

California Forest Improvement Program Emergency Forest Management Plan (EFMP)

Purpose of the EFMP

The enabling legislation for the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) requires that a Forest Management Plan be prepared and approved prior to a CFIP project commencing operations. CFIP has developed the Emergency Forest Management Plan (EFMP) to have a management plan option that meets this requirement, is approved immediately upon contract approval, and allows immediate reforestation efforts to commence on substantially damaged properties.

The EFMP will allow landowners to start the rehabilitation process in an expedited manner, while protecting public trust resources, continuing to have Registered Professional Forester (RPF) involvement in the process, and meeting the State's goals for forest health and carbon sequestration through rapid reforestation. This EFMP has a two-tiered system to follow all applicable laws concerning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Public Resource Code (PRC) and California Code of Regulations (CCRs) for CFIP, while providing opportunities for landowners who have suffered catastrophic loss of their forestlands.

CFIP EFMPs are for those properties that have been substantially damaged by the qualifying conditions of 14 CCR §1052.1(a)(1-3) in the California Forest Practice Rules, meet the definition of Substantially Damaged as per 14 CCR §1526.1 and are in immediate need of reforestation and have had an Emergency Notice, as per 14 CCR §1052 submitted and successfully operated on. A substantially damaged Timber Harvest Plan (THP) or Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Notice of Timber Operations (NTO) may also qualify.

After expiration of the CFIP contract, the EFMP cannot be used again in the future.

EFMP Contents

The EFMP consists of:

1. A cover letter, prepared by an RPF, briefly describing the conditions of the property, the qualifying condition of the emergency, and covering the topics described in Public Resource Code (PRC) §4799(a)(1-3). The expectation is that this will be no more than 1 to 2 pages. The cover letter shall briefly describe the original forest type (if determinable), the landowner's management objectives and an approximate time frame for when the eventual harvest of sawtimber might occur. The cover letter shall also describe the forest resource improvement work and other measures necessary to do all of the following: (PRC §4799(a)(1-3))
 - (1) Protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource system.
 - (2) Prevent or mitigate erosion, deterioration of soil resources, and pollution by natural and manmade causes.
 - (3) Optimize the timber growth potential of the land consistent with maintaining the productivity of related forest resources now and in the future.
 - For areas where the emergency notice does not cover the entire ownership, the cover letter must contain a brief description of the remainder of the ownership and what, if any, plan there are for the future of the forested areas.
2. A copy of the accepted Emergency Notice, with the entire Confidential Archaeological Letter. A CAL FIRE Project notification letter must be sent to applicable Native American Tribes, Emergency Notice notifications letters are not sufficient. The cap rate for EFMP includes archaeology costs but assumes letters only will be sent and that an Archaeological Survey Report was recently completed under the Emergency Notice. If the property was harvested under a substantially damaged THP or NTO, and if the Archaeological Survey Report for the THP or NTMP is more than five years old, this may lead to adjustment of the funding cap rate. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS).
3. A copy of the signed RM-71, work completion report, from both the landowner and CAL FIRE that denotes that the area has been successfully completed (*the expectation is that the area mapped within the emergency notice must have a significant portion of the area logged – this will be determined by working with your Forestry Assistance Specialist*).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CFIP Emergency Forest Management Plan
(REV. 09/2024)

4. For areas where the emergency notice does not cover the entire ownership, a map that shows the entire ownership. (Property Location map, see below)
5. All other documents required for a normal CFIP contract. These include:
 - RM-7A – CFIP Agreement
 - RM-8 – CFIP Project Budget
 - RM-6 – CFIP Application
 - Project Description and RM-12 CFIP RPF Checklist
 - Property location map
 - Project map
 - STD 204 – Payee Data Record
 - A copy of the deed for every Assessor’s parcel that is part of the project area
 - Additional signature authority documentation, if needed.

CFIP EFMP Tier 1 - CEQA Exempt Areas

Tier 1 is for CFIP projects meeting the conditions of the EFMP, listed above, and **are** located within a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor and therefore meets CEQA statute for emergency.

To qualify for Tier 1, the emergency proclamation must appear on the list of Open State of Emergency Proclamations maintained by the California Office of Emergency Services ([Emergency Proclamations | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)).

§ 21060.3. EMERGENCY

“Emergency” means a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. “Emergency” includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage.

These areas therefore do not meet the definition of a discretionary project under CEQA Statute:

**§ 21080. DIVISION APPLICATION TO DISCRETIONARY PROJECTS; NONAPPLICATION;
NEGATIVE DECLARATIONS; ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PREPARATION**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CFIP Emergency Forest Management Plan
(REV. 09/2024)

(b) This division does not apply to any of the following activities:

(b)(3) Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 8550) of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

And therefore, meets CEQA exemption status as defined under CEQA Guidelines:

15269. EMERGENCY PROJECTS The following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA. (a) Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code. This includes projects that will remove, destroy, or significantly alter an historical resource when that resource represents an imminent threat to the public of bodily harm or of damage to adjacent property or when the project has received a determination by the State Office of Historic Preservation pursuant to Section 5028(b) of Public Resources Code.

In these areas, the emergency has occurred, salvage logging of the emergency has occurred, and CFIP is rehabilitating and reforesting lands in a time sensitive manner. The emergency notice under 14 CCR §1052 already utilizes the definitions discussed immediately above and as additionally emphasized through statute specific to forested landscapes. (PRC §4592)

CFIP EFMP Tier 2 - CEQA Non-Exempt Areas

Tier 2 is for CFIP projects meeting the conditions of the EFMP, listed above, and are **not** located within a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor and therefore meets CEQA statute for emergency.

Within one year of the completion being filed on the Emergency Notice projects located in such areas will follow the EFMP process, listed above under [EFMP Contents](#), and also the protocols for CEQA review as in normal CFIP contracts, including biological scoping and checklist review by the CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) prior to ground operations occurring.