

Notice of Exemption

To: X Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: RCD of Tehama County
PO Box 1232
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

□ County Clerk
County of Red Bluff
633 Washington Street, Room 111
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

Project Title: Bucks Flat Shaded Fuel Break Continuation

Project Applicant: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Project Location – Specific: The project area is located East of Ponderosa Way, South of Bucks Flat Rd and North Northwest of the N-line within that portion of the Sierra Nevada Range in Eastern Tehama County.

South Powerhouse Road:

T28N R02E SEC 29 and 33

Project Location – Lat/Long: 40°14'38"N by 121°45'45"W **Project Location – County:** Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Treatment will consist of mastication to reduce stocking and ladder fuels, improving the stands vitality and resistance to fire. Removal of conifers will be removed based on the RPF's silviculture prescription (see below). This prescription will consider several factors including bugs and disease, tree vigor, uniformity, as well as stand and species composition. All brush and shrub species will be removed in accordance with the silvicultural prescription. In conjunction with the treatment listed above herbicide may be used as a control mechanism for regrowth and sprouting. Residual material will be left on site at the RPF's discretion or in a manner outlined in the silviculture prescription. All contractors and consultants, if any, will adhere to the Forest Practice Rules during fuel reduction and/or herbicide treatments.

- **Spacing:** In general, maintain an average spacing of trees between 20 feet and 24 feet (100 - 75 trees per acre).
- **Form:** Good form should be considered when selecting leave trees to reduce the number of trees with crooks, doglegs, multiple tops, or other defects.
- **Health of the Tree:** Trees exhibiting poor vigor, mechanical damage, or disease and/or insect infestation shall not be retained unless they are the best available tree.
- **Ladder Fuels:** Prioritize the treatment of Ladder Fuels. Trees which have a high likelihood of creating a "ladder" for fire to move into the crowns of overstory trees have a lower priority as leave trees.
- **Minimum Size:** Trees which are less than 12 inches in height need not be treated.
- **Maximum Size:** Trees with a dbh of 9 inches.

- **Road Trees:** Trees that do not exceed the maximum size and that are within 15 feet of roads that have the potential to affect vehicular traffic use, or to allow a fire to spread across the road shall be treated.
- **Species Priority:** Leave trees will be prioritized in the following order: (1) incense cedar, (2) Douglas-fir (3) ponderosa pine, (4) white fir, (5) sugar pine.
- **Brush treatment:** Brush greater than 12 inches in height shall be treated.
- **Snags:** Snags less than 15 inches diameter at breast height shall be treated, unless they show signs of use by wildlife or are marked with an “L”, “W” or tag identifying them as a “Wildlife Tree”.
- **Downed Woody Debris:** Woody debris less than 12 inches diameter which extends greater than 12 inches from the ground shall be treated. Woody debris greater than 12 inches diameter shall be retained for wildlife habitat.
- **Previous Activity Fuels:** Areas with concentrations of activity fuels (i.e. logging slash) shall be treated.
- **Residual Height:** Treated material shall not extend greater than 12 inches from the ground.

Project Components

The **Bucks Flat Shaded Fuel Break Continuation** applies comprehensive and cohesive treatments across the landscape which, when combined meet the management goals of SPI along with the goals of Cal Fire established for surrounding State Responsibility Lands and with the RCD of Tehama County's watershed protection/improvement objectives will be advanced as well.

Bucks Flat Shaded Fuel Break Continuation- (63 total acres)

- 1.) Mastication
- 2.) Herbicide

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lepage Inc.

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 of Lands (Class 5)
- Statutory Exemption. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This project is considered low impact given that

the nature of the project work occurs on already disturbed and developed roadsides and biomass chips will be broadcast onsite. A current California Natural Diversity Database search was conducted, and it has been determined that Project activities will have a low impact on the environment and low potential to affect cultural resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Seronica Biggs

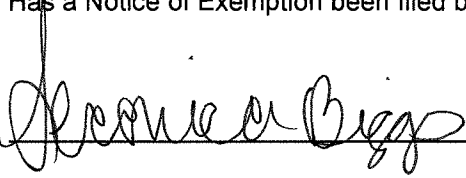
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-727-1280 Ext: 112

If filed by applicant:

1) Attached certified document of exemption finding.

2) Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? **x Yes**

Signature: _____



Date: 05/09/2024

Title: Project Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

Signed by Applicant

