



CALIFORNIA
NATURAL
RESOURCES
AGENCY

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for Natural Resources

Yana Garcia
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Date: Aug 18, 2025

Project No.: ad753c27-d385-457a-8c82-53c407075c90 - MRCA 2025 Strategic Hazardous Fuel Mitigation Treatment projects, in partnership with The County of Los Angeles Fire Department and Ventura County Fire Department.

SECRETARIAL SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2025, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in the State of California due to the catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest conditions across the state. The Proclamation suspends state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdictions of the boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to the extent necessary for expediting certain critical fuels reduction projects. It requires individuals or entities who desire to conduct such activities under the suspension to request that the appropriate agency secretary, or the secretary's designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension. (That determination is referred to herein as the "secretarial suspension authorization" or "suspension authorization.") The Secretary for CalEPA and the Secretary for CNRA must use sound discretion to ensure that the secretarial suspension authorization serves the purpose of accelerating critical fuels reduction projects, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment.

The Proclamation further provides that critical fuels reduction projects are eligible for a suspension authorization only if they are initiated and if they include as a primary objective at least one of the following activities ("permissible primary objective"): removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees; removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans; removal of vegetation for community defensible space; removal of vegetation along roadways, highways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and to reduce roadside ignitions; removal of vegetation using cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning and/or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction; or maintenance of previously-established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects.

The Proclamation further requires that any activities performed under the suspension be in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan describing how such actions will balance expeditious fuels reduction and environmental protection. The [Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan](#) was developed by CalEPA, CNRA, the California Air Resources Board, the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (each a Regional Water Board), the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the California Geological Survey, to apply to fuels reduction projects granted a secretarial suspension authorization.

The EPP is appropriate for application to certain fuels reduction activities. It specifies methods intended to allow the fuels reduction activities to continue without delay while still preserving the intent of the suspended laws and protecting the environment.

Leigh Adams Croley (Applicant) has submitted a request for a suspension authorization (Application) on July 18, 2025. Applicant has included a description of the work, a description of treatment activities, a long term maintenance/retreatment plan and included a project map. The activities described in the Application are hereinafter referred to as the Project. The information contained in the Applicant's Application is hereby incorporated by reference.

CONDITIONS OF SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION

The suspension of laws set forth below is conditioned on the following:

1. **Applicability:** This suspension authorization applies only to the Project. It does not apply to any activities not set forth in the Application. This suspension authorization does not alter any requirements imposed by any law not specifically identified herein, including local and federal laws, and any material modification of or departure from the Project described in your Application may independently trigger obligations under the state laws identified in this authorization.
2. **EPP:**
 - The Project must be conducted in conformance with the EPP. This suspension authorization is only valid to the extent the Applicant and individuals conducting Project Activities comply with the EPP. Failure to comply with the EPP, and with any applicable federal and non-suspended state and local environmental laws and regulations, may result in an enforcement action by CalEPA departments and/or CNRA departments.
 - Staff of the State Water Board, appropriate Regional Water Board, California Air Resources Board, California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the California Geological Survey will have the opportunity to inspect operations and verify proper implementation of best management practices and other measures set forth in the EPP. Inspections may occur throughout the life of the project and within eight months of filing a Notice of Completion to the State. Staff will ensure they provide reasonable notice to the applicant for all site visits. Applicant must work with staff to ensure access is granted.
 - The EPP may be amended at any time during planning or implementation of project activities. The Project must be conducted in conformance with the then-applicable EPP. If such amendment occurs, CNRA and CalEPA will notify all applicants of such changes.
3. **Qualified Responsible Party:**
 - All Project work must be conducted by or under the direction of a qualified responsible party, such as a Registered Professional Forester, Certified Rangeland Manager, qualified vegetation management contractor, qualified incident commander, certified arborist, certified burn boss and/or authorized cultural burner.
 - If no qualified responsible party was listed in the Application, or the Applicant substitutes a different or adds additional qualified party/parties, Applicant must

submit a Notice of Qualified Responsible Party prior to commencement of on-the-ground work.

