

# CEQA PROCESS FLOWCHART

**Lead Agency** = The public agency (e.g., RCD, state agency) that has the primary responsibility for approving a project that may have a significant impact on the environment. The lead agency determines and prepares the environmental document and has the responsibility of approving the project

**Project** = "whole action" subject to a public agency's discretionary funding or approval that has the potential to either (1) cause a direct physical change in the environment or (2) cause a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

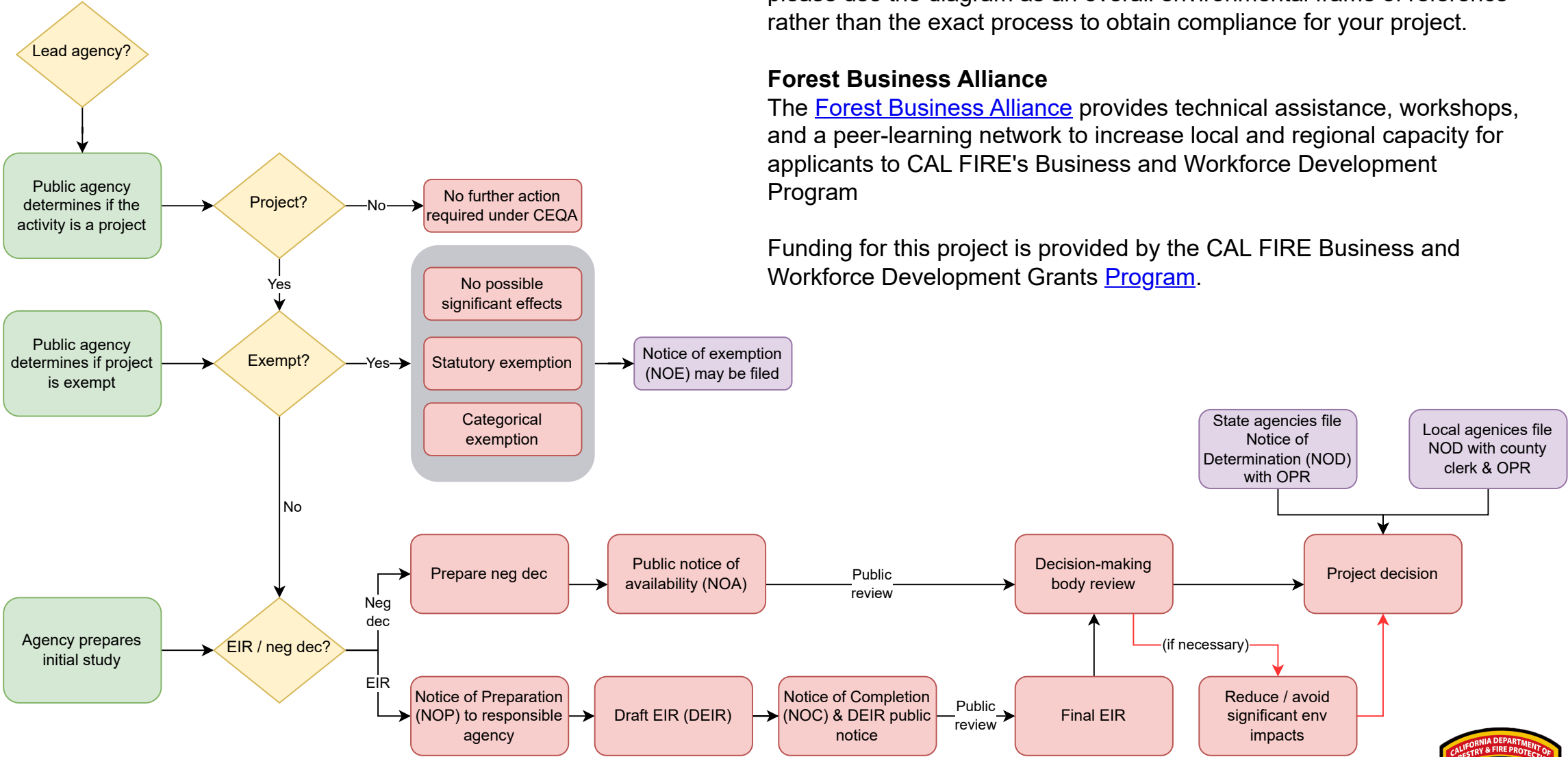
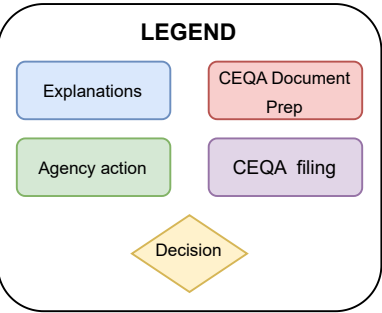
**CEQA Documents**  
(low to high risk and short to long completion time)

**Notice of Exemption (NOE)** = The project is Categorically Exempt with no exceptions or has no possibility of having an impact on the environment.

