

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: Shasta

From: (Public Agency): _____
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
6270 Parallel Road, Anderson, CA 96007

(Address)

Project Title: Post-Fire Disaster Recovery (2019-2021) Project

Project Applicant: Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD)

Project Location - Specific:

See Attachment A - Location Description, and Attachment B - Map of the Project Area

Project Location - City: Igo, Ono, Lakehead, Re Project Location - County: Shasta County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See Attachment C - Scope/Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Western Shasta 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: §15304(i): Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:


See Attachment D - Reasons why project is exempt.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Holly Starks Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 206-7506

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: 1/25/2023 Title: Project Coordinator

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

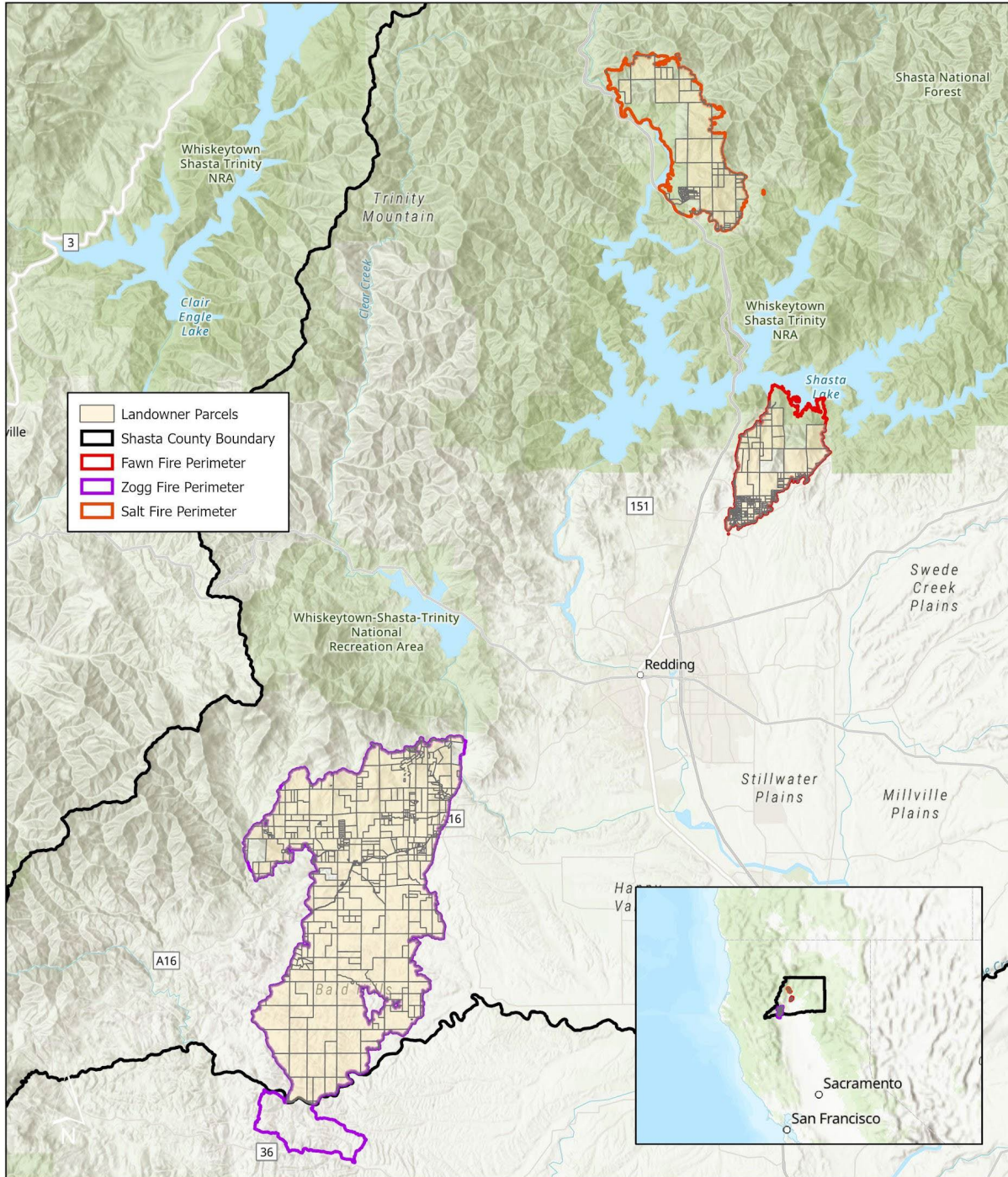
Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment A – Location Description