4. Landowner Consent: Applicant must have consent of landowner of record.

5. Commencement and termination of on-the-ground project activities:

- On the ground fuel project activities must commence no later than October 15, 2026.
- Applicant must [submit a Notice of Commencement](#) to CalEPA, CNRA, and the applicable CAL FIRE unit prior to commencing on-the-ground project activities and specifying the date on which on-the-ground project activities will actually commence. Ideally, this will be the same date set forth in the Application. The Notice of Commencement must set forth the target completion date.
- Operations should conclude no later than 2 years after commencement of on-the-ground project activities.
- In the event operations will not conclude before the target completion date identified in the Notice of Commencement, Applicant must submit of a Notice of Amended Completion Date prior to the previously identified target completion date.
- Applicant must submit a [Notice of Completion](#) promptly after on-the-ground work has been completed. The Notice of Termination will specify the date on which on-the-ground project activities concluded and identify the total acres treated.

SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION BY CALEPA

I find that Applicant's Project is eligible for a suspension authorization because it was submitted in 2025 and has the permissible primary objectives of removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation, CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans; removal of vegetation for community defensible space; removal of vegetation using cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning and/or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction; and maintenance of previously established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects. I further find that issuance of a suspension authorization in this case would serve the purpose of expediting critical fuels reduction activities and that Applicant's compliance with the EPP in conducting the Project will protect public health and the environment.

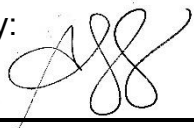
Based on the foregoing, I find that the Project is eligible to be conducted under the suspension authorized by the Proclamation. This suspension authorization, however, is conditioned on compliance with the conditions listed above. In the exercise of my discretion under the Proclamation, I hereby authorize the Project to proceed pursuant to the suspension of the following laws within the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board or appropriate Regional Water Board and the following laws within the jurisdiction of the California Air Resources Board:

- California Water Code, § 13160, and all regulations pursuant to that section; requires an applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity which may result in any discharge to navigable waters to file an application for a water quality certification from the appropriate Regional Water Board or the State Water Board.
- California Water Code, § 13260, and regulations pursuant to that section; requires that any person discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect

the quality of waters of the state shall file with the appropriate Regional Water Board a report of the discharge.

- Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, §§ 80100-80330; establishing smoke management guidelines for agricultural and prescribed burning.

Suspension Approved by:



8/19/2025

Yana Garcia, Secretary

California Environmental Protection Agency

Date

SUSPENSION AUTHORIZATION BY CNRA

I find that Applicant's Project is eligible for a suspension authorization because it was submitted in 2025 and has the permissible primary objectives of removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation, CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans; removal of vegetation for community defensible space; removal of vegetation using cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning and/or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction; and maintenance of previously established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects. I further find that issuance of a suspension authorization in this case would serve the purpose of expediting critical fuels reduction activities and that Applicant's compliance with the EPP in conducting the Project will protect public health and the environment.

Based on the foregoing, I find that the Project is eligible to be conducted under the suspension authorized by the Proclamation. This suspension authorization, however, is conditioned on compliance with the conditions listed above. In the exercise of my discretion under the Proclamation, I hereby authorize the Project to proceed pursuant to the suspension of the following laws within the jurisdiction of the following agencies:

- California Fish and Game Code (FGC) § 86 where "Take" shall be avoided. Take is defined as to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.
- FGC § 1600 et seq.; Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, notification of significant alteration to stream channel, bank, or bed.
- FGC § 1900 et seq.; Native Plant Protection Act.
- FGC § 1927 et seq.; Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act.
- FGC § 2000; Taking is unlawful except as provided.
- FGC § 3503 and § 3503.5; Protection for bird nests and eggs and birds of prey.
- FGC § 3511; California Fully Protected Birds.
- FGC § 3513; California Migratory Bird Protection Act.
- FGC § 4700; California Fully Protected Mammals.
- FGC § 5050; California Fully Protected Reptiles and Amphibians.
- FGC § 5515; California Fully Protected Fish.
- FGC §§ 5650 and 5652; Deposition of deleterious material into waters of the state.
- FGC § 5901; Fish passage.
- FGC § 5937; Sufficient water for fish.
- FGC § 5948; Obstruction of streams.

- FGC §§ 2050-2115.5: California Endangered Species Act; prohibition of the take of any species of wildlife designated as endangered, threatened, or candidates for listing.
- Public Resources Code §§ 30000-30900: California Coastal Act
- Public Resources Code §§ 21000-21189.91: California Environmental Quality Act
- All regulations implementing the code sections identified above.

Suspension Approved by:



Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency

August 19, 2025
Date