MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Rem No. was approved as Minute Item No. \_\_\_\_by the State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 CALENDAR ITEM to at its 8:23.79 meeting.

Cl.

8/79 W 21861 Bjornsen PRC 5700

FUEL BREAK AGREEMENT STATE SCHOOL LANDS IN SECTION 2 T14S, R27E, MDM, FRESNO COUNTY

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has proposed a project in which they will construct a fuel break along the Pine Ridge - McKenzie Ridge area of Fresno County. Fuel breaks are a unique land use and their location is dependant on topographic features often requiring the cooperation of several land owners, all of whom enjoy benefits from the reduced fire hazard. In order to provide a vehicle for Commission authorization of fuel break construction and maintenance, the staff has developed a Fuel Break Agreement form which also meets the needs of the USFS so that federal funds may be expended on non-federal land. The agreement does not convey any interest in real property, but provides for what amounts to a cooperative agreement whereby the State provides a portion of its land and the USFS provides for construction and maintenance of the fuel break. The benefits accrue to all land owners in the area, including the State, in the reduction of risk and severity of wildfires.

In this case, a break in heavy brush 300 feet wide and 1,505 feet long totaling 10.3 acres is proposed to be constructed on State school land in St NWt, Section 2, T14S, R27E, MDM. The proposed agreement provides that after construction the USFS will maintain the break for a period of 10 years from August 23, 1979. The agreement may be terminated on 60 days notice by either party and the USFS shall indemnify and hold the State harmless to the extent allowed by the Federal Tort Claims Act.

### OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

- A negative declaration was prepared by the Commission's staff; pursuant to CEQA and implementing regulations.
- This project is situated on State land identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370.1, and is classified in a use category, Class B, which authorizes Limited Use.

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### CALENDAR ITEM NO. C1. (CONTD.)

Staff has coordinated this project with those agencies and organizations who nominated the site as containing significant environmental values. They have found this project to be compatible with their nomination.

3. The proposed Fuel Break Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Commission staff. A copy of the proposed agreement is attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

EXHIBITS:

A. Land Description. B. Location Map.

C. Negative Declaration. D. Fuelbreak Agreement.

### IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

- 1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT BUT THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION'S STAFF.
- 2. CERTIFY THAT THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 242 HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CEQA OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND THE STATE EIR GUIDELINES, AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.
- 3. DETERMINE THAT THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
- 4. FIND THAT APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WILL HAVE NO SIGNI-FICANT EFFECT UPON ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 6370.1 OF THE P.R.C.
- 5. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIONS OF A FUEL BREAK AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A FUEL BREAK ON THE LANDS DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" AND BY REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF.



Negative Declaration

U. S. Forest Service Fuelbreak

Sequoia Mational Forest, Fresno County

W 21861

This Regative Declaration is prepared pursuant to Section 15083, California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6, and is based upon an Environmental Analysis Réport prepared by the U.S. Forest Service pursuant to the requirements of KEPA.

### Déscription

It is proposed by the U. S. Forest Service to construct a 300 foot wide fuel-break on T.5 acres in Section 2, TP4S, R27E, M.D.B. & M., Fresho County.

Construction of the fuelbreak, which is proposed to separate fuelbed continuity and reduce fuel volumes, will consist of cutting and piling all brush; cutting and piling small trees to produce a spacing of not less than 20 feet between leave trees; piling all dead vegetation 2" and larger; pruning all leave trees; and removing all snaps.

This project is to become part of the McKenzie Fuelbreak complex that will tie into a larger interagercy system composed of Ponderosa Way and Cedarbreck Eyelbreaks constructed by the State of California, Department of Forestry.

### Determination

An Environmental Analysis Report has been prepared by the U.S. Forest Service and it is determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

- 1. There will be no significant growth inducing impact: inefficient energy consumption; air, water, or noise pollution; or solid waste problems created as a result of implementation of this project.
- 2. There will be no cignificant impact upon fish and wildlife.
- 3. No park laids, recreational areas, or historic and archeological sites will be significantly affected by the proposal.
- 4. No public services or utilities will be affected by the proposal.
- 5. The proposed project will not narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment or pose long-term risks to public health or safety.