**Initial Study** = Identifies project env impacts.

**Negative Declarations (neg dec/MND)** = The project will not have significant environmental impacts (neg dec) or has been redesigned to eliminate any significant impacts (Mitigated Negative Declaration, MND).

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** = Prepared when significant environmental impacts are identified.



## Background

This flowchart is a general CEQA process for any project requiring CEQA compliance. With forest health and wood products projects, please use the diagram as an overall environmental frame of reference rather than the exact process to obtain compliance for your project.

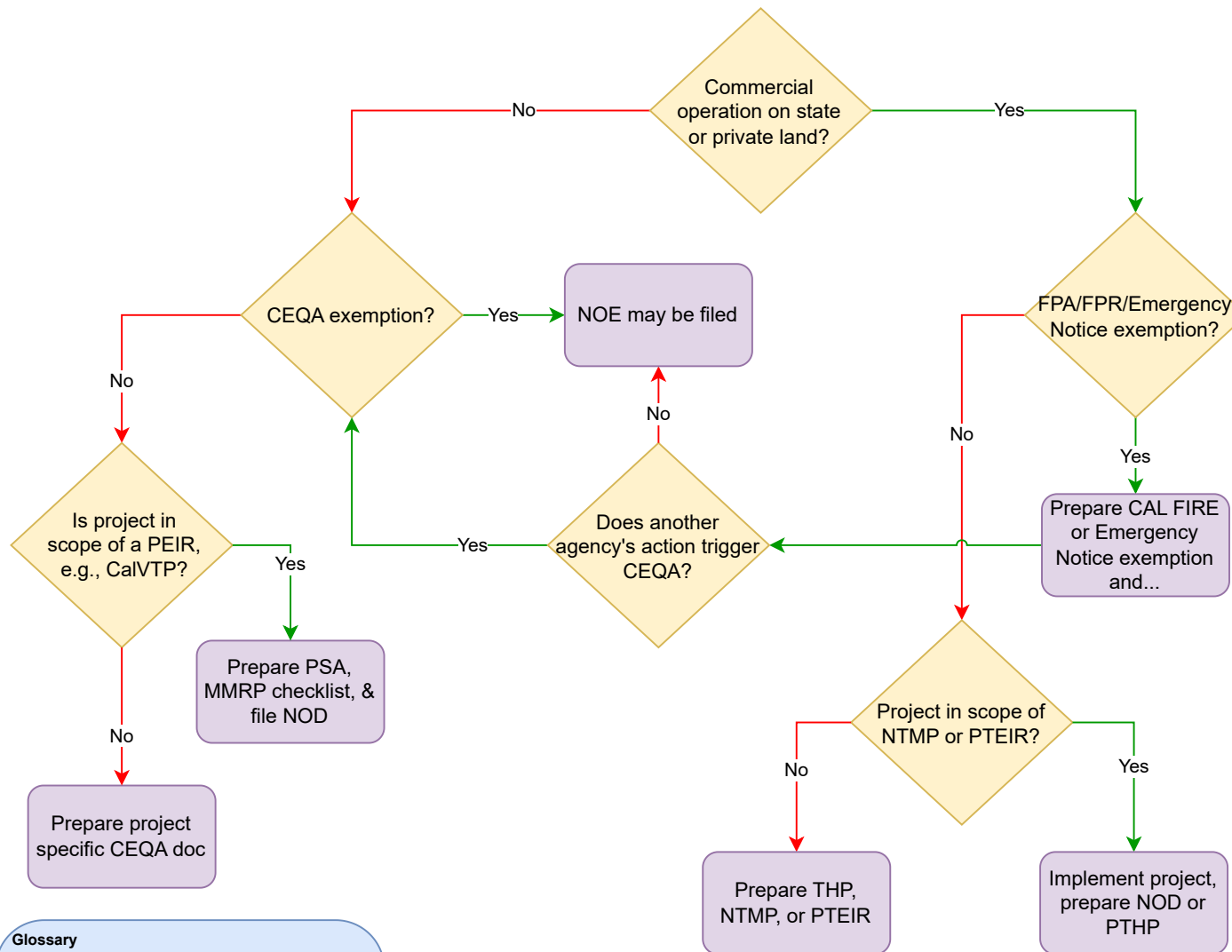
## Forest Business Alliance

The [Forest Business Alliance](#) provides technical assistance, workshops, and a peer-learning network to increase local and regional capacity for applicants to CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development Program

Funding for this project is provided by the CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grants [Program](#).



