

## ATTACHMENT 4

### NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Office of Planning and Research  
1400 10th Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: California Tahoe Conservancy  
1061 Third Street  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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**Subject:**

Filing a notice of determination in compliance with Public Resource Code section 21108.

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**Project Title:**

Biomass Transport and Utilization Project (Project)

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**State Clearinghouse Number:**

2020059003

**Contact Person:**

Joseph Harvey

**Telephone Number:**

(530) 543-6008

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**Project Location:**

Woody biomass will be collected from three locations on USDA Forest Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation lands within El Dorado County. The three collection points are in Meeks Creek Meadow, located west of State Route 89 at Meeks Bay; the South Tahoe Fuels Treatment parcels in the City of South Lake Tahoe; and Sugar Pine Point State Park, located on the west shore of Lake Tahoe, south of Tahoma. The biomass will be transported from the collection points to any of the following facilities: Loyalton Biomass, located in Loyalton, California; Rio Bravo Rocklin and Sierra Pacific Industries Lincoln, both located in Lincoln, California; Ampine, located in Sutter, California; Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Headquarters, located in Gardnerville, Nevada; or used as restoration material on forest restoration sites within Meeks Creek Meadow ([Exhibit A](#)). Other facilities may potentially be used provided that the facility is located within the greatest distance analyzed in the Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) (270 miles), among other requirements.

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**Project Description:**

The Project includes the processing, collection, transport, and utilization of 17,500 tons of woody biomass in the form of slash (i.e., non-merchantable woody debris such as small diameter trees, salvage materials, and treetops), generated from forest fuel reduction efforts in the El Dorado County portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Biomass is to be chipped, truck-loaded, and hauled from forest fuels treatment sites (collection points) to receiving facilities throughout the region, which primarily include bioenergy generation facilities. The material will be transported to locations surrounding the Basin for use as bioenergy, wood products, home fuel, and restoration material. The Project will be implemented by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, the Great Basin Institute, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The objective of the Project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the utilization of woody biomass that may otherwise be burned onsite. The Project would involve the use of mechanical equipment to load and transport the material to any of the facilities analyzed in the IS/ND, or other facilities located within 270 miles, provided they comport with the IS/ND, and no potentially significant environmental effects would occur.

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This is to advise that the Conservancy, acting as a lead agency, approved the above described Project on 6/25/2020 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described Project:

1. The Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Conservancy adopted the ND pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. Mitigation measures were not made a condition of the approval of the Project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was not adopted for this Project.
5. A statement of overriding conditions was not adopted for this Project.
6. Findings were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

A copy of the IS/ND and record of project approval is available to the general public at: <https://tahoe.ca.gov/initial-study-negative-declaration-biomass-transport-and-utilization-project/>.

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Fish and Wildlife Fees: A California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Filing Fee was paid for this project.

***Date Received for Filing:***

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director