The Regative Declaration has been prepared by the staff of the State Lands Commission, based on an EAR prepared by the U.S. Forest Service pursuant to the requirements of REPA. Additional copies of this deciment may be obtaine from Ted Fukuchima, State Lands Commission, 1807 - 13th Street, Sacrahento, CA 95814, telephone number: .916) 322-7813.

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# SHORT-FORM ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PEPORT

SHORT-FORM ENVIRON	MENTAL ARPETOLS FOR THE
(150 (5310) (15010)	1: McKenzie Fuelbreak Construction
Bruce Maldron FROM	Louise Merry division of
10: Bruce Maldron FROM District Ranger	Forestry Technician (Fuels Mgmt.)
1. Mc Kenzie Fuelbreak Hand Con	struction
(1) Fragect Name	Sec. (s). 51/2 , NW1/4, 2 7. 145
' Y- 1000	366.12/

Sec.(s), S1/2, NW1/4, 27, 145 E.27
(3) Location (attach map) Yr. 1980 (2) Start of Project

General Forest, Travel Influence nacres W.F., 7 1/2 ac. State ormershing (4) H.U. mgt. Zones, (5) Units - (acres, miles, etc.) of National Forest land affected (4) M.U. mgt. Zones, Units affected

# (6) General Description of Project:

Hand construct a 300 foot wide shaded fuelbreak on approximately 7 1/2 acres of land cyned by the State of California to complete that portion of the McKenzie Fuelbreak (prolex as illustrated on Exhibit APQ This will consist of cutting and niling all brush; cutting and piling small trees (10" in crameter or less) to produce a spacing of not less than 20 feet between leave trees; poling all dead vegetation 2" and larger; pruning all leave trees; and removing all snaps. Upon completion, this complex will become an effective component of a larger interacency system by connecting with the Fundarosa Way and Cedartrest Fuelbreaks constructed by the State of California Department of Forestry.

# (7) Strategic Pecision to be rade:

Will the proposed project have a significant negative impact on the environment.

# 11. ANALYSIS (FSH 8311)

- (I') Invironmental lifetts and Leonemic Considerations
- (a) Air Ouality Temporary degradation of air quality will occur when hand piles are burned, but will be minimized by tiring burging to insure favorable atmospheric and fuel moisture conditions.
- (b) Soils No significant negative effects on the soil resource Will result from this project since hand work will retain the

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### II. AUALYSIS (Continued)

leaf litter and duff as a protective soil covering. Where piles are burned, temporary soil sterilization is possible; however, piles will be kept small to minimize this effect. Burning may result in improved nutrient cycling by changing nitrogen into a more readily available form for plant utilization.

- (c) Wate Cuality There will be no negative impacts on water qual y lecause of this project. Instead, the project ray continatute to the protection of the surrounding watershed, maintenance of downstream water quality, and reduction of flooding hazard.
- (d) Vegetation The project area is composed primarily of dense, second-growth timber with scattered intrusions of brushy and herbaceous species typical of the Transition Life Zone (see Exhibit D ). Fuelbreak construction will remove pre-commercial, subordinate and unhealthy trees to a minimum of 20 feet spacing, improving the quality of the residual stand. Brush species will reestablish themselves with new growth from existing root systems and through sprouting of seed. No sensitive plant species are known to occur in the area.
- (e) Wildlife The faunal composition of the project area corresponds to the vegetative type that exists and may include some or all of the most common species as listed in Exhibit E. .

  The project will probably cause the movement of some bird and small ahimal species. Those species occupying the irrediate area of manipulation may be evicted from currently used space; other individuals or spaces may move in to occupy the territory after treatment. The increased edge effect and access resulting from the project and improved habitat and thouse potential will benefit most species of wildlife. No threatened or endangered species are known to occur in the project area.
- (f) Fuels The proposed project will effectively break up the fuelhed continuity in the area to provide safe access for quick manning of fire control lines by reducing fuel volumes. It will become a integral link of the McKenize Fuelbreak Complex which connects with two State of California fuelbreaks on the northern and southern ends to divide the brushy and grassy front country from the higher elevation General Forest Zone with residential, organizational camps, National Forest and National Park improvements.
- (g) Visual Resource The proposed project area is viewed as middleground with a sensitivity level of "I" and a variety classification "B". The visual resource management objective for the area is "partial retention" which requires that management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The project will introduce new line, color and texture to the area, which should improve the visual quality of

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### Jr. ANALYSIS (Continued)

the area. \* (See National Forest Landscape Manage ont. Vol 2, Chapter 1. Agriculture Handbook 462. USDA - Forest Servic . 1974.)

