



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-5
5 Pages

OV-4 FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT – CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

DATE: August 27, 2024

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Jessica Asher, Program Manager; and Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption

BACKGROUND: The OV-4 project will address wildfire risk by establishing a minimum 150-foot-wide shaded fuel break surrounding the perimeter of residential properties, buildings, and other structures in the valley. The planning and design for the project was funded by the District, and the Truckee North Tahoe Forest Management Program (TNTFMP) through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Wildfire Resilience Program. The implementation of the project is funded by the same entities and the Truckee Tahoe Airport District.

The proposed project covers 127.7 acres, situated immediately adjacent to the Olympic Valley residential neighborhoods. The primary objective is to decrease the continuity of surface and ladder fuels, thereby reducing hazardous fuel loading and arrangement. This strategic reduction will help mitigate the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfires.

The Project will be implemented in a phased approach. The first phase is expected to consume the \$750,000 in funding currently available. Staff will continue to apply for additional funding to complete the project in subsequent years. This notice of exemption is for the entire project.

DISCUSSION: The permitting process for this project includes compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The District will act as Lead Agency under CEQA pursuant to §15367 and 15051 of Title 14, California Administrative Code. As the Lead Agency, the District has determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and is thus exempt pursuant to Section 15304 of Title 14, California Administrative Code.

Under CEQA Guidelines, the project qualifies for a Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (Section 15304) categorical exemption, which allows minor alteration of vegetation, including fuel management activities, to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation. As detailed in the attached Notice of Exemption, the project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption.

- ALTERNATIVES:**
1. Adopt Resolution 2024-26 authorizing the General Manager to execute and file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Project.
 2. Do not adopt Resolution 2024-26.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: No fiscal impacts are associated with filing the CEQA NOE.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Resolution 2024-26 authorizing the General Manager to execute and file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Project.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 2024-26 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Olympic Valley Public Service District Authorizing the General Manager to Execute and File the Notice of Exemption for the OV-4 Fuel Reduction Project
- Notice of Exemption
- OV-4 Map

DATE PREPARED: August 23, 2024

RESOLUTION 2024-26

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE
AND FILE THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE
OV-4 FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Olympic Valley Public Service District (District) is a public agency organized pursuant to California Water Code §30000, et seq; and

WHEREAS, the OV-4 Fuel Reduction Project will reduce the continuity of surface and ladder fuels to reduce fuel loading and arrangement such that the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfire is reduced; and

WHEREAS, the project is designed to be consistent with the use of categorical exemption 15304 Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4) which allows for minor alteration of vegetation, including fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation; and

WHEREAS, the current fuel overgrowth poses a significant threat to the Olympic Valley Community and is an urgent priority to implement wildfire mitigation projects to protect life, property, and environment from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the District is acting as Lead Agency for the OV-4 Fuel Reduction Project (Project) under the California Public Resources Code §21000, et seq, (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, the District as Lead Agency has determined that the Project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt pursuant to §15304 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Olympic Valley Public Service District hereby directs the General Manager to execute and file the attached Notice of Exemption on the grounds that said project is exempt from CEQA. The contents of said Notice of Exemption shall be filed with Governor’s Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and the Placer County Clerk’s Office.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 2024 at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Olympic Valley Public Service District, by the following vote on roll call:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Dale Cox, Board President

ATTEST:

Jessica Asher, Board Secretary

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	OV4		
PROJECT LOCATION	T16N, R16E, S28-33 MDBM	COUNTY	Placer
LEAD AGENCY	Olympic Valley Public Services District		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Charley Miller, General Manager Olympic Valley Public Services District 305 Olympic Valley Rd Olympic Valley, CA. 96146	PHONE	(530) 583-4692

