

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento,
CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Trinity
P. O. Box 1215
Weaverville, CA 9609

From: (Public Agency): Trinity County Resource
Conservation District (District), #30 Horseshoe
Lane Weaverville, CA. 96093

(Address)

Project Title: Trinity County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project – Phase 2, Douglas City area

Project Applicant: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located along Deerlick Springs Road, minor side roads, and adjacent private property in central Trinity County, California. T31N R09W, portions of Section 6; T32N R09W, portions of sections 30, 31, and 32 (Humboldt Base and Meridian)

Project Location - City: Douglas City

Project Location – County: Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The District along with the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) plans to implement fuels reduction and chipping activities along Deerlick Springs Road, Eagle Lane, Fern Spring Road, Brown Canyon Road, Smith Lane, and on adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private property. This is a residential area in the unincorporated community of Douglas City and within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Treatments in this area are part of a county-wide strategy to reduce fuels in WUI areas, reducing risk to homes from catastrophic wildfire and creating safer conditions for fire suppression. The area is characterized by a mosaic of mixed conifer, oak woodland, chaparral, grassland, and riparian areas in a variety of conditions. The District/WRTC plans to implement manual thinning and chipping treatments on approximately 80 acres of the 493 acre footprint analyzed under an ERRF (on file at Trinity County RCD office). The primary objectives include; reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, stimulating the growth of woody shrubs, oaks, and conifers, assisting landowners with defensible space, create safe ingress/egress by buffering main roadways, increase water yields, and reduce conifer encroachment into the oak woodland and grassland areas, and to return overstocked forests to a healthier and less hazardous state in this roadside and WUI area. This will be accomplished using hand thinning and chipping as the primary fuels reduction treatment. The prescription includes hand thinning of small diameter (less than 10" DBH) conifers and shrubs that are adjacent to habitable structures, critical infrastructure, and/or roadways and driveways. Emphasis will be placed on eliminating the continuity of surface and ladder fuels. Some sub canopy trees may be removed to break up vertical continuity to dominant trees as well as to raise the canopy base height, which will reduce future fire intensity. Cut materials will bucked and carried to the chipper then chipped and broadcasted on site. Any remaining material that cannot be chipped will be lop-and-scattered on site. This project helps actively manage the land with no negative impacts, creating a landscape that is more resilient and resistant to high intensity wildfires.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304; Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor private alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves removal of small diameter understory trees and brush species to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state and are not considered healthy.

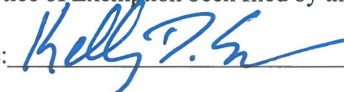
Field review by Trinity County Resource Conservation District staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project consists of minor treatments to land and vegetation in the form of hand thinning and understory broadcast burning via hand crews. The activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. This project will not convert forestland to non-forest uses, and all treated vegetation will have the ability to grow back. The District has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning,

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kelly Sheen Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-623-6004

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 3/1/2022 Title: District Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____ Reference: _____

Revised 2011