



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>To:</b>	County Clerk Tehama County, CA 633 Washington St, Room 111 Red Bluff, CA 96080	<b>FROM:</b>	RCD of Tehama County P.O. Box 1232 Red Bluff, CA 96080
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<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Onion Ridge Mastication
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<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	L-Line (from HWY 32 to Panther Creek) <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b> – (40.2190028, 121.5488901)	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tehama
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**DESCRIPTION OF NATURE,  
PURPOSE, AND  
BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT**

The [Onion Ridge L-Line Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Improvement Project](#) (Project) was completed in 2020 through a \$250k award from Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Agreement No. 1040) and a partnership between Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC). The goal of the Project was to increase forest and watershed health and resiliency in the form of a strategically designed fuel break in eastern Tehama County, along a 25-mile-long road on the ridge between Mill and Deer Creeks, two anadromous fish-bearing watersheds that drain to the greater Sacramento River Basin. The 533-acre Project is located east of Red Bluff, CA, and west of Chester, CA, near Lassen Volcanic National Park and the Ishi Wilderness. The Project areas share boundaries with Lassen National Forest. Treatment prescriptions for the fuel break included hand thinning and mastication for 150 feet on each side of the road. The Project was successfully implemented, and the shaded fuel break was established along a 25-mile-long road system.

During the 2021 Dixie Fire, CAL FIRE created a contingency line in this area. CAL FIRE pushed over the Project’s shaded fuel break and left the downed trees and brush in a long windrow pile against other standing trees, leaving an undesired fuel load in the fuel break and ground fuel/ladder fuel connectivity. CAL FIRE often repairs damages resulting from suppression efforts, but CAL FIRE has not done so as of 2024.

<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	RCD of Tehama County
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<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	Seronica Biggs	<b>PHONE</b>	(530) 727 9983
<b>ADDRESS</b>	P.O. Box 1232 Red Bluff, CA 96080		

**NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** Sierra Pacific Industries

**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (e) Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS 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 no impact on the environment and low potential to affect cultural resources.

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**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

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SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Seronica A Biggs*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*5/1/25*

TITLE: RCD of Tehama County District Forester, Seronica Biggs

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

Signed by Applicant