- (h) Cultural Resources Cultural resources should not be affed a by the nand work proposed by this project; however, an arci place reconnaissance will take place before initiation of work to identify protection.
- (i) Economics Economically, the completion of this portion of the Mckenzie Fuelbreak Complex will have a positive impact on the area if it contributes to the successful suppression of even one wildfire occurring in the area. Savings in fire suppression costs, erosion losses, structual and correctal losses, recreation visitor day losses and timber value losses may depend upon completion of this project.

### (2) Adverse Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided

- (a) Temporary degradation of air quality while burning pile.
- (b) Modification of habitat for certain small animals and birds with possible eviction from currently used space.

# (3a) Alternatives to the Proposal

(aa) No action

## (3b) Alternatives Within the Proposal

- (aa) Construct the fuelbreak to a width in excess of the proposed.
- (bb) Construct the fuelbreak to a width less than the proposed 300 feet.

# (4) Short-Term Uses Vs. Long-Term Productivity

There are no cumulative and long-term effects of the proposed project which adversely affect the state of the environment. The proposed project is justified now as insurance against resource losses which could occur as the result of wildfire and which may be minimized through adoption of this plan.

# (5) Irreversible and Irretrievable Committeent of Resources

There will be no irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources as the result of this project.

# (6) Consultation With Others

Local cattle ranchers and landowners have encouraged the projects by letter and by granting rights-of-way for construction of other pertions of the fuelbrenk complex across their lands. The California Department of Forestry in both the Tulare and Fresho County Ranger Units endorse the proposed project which connects with or reinforces fuelbreaks which they have constructed.

# (7) Additional Public Participation Needed

No additional public participation is needed.

# (8) Management Requirements and Constraints

- (a) An archaeological reconnaissance will be completed before initiation of the project.
- (b) Pile size shall not exceed 10 feet in diameter to minimize the possibility of soil sterilization when piles are burned.
- (c) Piles will be placed no closer than 20 feet from residual trees when feasible to minimize the possiblility of scorching during burning.
- (d) Piles which cannot be burned in place without adversely affecting the residual stand will be moved before burning or retained without burning for wildlife habitat.
- (e) Edges of the fuelbreak will be "feathcred" to increase the edge effect for wildlife and to create a pleasing visual effect.

(9)	Corprehensive E.A.R. Recuired?	ies	•	No.	Y	
	A comprehensive Project Protection	03		****		

A comprehensive Project Protection Plan for the Sequoia Matienal Forest Eucls Management Archeets has been prepared which covers the entire McKenzie Ridge Fuelbreak Complex on the Hume Lake Ranger District.

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# Approve project as proposed. 2. The analysis of the proposed action and its alternatives indicate the environmental effects of the recommended alternative (with/will not) be significant. It is recommended that an environmental statement (it/ is not) required. 3. Prepared L: pulse | Date | Date

C. 1. I (deset) concur that this E.A.R. is adequate and an Environmental Statement (\*\*/is not) needed.

4. Řeviewed by: \_\_

2. Decision:

Proceed as authorized in this right

Line Officer Divity / Million Date 1977.
Title JUST PORT PHRAEE

Date

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# PARTIAL CHICELIST OF COMMONLY AFFECTED LINVILORMINIAL COMMONENES

Proposal Name McKenzie Fuelbreak Hand Construction	: Prepared By Louise E. Merry
Ranger District Hume Lake	Date 10/4/78
Insert digit which describes depth of	f evaluation for each item as follows:
<ol> <li>Discussed in EAR</li> <li>Consideredno discussion</li> <li>Not applicable to proposal</li> </ol>	
•	
A. Physical Environment	
2 Geology and minerals 1 Soils 1 Climate and Air Quality 1 Water Quality and Quantity	•
B. Biological Favirencent	•
	ive" plant species) threatened and endangered species)
C. Cultural Environment	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Archaeological and Historica Scientific Resource (unique value not otherwise consider	al Resources resources primarily of scientific red)
D. Socio-Economic Environment	•
roadless areas and other un- 2 Recreation Resource 1 Landownership 1 Land Use 2 Transportation	e Wilderness Study Areas, inventoried roaded areas)  dministration and Management
	•