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed 127.7-acre project is located within and immediately adjacent to the community of Olympic Valley, California. The project area is dominated by native Eastside Pine stands of California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) Size 3 and 4 with a Canopy Closure M, meaning the project area contains a moderate canopy closure of 40-59%. The proposed project will reduce the continuity of surface and ladder fuels less than 12" diameter breast height (DBH) in effort to reduce hazardous fuel loading and arrangement such that the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfire is reduced. The proposed project will 1) Utilize hand and mechanical treatment methods to reduce the continuity of surface and ladder fuels, 2) leave remaining native shrub species and trees in a discontinuous, mosaic fashion at least 15 feet from the dripline of any conifer such that residual fuels will not contribute to horizontal or vertical fuels, and 3) prune residual conifers within the project area to a minimum height of 10 feet as measured from the lowest live green limb to the top of the surface fuels. Live riparian hardwood and other riparian species will be retained and left unaltered.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
 - Statutory Exemption (state code section):
 - Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
 - Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
 - Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
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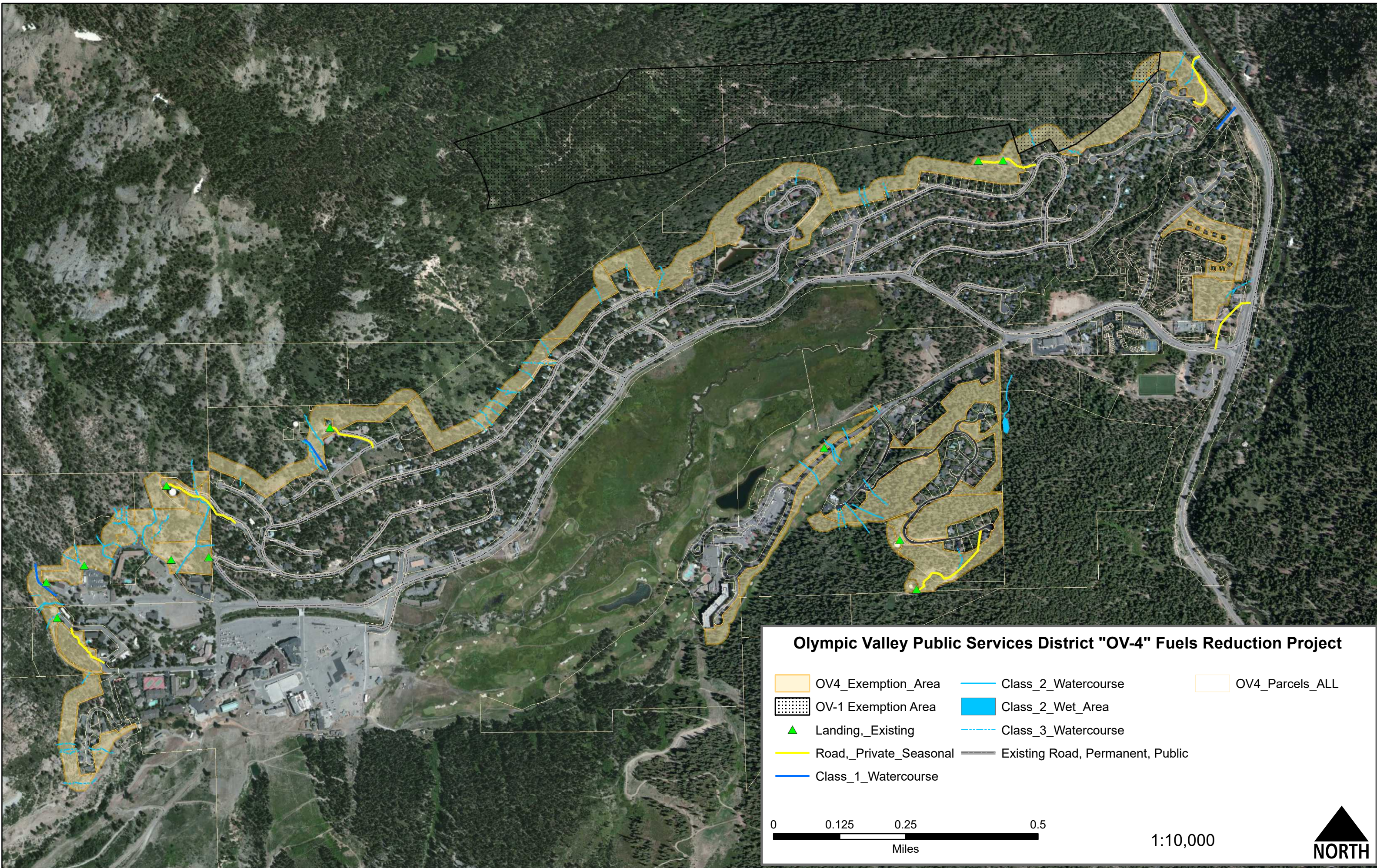
REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under Categorical Exemption: 15304 Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4) which allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation, provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of waters. The pruning of residual trees will be restricted to those that reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels, and/or provide for improved ingress/egress in the event of wildfire. The proposed project has been designed to protect hydrology and water and soil resources to prevent significant erosion or sedimentation of waters. The project, as designed, is consistent with the use of a Categorical Exemption.

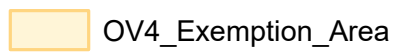
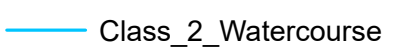
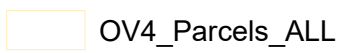

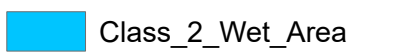
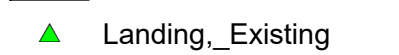
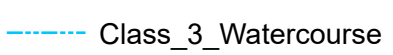
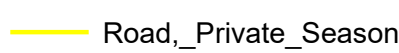

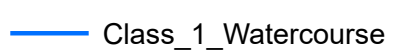
Field review confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. Environmental review consistent with California Environmental Quality Act has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or 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 or traffic, utilities and service systems or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the Olympic Valley Public Services District office at 305 Olympic Vly Rd, Olympic Valley, CA 96146.

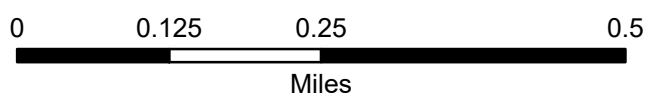
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

[insert name]



Olympic Valley Public Services District "OV-4" Fuels Reduction Project

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|---|--|---|
|  OV4_Exemption_Area |  Class_2_Watercourse |  OV4_Parcels_ALL |
|  OV-1 Exemption Area |  Class_2_Wet_Area | |
|  Landing_Existing |  Class_3_Watercourse | |
|  Road_Private_Seasonal |  Existing Road, Permanent, Public | |
|  Class_1_Watercourse | | |



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