirements, which are integrated into the Program itself; and

WHEREAS, and the Nevada County Planning Department has reviewed the project and found it will be implemented in accordance with the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), pursuant to Section 15097(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS; in accordance with CEQA requirements, a Notice of Determination must be filed with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder's office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors

1. Finds and determines that the above recitals are true and correct.
2. Adopts the PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR attached hereto as Exhibit A.
3. Authorizes environmental clearance for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 1 Maintenance and Phase 2 projects through the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CALVTP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).
4. Directs the Director of Emergency Services to sign and file a Notice of Determination with the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder and the California State Clearinghouse within five (5) days from the date of this action.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 27th day of May 2025, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Robb Tucker, Lisa Swarthout, Susan Hoek, and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Recuse: None.

ATTEST:

TINE MATHIASSEN
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Lauriana Cecchi

Heidi Hall
Heidi Hall, Chair

Notice of Determination**Appendix D****To:**

☐ Office of Planning and Research
 U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
 County of: Nevada
 Address: 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210
 Nevada City, CA 95959

From:

Public Agency: Nevada County Office of Emergency Services
 Address: 950 Maidu Ave
 Nevada City, CA 95959
 Contact: AJ Zekanoski
 Phone: (530) 470-2533

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2019012052

Project Title: Ponderosa West Grass Valley Extension Project - Under CalVTP Program EIR

Project Applicant: Nevada County Office of Emergency Services

Project Location (include county): unincorporated Nevada County and the city of Grass Valley SOI

Project Description:

The project would create and maintain a reduced-fuel and forest-health-restoration zone to reduce wildfire hazards, including wildfire intensity and rate of spread, and provide strategic locations for firefighters/emergency personnel to fight a wildfire. The project would rearrange and reduce fuel loading and continuity by removing dead and downed debris, pruning live trees, removing excess ladder fuels, pruning conifers and hardwoods, and breaking up the canopy continuity. +

This is to advise that the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services has approved the above
 (☐ Lead Agency or ☒ Responsible Agency)

described project on 5/27/25 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [☒ will ☐ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Project Specific Analysis was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were ☐ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

<https://calfire-umb05.azurewebsites.net/projects-and-programs/calvtp-homepage-and-storymap/>

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: _____

Date: _____ Date Received for filing at OPR: _____