

# Notice of Exemption

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

From: {Public Agency} Butte County Resource Conservation District

150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste A  
Oroville, CA. 95965

(Address)

County Clerk / County of  
Butte  
155 Nelson Ave  
Oroville, CA 95965-3411



**Project Title:** Cakawi Odiknona Spring Restoration and Blue Oak Enhancement

**Project Applicant:** Point Blue Conservation Science & Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve

**Project Location - Specific:** Richardson Springs, California 95973

**Project Location - City:** Unincorporated

**Project Location • County:** Butte

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

The project site is located at the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER), a diverse landscape of canyon and ridge habitats. The objectives of this project are to 1) restore the spring ecosystems, 2) enhance the blue oak woodland, and 3) remove and replace hazard fencing. To achieve these goals, project activities include: native plantings; invasive species removal; installation of water troughs outside of cattle enclosures; barbed wire fencing removal and replacement with wildlife friendly fencing; and brush piling.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Butte County Resource Conservation District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve

### Exempt Status: (check one)

Ministerial (Sec. 210&q(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land (§15304)

Statutory Exemptions.

### Reasons-why project is exempt:

The project is non-ground disturbing except for the minor disturbance of; planting native species as a mix of seeds and pots; fencing removal/replacement, and installation work; invasive species removal, and water trough installation. All work related to removing existing fencing and replacing it with wildlife friendly fencing will occur outside of the ground-nesting season (April 15th-August 15th) or will occur after pre-implementation surveys have been completed. For species such as burrowing owls and the western spadefoot toad, known burrowing sites will be avoided during installation work. Botany surveys have been completed for two of the five springs and the remaining springs are required to be surveyed before implementation. Fencing installation will target rocky areas where the area's sensitive species are unlikely to be present. The land managers have had Mechoopda Tribal members out to the property for unofficial cultural resource surveys and will notify the Tribe before any work so they can have a monitor on-site. Prior to the underground pipe installation, an archaeologist will visit the site to complete pre-implementation surveys. Project implementation, as designed, would have less than significant impact in each resource area, and an exemption pursuant to §15304 is indicated.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Thad Walker, District Manager

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 693-3173

### 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: David G. Lee

Date 11/16/23

Title: Board Chairman

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant