



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Wood Products Business and Workforce Development Grant: Biochar Market Development – Biochar for Manure Management		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Cotati GPS Coordinates: 38.290345, -122.699953	<b>COUNTY</b>	Sonoma
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE would provide funding to demonstrate the benefits of incorporating forest waste-produced biochar in both poultry and dairy manure piles and rows. The project is located at existing agricultural operations in Sonoma County, CA. The project involves mixing, using small farm machinery and by hand, 80 cubic yards (3 truckloads) of forest waste-produced biochar into existing manure piles (indoor and outdoor). The project will measure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and increases in nutrient retention in the finished product. Tests of biochar and manure will be conducted before and after mixing.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 1 § 15301  
Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): Public Resources Code Section
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Manure Management is a part of normal agricultural operations. No local permits are required for this project. The funding of the project by CAL FIRE is Categorical Exempt per Section 15301 – “Existing Facilities, Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.”

It has been determined that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in Section 15301: Existing Facilities, because the project involves no expansion in the use of existing facilities. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department and project proponent is kept on file at the CAL FIRE Headquarters in Sacramento.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

*Matthew Reischman*

7/4/2023

Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director

Date

Resource Management

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection