

# Notice of Exemption

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To:

- Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814
- County Clerk County of Red Bluff  
633 Washington Street, Room 111  
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

**From:** RCD of Tehama County  
#2 Sutter Street  
Red Bluff, CA. 96080

**Project Title:** Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project

**Project Applicant:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**Project Location – Specific:** The project area is located on USFS land

**Whitlock:**

T24N R8W sec 24

T24N R7W section 20 and 29

**FILED**

AUG 14 2024

JENNIFER A. VISE  
TEHAMA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER  
BY *Ariana Lopez*

41

**Project Location – City:** Paskenta

**Project Location – County:** Tehama

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

The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC), and USFS have designed the **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project**, landscape carbon sequestration, forest restoration and post August Complex Fire restoration project that will help California meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, improve forest health and ecological functions, as well as restore fire resiliency, and the project area's natural fire ecology through various forest management treatments.

As a result of improved forest health and fuels/fire ecology conditions, increased rates of growth within forest stands and subsequent rates of greenhouse gas sequestration will be achieved. This project will employ land management strategies to lessen the growing trend of landscape scale habitat changes because of high severity fires that have significantly impacted Mendocino National Forestlands and adjacent communities. The anticipated positive impacts that result from proposed vegetation treatments will improve multiple ecological components within that portion of the South Coast Range within Tehama County including State Responsibility Lands. Among these are carbon sequestration, ecosystem processes, as well as aquatic and wildlife habitat. These efforts will also improve conditions within adjacent communities through improvements in public safety and community sustainability. The goals of this project will be accomplished through:

- Thinning of small understory trees through mastication, hand cutting, and pile burning
- Retention of suitable snag trees within the treatment unit

**Project Components**

The **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project** consists comprehensive and cohesive treatments within the unit which, meet the management goals of USFS along with those established for surrounding Mendocino National Forest lands. Cal Fire goals established for surrounding State Responsibility Lands along with RCD of Tehama County watershed protection/improvement objectives will be advanced as well.

**Whitlock:** Create 58 acre shaded fuel break through mastication, hand cutting, and pile burning, removing trees 12 DBH and under. There shall be 25 Ft. spacing between remaining trees.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**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: 4799.05(d)(1)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Per 4799.05(d)(1) of the California Code, CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands that reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under provisions established in the National Environmental Protection Act. This exemption is contingent upon whether the primary role of a state or local agency is to provide funding or staffing for such projects. In connection with **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project** efforts, the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County is providing project funding obtained through the **California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program** to conduct fuel reduction activities on federal lands within the Mendocino National Forest. The RCDTC is also providing project management and other personnel necessary to implement project work.

The **Tehama Mendocino Fuel Reduction Partnership Project** scope of work described under Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: shown above meet the conditions of **California Code 4799.05(d)(1)** in that those portions of the project area located on Mendocino National Forest lands have been analyzed under US Forest Service environment analysis processes as

described in a NEPA Environmental Assessment document and USFS Decision Memo prepared for each project component described above.

**Lead Agency**

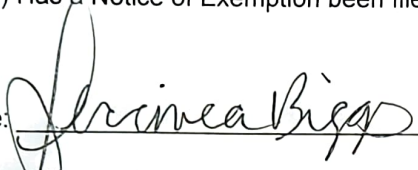
**Contact Person:** Seronica Biggs

**Area Code/Telephone:** 530-727-9983

**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?  Yes

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Title: Project Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: