

# 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

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

Project Title: Turkey Tail Farm Habitat Improvement

Project Applicant: Point Blue Conservation Science

Project Location - Specific: T21 N R04E portions of sections 8 and 5; 10846 Nelson Bar Rd

Project Location - City: Yankee Hill (Oroville) CA 95965 Project Location - County: Butte

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

TurkeyTail Farm is a diversified farm producing flowers, value added herb products, gourmet mushrooms and mixed livestock just east of the west branch of the Feather River. The farm consists of oak savanna and mixed brush woodland at about 1200' elevation. The project would: (1) install a hedgerow around the garden consisting of bee, bat and songbird boxes and approx 100 pollinator-attractive perennial plants; (2) establish two new planted areas (one area of pollinator seeding and one area of native perennial grass seeding) through light soil disturbance and broadcast seeding; (3) increase future grazable land area by cutting and chipping burned debris in an approx. 7-acre area, while also leaving some snags and some scattered brush piles with acorns planted underneath; (4) plant approx. 45 container perennials along a seasonal creek; (5) remove and replace approx. 1000 ft of hazard fence with wildlife friendly fencing; (6) build approx. 1300 feet of new wildlife-friendly fence. The objectives of the project are to 1) improve habitat for pollinators and other beneficial wildlife; (2) improve the farmers' grazable area and ability to manage their livestock movements while also allowing freer movement for wildlife; and 3) increase blue oak recruitment over the long term, consistent with ongoing grazing. Planting would occur in fall. Based on a reconnaissance-level survey, 2 sensitive species have the potential to be affected by the project (*Monardella venosa* and *Sida/cea robusta*), but landowners/implementers would receive education on identifying these species (which are conspicuous to a non-expert year round) so these rare plants, if present, would not be disturbed.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Point Blue Conservation Science and TurkeyTail Farm

### 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));

X 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 a mix of native container plants and seeds. Prior to planting, site preparation for seeding units will be achieved using light tillage in the top inch or two of soil. Due to the catastrophic 2018 fire, the site is already so disturbed that the minor disturbance from planting will be insignificant. No channel disturbance, mastication, or herbicide are authorized. 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: 

Date: 10-26-23

Title: Board Chairman

Signed by Lead Agency



Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.