

## Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk  
Shasta County  
1643 Market Street  
Redding, CA 96001

**From:**  
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District  
6270 Parallel Road  
Anderson, CA 96007  
(530) 365-7332  
sseiler@westernshastarc.org

**Project Title:** Shasta County Wildfire Mitigation Program (Pilot Project)

**Project Applicant:** Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD)

**Project Location - Specific:**

The project will be implemented on up to 500 privately-owned parcels in Shasta County, California. The project locations are limited to the pre-selected pilot communities of Whitmore, Oak Run, and Lakehead (See Attachment A: Map of Project Locations at the end of this document). These areas experience hot, dry summer conditions with temperatures frequently exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Historically, general habitat types within the project area included montane hardwood conifer, chaparral, oak woodland, and low elevation mixed coniferous forests. The project locations are heavily forested foothills with rolling topography. These areas are prone to frequent fire return intervals and catastrophic wildfire.

**Project Location - City:** Whitmore, Oak Run, Lakehead

**Project Location - County:** Shasta County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

This project is part of a pilot program being launched by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and CAL FIRE in order to increase public safety by creating a community hardening approach to wildfire. Project work will consist of home hardening construction retrofits and manual/mechanical defensible space fuels reduction treatments on up to 500 residential properties. Work will occur on forested properties in the pre-selected communities of Whitmore, Oak Run, and Lakehead in Shasta County. Home hardening retrofits will upgrade vulnerable home components like vents, windows, skirting, etc. to Chapter 7A compliant materials to meet minimum quality standards for homes located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Defensible space work will include, but is not limited to: ladder fuel reduction, brush removal, hazard tree removal, fine fuels removal, leaf litter clean up, removal of all landscaping and vegetation within 0-5' of participating homes. Treatments will be implemented by use of qualified construction and defensible space contractors using handheld equipment or machinery like chainsaws, chippers, masticators, and large tree removal equipment when necessary. The project aims to benefit mostly low-income, socially vulnerable rural property owners living in the WUI and very high fire hazard severity zones.

The project will consist of minor alterations in the condition of land and vegetation which will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Trees will only be removed if they are small, suppressed, unhealthy, crowded, hazardous, or located with 0-5 feet of structures. Project implementation will result in multiple benefits, including reduction of fuels that will decrease wildfire risk and improve public safety and protect communities, human lives, and property.

**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 Exemption. State code number:

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**Reasons why project is exempt:**

WSRCD has determined that the objectives of fuel reduction and the implementation activities as designed for this project will result in minor alterations to vegetation and land and therefore fit within the §15304 exemption. 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. Contact WSRCD to arrange viewing of the environmental review report.

**Lead Agency**

Contact Person: Sarah Seiler Title: Project Manager Telephone: (530) 365-7332 x 215

Signature: *Sarah Seiler* Date: 6-2-23

Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

Attachment A: Map of Project Locations

Shasta County

