# Board of Supervisors Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 1, 2022

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: Shelley Gray, Assistant Planner

Subject: Michigan-CA Timber Production Company, LP

Proposed Boundary Line Adjustment and CEQA Determination

## Background

The project is a boundary line adjustment to reconfigure two existing legal parcels zoned Timberland Production (TPZ), which would result in one 78-acre parcel and one 596-acre parcel.

The project site is located south of Scott River Road, approximately 10 miles west of the City of Fort Jones on APNs: 015-420-200 and 015-420-230; Township 44 North, Range 10 West, Sections 29 and 30; Latitude 41.635°, Longitude -122.036°. Scott River bisects the northern section of the project site. The site is prominently developed for timber production that is stocked with a mixture of firs, conifers, and pines. The project site has relatively steep slopes south of the Scott River with relatively gentler slopes north of the river.

Pursuant with Section 10-6.5108 of the Siskiyou County Code, a parcel zoned TPZ may be subdivided into parcels containing less than 160 acres if a joint timber management plan is prepared or approved by a registered professional forester. It shall be recorded with the County Recorder as a deed restriction on all newly created parcels and shall remain in force for a period of not less than 10 years from the date division is approved. Pursuant to Government Code Section 51119.5, the Board of Supervisors shall approve the division by a four-fifths vote of the full Board, and only after recording of the deed restriction.

Staff is recommending that the project be found consistent with the applicable General Plan policies governing the site. Additionally, the use would be compatible with the surrounding land uses, the proposed parcels would have adequate roadway access, and would not create environmental impacts to on-or off-site resources. The proposed lots are consistent with County lot design standards and staff believes that the necessary findings can be made for approval of this project.

The project was initially considered by the Planning Commission at a public hearing on November 17, 2021. Following the hearing, the Planning Commission voted 3-0, with one commissioner absent and one commissioner abstained, and adopted Resolution PC 2021-026, tentatively approving the Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA-21-22) and recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt the CEQA Exemption for the project and approve the proposed boundary line adjustment.

Notice of the project was published and posted as required prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting and no public comments were received as of the preparation of this staff report.

## Environmental Review

Staff evaluated the project’s potential for environmental impacts by reviewing the project relative to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Based on this review, it was determined that the boundary line adjustment, as proposed, would not adversely impact the environment.

Therefore, because there is not substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the County, that the proposed boundary line adjustment may have a significant effect on the environment, staff is recommending that a “common sense” exemption be adopted in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

In making its determination, the Board must consider the proposed CEQA exemption together with any comments received during the public review process. Furthermore, the exemption can only be approved if the Board finds, based on the whole record before them, that there is not substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

## Recommended Action

As detailed in Resolution PC 2021-026, it is the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the Board of Supervisors approve the proposed boundary line adjustment. Should the Board of Supervisors concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors shall adopt a resolution. A draft motion to this effect is provided below.

## Recommended Motions

I move to take the following actions:

* Determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the “common sense exemption” in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, and
* Approve the Michigan-California Timber Company LP Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA-21-22) based on the recommended findings and subject to the recommended conditions of approval.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Resolution of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, recommending that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors approve the Michigan-California Timber Company, LP Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA-21-22) located on APN:015-420-200 and 015-420-230; Township 44 North, Range 10West, Sections 29 and 30, MDB&M

A-1. Notations and Recommended Conditions of Approval

A-2. Recommended Findings

1. Planning Commission Staff Report – November 17, 2021
2. Signed Resolution PC 2021-026
3. Planning Commission Minute Order
4. Recorded Joint Timber Management Plan