



RESOLUTION No. 25-194

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR THE SOUTH YUBA RIM HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM (CALVTP) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR), AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO SIGN AND FILE THE NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (NOD) FOR THIS PROJECT 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 applied for and was awarded FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to conduct hazardous fuels reduction activities to mitigate this threat (Res. 24-155); and

WHEREAS, the planning phase of the South Yuba Rim hazardous fuel reduction project is nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, environmental compliance with state and federal laws for these projects must be achieved before the project 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 Yuba Watershed Institute (Res. 24-156) to lead on-the-ground project activities, including achieving environmental compliance through utilization of the CALVTP in accordance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, Yuba Watershed Institute and their contracted firm, Ascent, have 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 South Yuba Rim hazardous fuels reduction project 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 



Heidi Hall, Chair

Notice of Determination

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
☒ Nevada County Clerk-Recorder Office
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-1221

From: Nevada County Office of Emergency Services
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 130
Nevada City, CA 95959
Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services
(530) 470-2521

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination
in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Project Location: San Juan Ridge, Nevada County; Bridgeport State Park to Malakoff Diggins State Park; North rim of the South Fork of the Yuba River

Project Description: The proposed project entails implementation of vegetation treatments on up to 7,320 acres of land in Nevada County. Nevada County is the lead CEQA agency for the project. Nevada County has entered into a partnership with the Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) to implement a portion of the proposed treatments (on up to 800 acres). The partnership entails the provision of resources to the YWI, namely administration of funding for treatments on 800 acres in the project area through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant and technical input. The proposed treatment types are ecological restoration, wildland urban interface fuel reduction, fuel break, and the treatment activities are mechanical treatments, manual treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory. Maintenance treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatments. A Project-Specific Analysis and Addendum (PSA/Addendum) has been prepared for the project as a later activity covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Project (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The proposed treatment types and the treatment activities are consistent with those evaluated in the CalVTP Program EIR.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the County of Nevada (☒ Lead Agency) approved the above-described project on May 27, 2025 and has made the following determinations related to the PSA/Addendum:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR (SCH# 2019012052) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. The CalVTP Program EIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP Program EIR.
 - a. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in project areas within the CalVTP treatable landscape are within the scope of the CalVTP Program EIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), as documented in the PSA.
 - b. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape and revisions to two standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR would not result in the occurrence of any of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR; therefore, an Addendum has been adopted to address these changes to the program.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP Program EIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project-specific mitigation measures are required.
5. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program was adopted by the County of Nevada for this project.
6. A statement of overriding considerations was adopted by the County of Nevada for this project, which reaffirmed the previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP Program EIR.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR and record of project approval is available to the general public at the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services. The custodian of these documents is Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services. Please contact Alex Keeble-Toll at alex.keeble-toll@nevadacountyca.gov or (530) 470-2521, to arrange document viewing. In addition, the PSA/Addendum is available on the Project Page at <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3806/South-Yuba-Rim-Hazardous-Fuels-Reduction>.

Signature: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Dated Received for filing at LCI:
Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code
Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.