Second ry Socio-economic and Growth Effects: Changes in population distribution Changes in levels or types of employment Changes in land use patterns, such as private land 3 Need for increased public facilities (utilities, sewage, roads, etc.) \_ Contribution to regional economic stability or rural Changes in lifestyle Effects which accrue differentially to minerity or socio-economic groups Human Health and Welfare Safety; Seismic Landslide Avalanche

Fire Hapard Flood' Hazard

Other natural and manemade hazards and safety factors

3 Noise

E.

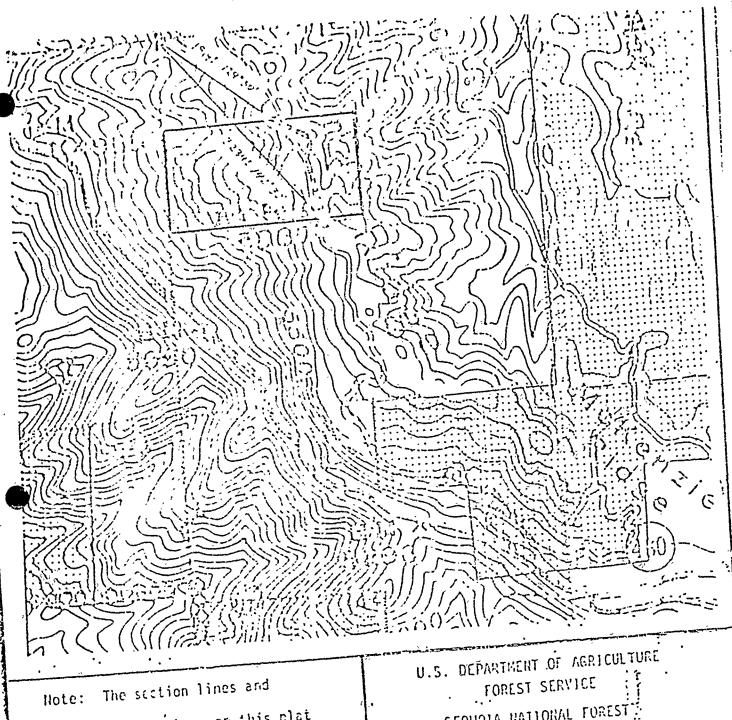
1 Maintenance and enhancement of visual resource

2 Significance to man of changes in educational, cultural, and

2 Value to nonuser and to society of retention of open space, wilderness, and related resources ("safety value effect")

3 Any potential threat to human health which may result from sewage or solid waste disposal or pesticide use, etc., may · be discussed here also

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property lines shown on this plat are approximate only.

Scale 4" = 1 mile Lasement Center Line = cel Boundary

SEQUOTA NATIONAL FUREST

EXHIBIT "A" FUELBREAK EASEMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA SINN's Section 2, T.14S., R.27E., M.D.H.

PREPARED BY: J. FORTMAKIN-

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EXHIBIT B

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TIHS RZ7E SEC Z

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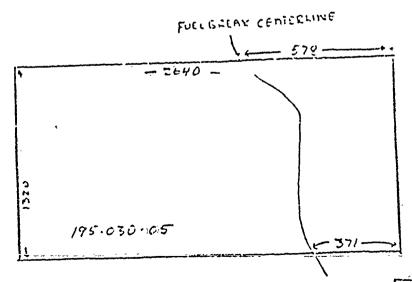