The *Post Fire Disaster Recovery (2019-2021) Project* includes project work to be completed on up to 35 private parcels that have been affected by wildfires (including but not limited to the Zogg, Fawn, and Salt fire) that occurred during 2019-2021 in Shasta County (See Attachment B-Map of Project Areas). Project areas are located near/in Redding, Igo, Ono and Lakehead, CA within recent wildfire burn scars. Historically, general habitat types within the project area included grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, and low elevation mixed coniferous forests. However, most of the project area was burned due to recent wildfires.

Attachment B - Map of the Project Areas

Target Treatment Areas



California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, Esri, USGS

Attachment C- Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project

Purpose of Proposed Work

The main goal of this project is to identify, prioritize, and implement wildfire rehab treatments on private properties affected by the wildfires in Shasta County that occurred from 2019-2021 in order to reduce the impacts and facilitate the recovery process. The total number of private properties affected by these wildfires is 1,021, which includes 64,790 total potential treatment acres.

Project Beneficiaries

The project will benefit the communities of Igo, Ono, Lakehead, and Redding in Shasta County, California that have been impacted by 2019-2021 wildfires, including but not limited to the Zogg, Salt and Fawn fires (*See Attachment B: Map of Project Locations*). This project is needed to reduce fuel loads and is an important measure for ensuring public safety by reducing fire risk within and to nearby rural and urban communities, and for improving fire suppression capabilities and firefighter safety. This project proposes to use a small crew to reduce fuels in the project area, particularly the amounts of fine fuels and ladder fuels, and/or implement erosion control practices to reduce sedimentation into waterways. The project will thereby improve ecosystem functions and will reduce the potential for ignition and spread of fire into adjacent wildlands and nearby communities.

Scope of Work

The project will include the following objectives:

- **Wildfire Rehab Property Assessments:** WSRCD Staff will conduct site assessments on private properties with willing landowners. Site Assessments will include property walkthroughs with landowners to collect information about the property and develop fire rehab recommendations such as erosion control, replanting natives, identifying/treating invasive weeds, and any other recommendations that will help with property recovery from wildfires.
- **Wildfire Rehab Property Treatments:** WSRCD Staff will implement fire rehab treatments on private properties with willing landowners in order to reduce impacts to and facilitate recovery. Erosion control methods and activities to be conducted during the project may include: spreading straw mulch and reseeding with a native plant erosion control seed mix, installing straw wattles and jute netting, constructing brush fences and straw-bale check dams, constructing water bars to divert runoff, and cutting and placing debris along contours to slow runoff and sediment flows, herbicide treatment of invasive plant species, reduction of

ladder fuels and any other treatments that will help with property recovery and reduced impacts.

Attachment D – Reasons for Exemption

This project consists of the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of private properties and will involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. There are no exceptions that would make this project ineligible for an exemption such as being located in a sensitive environment, leading to cumulative negative effects, damaging scenic resources within an official state scenic highway, being located on a hazardous waste site, or causing substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource. Moreover, this project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts on endangered, threatened, or rare species, and in fact is expected to benefit threatened anadromous fish populations and their habitats.

WSRCD conducted a review of the Class 4 exemption (CCR Section §15304), which covers minor alterations to land, including erosion control and fuel reduction activities. WSRCD has determined that the objectives of erosion control and fuel reduction, and the implementation activities as designed for this project will occur on private properties within recent burn scars and result in minor alterations to land and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemptions. Additional environmental analysis was conducted by the WSRCD Biologist/Project Specialist regarding proposed project effects on rare, threatened and endangered plants; threatened, endangered and special status wildlife species; and cultural resources. WSRCD has reviewed these reports and determined that the project's implementation will result in multiple benefits, including erosion control and reduction of fuels that will improve public safety and protect communities, human lives, and property. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitats. There will be no significant adverse impacts to soils, hydrology, or water quality. There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site. The project will avoid all archeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.