

# 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 / Tehama

~~1643 Market Street / 633 Washington Street~~ - Room 11

~~Redding, CA 96001 / Red Bluff, CA 96080~~

**From:** (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_  
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD)  
6270 Parallel Road, Anderson, CA 96007

(Address)

Project Title: CARCD/WCB Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat Implementation

Project Applicant: Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

**Throughout Shasta County, and in the northern portion of Tehama County**

Project Location - City: Various Project Location - County: Shasta / Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

WSRCD will lead a project to implement pollinator and wildlife habitat creation, enhancement, and restoration activities on various private, working, and public lands throughout Shasta County and in northern Tehama County. See Attachment for a list of specific project activities.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD)

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: Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:


WSRCD has determined that the project fits within the Class 4 exemption covering minor alterations to land (CCR Section §15304), and that no exceptions exist, such as: (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant effects on the environment, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of any historical resource. See Attachment for more information.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Andrea Claassen Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 365-7332

**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: 3/29/2023 Title: Biologist

▪ 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: 3/29/2023

# Attachment to Notice of Exemption

## **Name of Proposed Project**

CARCD/WCB Pollinator & Wildlife Habitat Implementation

## **Need for Proposed Project**

Many species of California pollinators and other wildlife are in peril due in large part to habitat degradation/loss and climate change. Enhancing and restoring habitat is necessary to increase our wildlife's ability to survive the effects of habitat degradation/loss and climate change.

## **Proposed Project Description & Location**

WSRCD will lead a project to implement pollinator and wildlife habitat creation, enhancement, and restoration activities on various private, working, and public lands throughout Shasta County and in northern Tehama County.

## **Proposed Activities**

Proposed project activities include:

- Installing nesting/roosting boxes for birds and bats, and perches for raptors.
- Installing caps/covers on existing open pipes to prevent bird deaths.
- Installing coverings/devices on windows of existing buildings to prevent bird collisions.
- Installing wood (log) basking structures for pond turtles.
- Installing culvert covers, fencing, and other structural deterrents at streams, ponds, and other waterbodies to reduce human-wildlife conflict with beavers.
- Seeding and planting native plants for pollinators.
- Installing irrigation for native plantings, as needed. Irrigation may include above- and/or below-ground systems; any below-ground irrigation systems will result in <1 acre of ground disturbance.
- Installing shade structures and/or cages around native plants and plantings.
- Installing, replacing, and maintaining fencing and education signs, as needed.
- Removing trash/garbage from wildlife habitat and restoration sites.
- Installing and maintaining wildlife cameras for monitoring and educational purposes.
- Removing/controlling invasive plant species using manual methods (hand pulling, hand tools).
- Controlling invasive plant species using limited selective use of herbicides, as needed, following protocols to minimize potential impacts to pollinators and other wildlife.
- Implementing targeted vegetation removal (using hand crews, hand-operated power tools, road-side chipper) to reduce fuels and fire risk and to improve habitat conditions for pollinators and other wildlife.
- Implementing erosion control measures such as mulching, native seeding, and installing straw wattles and/or log barriers to reduce sedimentation of streams or other waterbodies.

- Conducting surveys and monitoring of wildlife and habitat restoration sites.
- Education and outreach.

### **Justification for Use of a Categorical Exemption**

The Class 4 exemption (CCR Section §15304) covers minor alterations to land. WSRCD has determined that the objectives of enhancement and restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat, and the implementation activities as designed for this project, will result in minor alterations to land and vegetation, and therefore fit within the CCR Section 15304 exemptions.

Additional environmental analysis was conducted by the WSRCD Biologist/Project Specialist regarding potential effects on rare, threatened and endangered plants; threatened, endangered, and special status wildlife species; cultural resources; and other potential environmental impacts (contact Andrea Claassen, Biologist, [aclaassen@westernshastarc.org](mailto:aclaassen@westernshastarc.org), to view the assessment report). Following the assessment, WSRCD has determined that the project's implementation will result in multiple benefits, including habitat improvement for wildlife and pollinators, fuel reduction, and reduction in noxious invasive species. 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.

### **Conclusion**

After assessing potential environmental impacts and evaluating the descriptions for the various classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA, WSRCD has determined that the project fits within one or more of the exemption classes. WSRCD has also determined that no exceptions exist which would preclude the use of this exemption, such as: (a) sensitive location, (b) cumulative impact, (c) significant effects on the environment, (d) impacts to scenic highways, (e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and (f) significant adverse change to the significance of any historical resource. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Shasta County Clerk-Recorder, Tehama County Clerk-Recorder, and with the State Clearinghouse.