EXHIBIT C

CALENDAR PAGE 016 1332

### COMMON FLORA OF THE TRANSITION ZONE

Renderesa Pine (Pinus conderesa)
Incerse Cedar (Lit recipes of currens)
Bear Clover (Cr. ceratia foliolasa)
Deer Brush (Cr. cethus sto.)
Snow Plant (Surcties strouinga)
Bracken Fain (fittingius aguilliam)
Super Pine (Pinus la bentiara)
California Elack Cak (Cuercus Lellopaii)
White Fir (Phies concolor)
Fanzanita (Arctistaphylos sep.)
Sierra Chinquagin (Castancesis sempervirens)

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# COMMON TRUMA OF THE TRANSITION ZONE

### MITTALS

Little Brown Rat (Myoris Twoffords)

Long Fared by this (Myoris Evolve)

Shall-Focted Myoris (Mortis physicials)

Black Eear (Unice Jericanus)

Fisher (Martes Couring)

Fisher (Martes Couring)

Striped Shank (Mornicle receives)

Spotted Shank (Mornicle receives)

Mole (Secremy latinatus)

California Ground Squirred (Citallus bascheyi)

Merriat Chipmonk (Sutaries terriami)

California Gray Soutrred (Schurus Chisaus)

Dusky Forted Mood hat (Mercura Juscitus)

American Forcupine (Eretnics donsatur)

Mountain Lion (Felis Concolor)

Mountain Coyote (Caris latians)

Gray For (Mrotyon Chiarecans Intens)

Wilsozi (Line Mors)

### BIFDS

Shart-shirned Hawk (/cciniter striatures)
Red-shafted flicter (Colartes carer)
Yelic-iellied Scraucher (Strings) Charles (Amice)
White-heaved Woodstoker (Strings) Charles affiliaries)
Small Flycatcher (Strings)
Olive-sided Flycatchers (Instaliaries)
Stellier Cav (Cvancolite steller),
Mountain Chicladee (Farus of holi)
Red-threasted huthaton (Stria cantiers)
Brown Cheeser (Certhia faciliaries)
A encan foth (Turbus missings)
Rencan fother (Turbus missings)
Rouserd Schitaire (Myringson townson)
Golden-chamed Kinglet (Faculus Satisfie)
Roby-thoused Kinglet (Faculus Satisfie)
Roby-thoused Kinglet (Faculus California)
Merrit Martier (Farchofee occidentalis)
Eveniro Gostfah (farchofee occidentalis)
Fur; is Finch (Camportok Fakusens)
Fur; is Finch (Camportok Fakusens)
Fur; is Finch (Satisfie Carvinostre)
Rod Chesbill (Lovie Carvinostre)

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The History

### RELIFIES

Western Fence Libard (Sceletorus occidentalis)
Western Unipterl (Cromocolorus pieris)
Allicator Libard (Scrimocolus ecerciaus)
Western Garter Spake (Tha mothus Clerius)
Western Riconeol State (Inducate a Alilis)
California Péantain kirjantho (La propellis zorata)
Western Rattlesnake (Crotalus viriois)

### ANTHERAS

Ensatina (Sysatina eschechtzi) Western Toad (Euro Lorcas) Pacific Treefrog (<u>Hyla Lecilla</u>)

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U. S. Forest Service - Environmental Analysis Report Distribution List: McKenzie Fuelbreak Construction

- 1. Calif. Department of Forestry, French County 210 S. Acade y Ave. Freshe Sanger 93457
- 2. Colif. Department of Porestry, Tulare County 1938 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia 93177
- 3. Kern County Fire Dent. 1025 Golden State Huy. Bakersfield
- 4. Houghton Brothers (Area Grazing Allotment) Star Route, Crange Cove, Calif. 93646
- 5. Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association P. C. Box 89, Porterville, CA 93257
- 6. Upper Pule Recreation Association

# EXHIBIT "D"

# FUELBREAK AGREEMENT

This agreement,	entered	into	thi	s		,	-
day of	,	19	_, b	y and	d betwe	en the	<u> </u>
State of California-							
called "Commission",	and the	Unit	ed S	State	s Depar	rtment	of
Agriculture, Forest	Service,	here	inaf	Eter	called	"Fore	st
	,						
Service";							