# CEQA PROCESS FLOWCHART: CalVTP



## CalVTP

The California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) includes the use of prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, manual treatments (including reforestation), herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory as tools to reduce hazardous vegetation around communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), to construct fuel breaks (shaded or non-shaded), and to promote ecological restoration.

## Timber/Commercial Definitions California Code PRC 4527

(a)(1) "Timber operations" means the cutting or removal, or both, of timber or other solid wood forest products, including Christmas trees, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the incidental work...

(2) "Commercial purpose" includes (A) the cutting or removal of trees that are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange or trade...

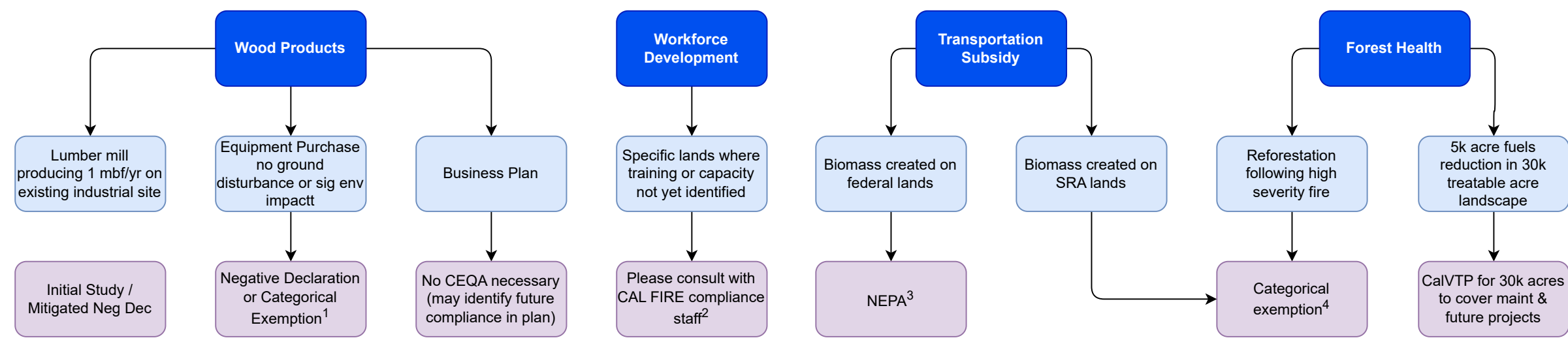
## Glossary

FPA/FPR - Forest Practice Act/Rules  
MMRP - Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program  
NOD - Notice of Determination  
NOE - Notice of Exemption  
NTMP - Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan  
FEIR - Final Environmental Impact Report  
PEIR - Program Environmental Impact Report  
PSA - Project-Specific Analysis  
PTEIR - Program Timberland EIR  
PTHP - Program Timberland Harvest Plan  
THP - Timber Harvest Plan

## Timber Harvest Plans (THPs)

Section IV - Cumulative Impacts Assessment of a THP makes the plan compliant with CEQA. Once the THP is approved it is the functional equivalent of an EIR. The same applies to NTMPs.

# CAL FIRE FUNDING: PROJECT EXAMPLES



## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Often added to an existing project where CEQA has been completed. In these cases, project proponents can use existing CEQA analysis and make the determination there are no new significant impacts via an addendum to the existing document.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to the training, those lands would need to have completed CEQA and provide a copy of the analyses to CAL FIRE.

<sup>3</sup> Projects submitting NEPA documents that created the biomass would be statutorily exempt from CEQA (AB211 - PRC 4799.05(d)(1)).

<sup>4</sup> Projects could utilize the CEQA documents that created the biomass. In some cases, the transport is included in the facility analysis so the facility impacts CEQA documents can be used if they included the biomass transport to the facility. See CEQA Statutory Exemption 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a) for reforestation and emergency exemptions.