

COUNTY RECORDER  
Filing Requested by:  
Yolo County Resource Conservation District  
Name  
221 West Court Street, Suite 1  
Address  
Woodland, CA 95695  
City, State, Zip  
Attention: Heather Nichols, Executive Director

Filed in County Clerk's Office

Jesse Salinas  
Yolo County - Clerk/Recorder

**57-05232024-054**

05/23/2024  
FISH  
Pages: 3  
Fee: \$ 50.00

By zhernandez, Deputy



## Notice of Exemption

**To:**

Yolo County Clerk-Recorder  
625 Court Street Suite 1 B01  
Woodland, CA 95695

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

**From:**

Yolo County Resource Conservation District  
221 West Court Street, Suite 1  
Woodland, CA 95695  
[permann@yolorcd.org](mailto:permann@yolorcd.org)

**Project Title:** Murphy Ranch Fuels Management – Pile Burning

**Project Location – Specific:** Assessor Parcel Numbers: 18430083, 18430084, 18430071, 18430074, 60050009, 60040001, 18450038, 18450039, 18450028, 18450025

**Project Location – City/County:** Brooks, Yolo County, CA

**Description of nature and purpose of the Project:** The project aims to reduce fuel loading and implement post-wildfire clearing on rangeland/oak woodland parcels that were impacted by the LNU Lightning Complex Fire of 2020. To achieve these objectives, the project will consist of gathering dead and down debris into piles for pile burning across grazed grassland and oak woodland/chaparral habitat. Heavy equipment will be restricted to existing roads and disc lines maintained by the ranch owners. Additional hand line construction may be necessary in places; this is expected to be minimal. All burning will be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of a burn permit issued by the Yolo Solano Air Management District. Project implementation will be conducted or supervised by CAL FIRE's Lake Napa Sonoma Unit and will be performed in accordance with permitting and environmental review conducted by Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD). Annual burns at this location are anticipated.

Work may occur during nesting bird season. If work commences during nesting bird season (February 1st to September 15th) the project area will be surveyed for nesting birds by a qualified biologist no more than one week before operations. If nesting birds are located, the RCD will develop measures that minimize impacts and are consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Oak woodland and grasslands in this area are potential habitat for *Bombus crotchii*, a bumble bee under consideration for state endangered species listing, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), and the possible presence of Keck's checkerbloom (*Sidalcea keckii*), a federally endangered plant species within one mile of the project site. Avoidance measures will be followed to protect checkerbloom, beetle, and bumble bee populations. These include:

- Water course buffers
- Pre-implementation surveys for elderberry bushes, Keck's checkerbloom and active bee colonies will be

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conducted; if found, activities will be modified by creating buffers to prevent impact.

- Placement of burn piles away from naturally occurring bare dirt areas where underground colonies or overwintering queen bees could occur.
- If bumblebee underground nests/burrows are encountered, an avoidance no-disturbance buffer will be created around the nest opening.

A portion of the project site is oak woodlands that were impacted by the 2020 LNU Complex Fire. After wildfire, the area needs large-scale fuels and debris management. The project consists of fuels management/pile burning on a private ranch in Yolo County to reduce fuel loads and to manage debris from the 2020 LNU Complex Fire that impacted the property. Pile burning is an effective tool to manage the risk of wildfire by reducing fuel loads to slow the rate and minimize the intensity of future wildfire. The project area has been impacted by multiple wildfires in the past 25 years including the 2020 LNU Complex/Hennessy Fire, the 2018 County Fire, and the 2004 Rumsey Fire. The project area habitat type is annual grassland, oak woodland, chaparral, and montane hardwood (such as foothill pine, valley oak, blue oak). Oak woodland has a typical fire return interval of 8 to 15 years whereas mixed chamise chaparral has a fire return interval of 30 to 90 years. Fuels management and pile burning on this property, in conjunction with other fuels management projects occurring in the region, could prevent/protect the property from catastrophic wildfire and re-introduce a more natural fire return interval.

In the absence of extensive science-based best management practices (BMPs) for post-fire and fuels management in oak woodlands, BMPs from conifer forests will be adopted, such as:

- Removing dead materials from trees and limbing up ladder fuels,
- Removing or reducing plants within drip line/canopy of oak trees,
- Reducing continuous fuels loads among oak stands,
- Maintenance of current canopy coverage as long as trees are healthy and not in danger of falling,
- Maintenance of size and age classes of oak trees,
- Retain snags for wildlife when appropriate by creating a fuel buffer at the base of a snag

Debris piles will consist of dead debris and materials from fuels management that will protect heritage oak trees and high-value wildlife trees while reducing continuous fuel loads over the project site.

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

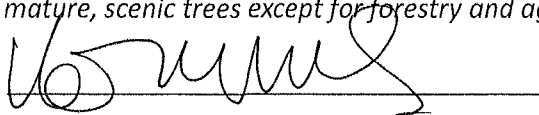
**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** CAL FIRE

**Exempt Status:** Categorical Exemption: Class 4 § 15304 Minor Alteration of Land

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project meets the requirements of Class 4 Categorical Exemption (minor alterations to land) Section 15304. Project implementation will result in alterations to the land that are best described as minor in scope, that will not significantly impact the aesthetic of the property, or biological and/or cultural resources, and that do not involve the removal of mature, scenic trees for any purpose. No exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a "Notice of Exemption" for this project. It has been concluded that no significant adverse environmental impacts 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, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, or wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the RCD is available at 221 West Court St #1, Woodland, CA 95695.

*Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.*

**Signature (Lead Agency):**



**Date:**

5/23/2024

**Name/Title:** Heather Nichols, Executive Director

**Phone:** (530) 661-1688 ext. 3



# Murphy Training Burn Parcel Map

The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.



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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
57-05232024-054

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY YOLO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL PERMSNN@YOLORCD.ORG	DATE 05/23/2024
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COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING YOLO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	DOCUMENT NUMBER
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PROJECT TITLE  
MURPHY RANCH FUELS MANAGEMENT - PILE BURNING

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME YOLO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL PERMSNN@YOLORCD.ORG	PHONE NUMBER (530) 661-1688
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PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 221 WEST COURT ST SUITE 1	CITY WOODLAND	STATE CA	ZIP CODE 95695
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**PROJECT APPLICANT** (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency     School District     Other Special District     State Agency     Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,051.25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,916.75	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$ _____

Exempt from fee

Notice of Exemption (attach)

CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$ _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$ _____

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cash     Credit     Check     Other

**TOTAL RECEIVED**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Zuri Hernandez, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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**Yolo County County**  
Jesse Salinas, Clerk/Recorder  
625 Court Street - Room B01  
P.O. Box 1130  
Woodland, CA 95776-1130  
530-666-8130

**Receipt: 24-10049**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Extended</b>
FISH	FISH AND WILDLIFE FILING	\$50.00
#Pages		3
Document #		57-05232024-054
Document Info:	YOLOCOUNTYRESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Filing Type		NOE
State Fee Prev		false
Charged		
No Charge Clerk Fee		false
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Tender (Credit Card Converge)</b>		<b>\$50.00</b>
Paid By	BAILEY ADAMS	
Approval Code	079550	

Thank you

5/23/24 1:56 PM zhernandez  
Workstation: ACE-REC-014