WHEREAS, the Commission exercises control and jurisdiction over approximately 607,000 acres of school land within the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to enter into a vegetation and fuel management program on certain of said lands; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Commission to encourage the construction and maintenance of a network of fuelbreaks and to provide for a program of prescription burns on certain portions of said real property consistent with Commission objectives; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the fuel management program is to reduce the risk and severity of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service desires to construct and maintain a fuelbreak, upon a portion of aforesaid lands, that will reduce the risk of severity of wildfires, and

WHEREAS, aforesaid reduction of risk and severity of wildfires will benefit the State school lands upon which the fuelbreak is located that are under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission in consideration of the benefits to the State school lands from the reduction of risk and severity of wildfires, hereby consents to the construction and maintenance of a fuelbreak by the Forest Service upon the property subject to this agreement said instruction to be in accordance with the following terms, provisions, and conditions:

	10)	Term:	The t	erm o	f this	agreement		
а	period.	of ten	(10)	years	Commer	ogreement	shall	be for
19	and	termin	ating		- omnet	icing		,
			J	-			1.9	•

2) Property subject to this agreement: The parties agree that the Forest Service may construct and maintain a fuelbreak over and across the SiNW2 of Section 2, T.14S., R.27E., M.D.M. in the County of Fresno, State of California

CALENDAR PAGE 022 MINUTE PAGE 1338 on the location shown and described on Exhibits "A-1" and "A-2", and ached hereto and made a part hereof.

- 3) <u>Interest Transferred</u>: No interests in real property are transferred. The Forest Service shall perform only those duties necessary to construct and maintain the fuelbreak.
- 4) <u>Use</u>: The property identified under this agreement shall be used only for construction and maintenance of fuelbreaks, prescription burns and vegetation management.
- 5) Assignment of Interest: The Forest Service shall not assign its rights or duties under this agreement without the prior written approval of the Commission first had and obtained.
- 6) Termination: The Commission and the Forest Service may teminate this agreement upon giving the other party not less than sixty (60) days written notice prior to the date of such termination.
- the extent allowable by law pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 2671 et sea), of appropriated funds, indemnify, and save harmless the Commission, its officers, agents and employees against any and all claims.

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- 8) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to obligate the Forest Service beyond the extent of available funds allocated or programmed for this work, or contrary to applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- 9) No Member of, or delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefits that may arise therefrom, unless it is made with a corporation for its general benefit.

This Agreement will become binding upon the State only when duly executed on behalf of the State Lands Commission of the State of California;

IN WITNESS WHÊREOF, the parties hereto have executed this permit as of the date hereafter affixed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

est Supervisor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Title\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_

The issuance of this permit was authorized by the State Lands Commission on

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

COUNTY OF TULARE )

SS:

On this 31st day of July, in the year 1979, before me, 5. June Johnston, a Notary Public in and for said state, with principal office in the County of Tulare, personally appeared Joe J. Brown, Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest, United States Department of Agriculture, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as the free act and deed of the United States of America, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year above written.



E. JUNE JOHNSTON Notary Public

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EXHIBIT "A-1"

# DESCRIPTION OF THE FUELBREAK LOCATION AND MAINTENANCE AREA

A maintenance area for fire fuelbreak purposes described as follows:

A strip of land in the south half of the northwest quarter (52NN2) of Section two (2), Township fourteen (14) South, Kange twenty-seven (27) East, Mount Diablo Meridian, in the County of Fresno, State of California, containing an area of 10.3 acres. The centerline of said strip is described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the north boundary of the property, said boundary being the north line of the  $S_2^1$  of the  $NW_2^1$  of Section 2, T.14S., R.27E., M.D.M., which point lies west 1040.0 feet from the northeast corner of the  $SE_2^1$  of the  $NW_2^1$  of Section 2, thence along the center line of the maintenance area described as follows:

S 440 E	176.0
S 540 E	190.0
S 410 E	152.0
S 170 E	735.0
S 170 E	150.0
S 2,6° E	102.0

Ending at a point in the south boundary of the property, said boundary being the south line of the NW% of Section 2, T14E, R27E, MDM, which point lies west 584.0 feet from the southeast corner of the NW% of said Section 2.

The width of said maintenance area shall be 300 feet, 150 feet on each side of the center line as described above. The boundary lines of said maintenance area shall be prolonged or shortened to begin on and conform to the north boundary and the south boundary of the property herein described.

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