

FILED

#24

MAY 13 2024

JENNIFER A. VISE
TEHAMA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

BY

Quetsman

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:	County Clerk Tehama County, CA 633 Washington St, Room 111 Red Bluff, CA 96080	FROM:	RCD of Tehama County P.O. Box 1232 Red Bluff, CA 96080
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PROJECT TITLE	Roadside Fuel Reduction
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PROJECT LOCATION	Lanes Valley Road (from Manton Rd. to HWY 36) PROJECT LOCATION – (40.396978, -121.970060)	COUNTY	Tehama
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**DESCRIPTION OF NATURE,
PURPOSE, AND
BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT**

The Lanes Valley Road Fuel break will complete 13 acres of Tehama County Roadside Fuels Reduction work equating to \$48,944.88. The shaded fuel break will consist of hand crew thinning of ladder fuels, including tree removal (DBH <10), tree limbing (up to 14ft), weed whacking, and debris removal. Fuels Reduction will be conducted between Long Rd. & State Highway 36 (Situated West of Lassen National Forest and East of Red Bluff, Ca. The aspiration of the project is protected nearby WUI communities of Paynes Creek & Manton by mitigating these communities' susceptibility to high intensity wildfire. Additionally the project will increase ingress/egress ability of community members and emergency personnel for a secondary access route. Fuels reduction work will extend up to 50ft from the edge of Lanes Valley Road (dependent on adjacent property owners fence line). This project component has an anticipated duration of 5 weeks.

The Lanes Valley Road Fuel break will complement \$960,000.00 of Tehama County Roadside fuels Reduction work currently being implemented by the RCDTC. The county Roadside work commenced during the Summer of 2023 and will deliver 320 acres of fuel break by 2026 (CalFire grant agreement: 5GA21151).

LEAD AGENCY	RCD of Tehama County
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CONTACT PERSON	Drew Barnhart	PHONE	(916) 525 5510
ADDRESS	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:** Tehama Conservation Fund**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 a low impact on the environment and low potential to effect cultural resources.

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: Drew Barnhart

DATE: 5/13/2024

TITLE: RCD of Tehama County Project Manager, Drew Barnhart

☒ X Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Roadside Fuel Reduction

The Lanes Valley Road Fuel Break will complete 13 acres of Tehama County roadside fuels reduction work equating to \$48,944.88. The shaded fuel break will consist of a hand crew thinning ladder fuels, including tree removal (DBH <10), tree limbing (up to 14ft), weed whacking, and debris removal. Fuels reduction will be conducted between Long Rd. & State Highway 36 (situated west of Lassen National Forest and east of Red Bluff. The goal of the project is to protect the nearby WUI communities of Paynes Creek and Manton. Additionally, the project will increase the ingress/egress ability of community members and emergency personnel for a secondary access route. Fuels reduction work will extend up to 50 feet from the edge of Lanes Valley Road (dependent on adjacent property owners' fence lines). This project component has an anticipated duration of five weeks.

The Lanes Valley Road Fuel break will complement \$960k of ongoing Tehama County roadside fuels reduction work implemented by the RCDTC. The county Roadside work commenced during the Summer of 2023 and will deliver 320 acres of fuel break by 2026 (CAL FIRE Agreement 5GA21151).

With landowner(s) goals and objectives under consideration, a prescription will be developed by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) utilizing a variety of treatment techniques to align with the desired outcomes. Treatment activities can include one or a combination of the following: mastication, hand cutting and piling, machine piling, pile burning, and/or biomass utilization to reduce fuels. These prescriptions will consider burn severity, survival potential, bugs and disease, tree vigor, uniformity, as well as stand and species composition. Fuel treatments serve as preparation to the site for erosion control efforts and herbicide application. All herbicide applications would be applied by a certified applicator and administered by an Agricultural Pest Control Advisor (PCA).

STATED OBJECTIVE

The RCDTC will administer the implementation of fuels reduction work to create a shaded fuel break along sections of Lanes Valley Road. The objective is to lower nearby communities' susceptibility to high intensity wildfire as well as improve ingress/egress along a secondary access route to Manton/Paynes creek. The aspiration is to enable safe traversal for community members, landowners, and emergency personnel.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The Lanes Valley Road Fuel break will complete 13 acres of Tehama County Roadside Fuels Reduction work equating to **\$48,944.88**. The shaded fuel break will consist of hand crew thinning of ladder fuels, including tree removal (DBH <10), tree limbing (up to 14ft), weed whacking, brush removal, and debris removal.

PROJECT TIMELINE

If the agreement between the USFS and RCDTC is fully executed in early summer 2024, then estimated completion of project activities is by December 2024.

KEY PERSONNEL

RCDDTC – Project Management and Administrative Staff

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS

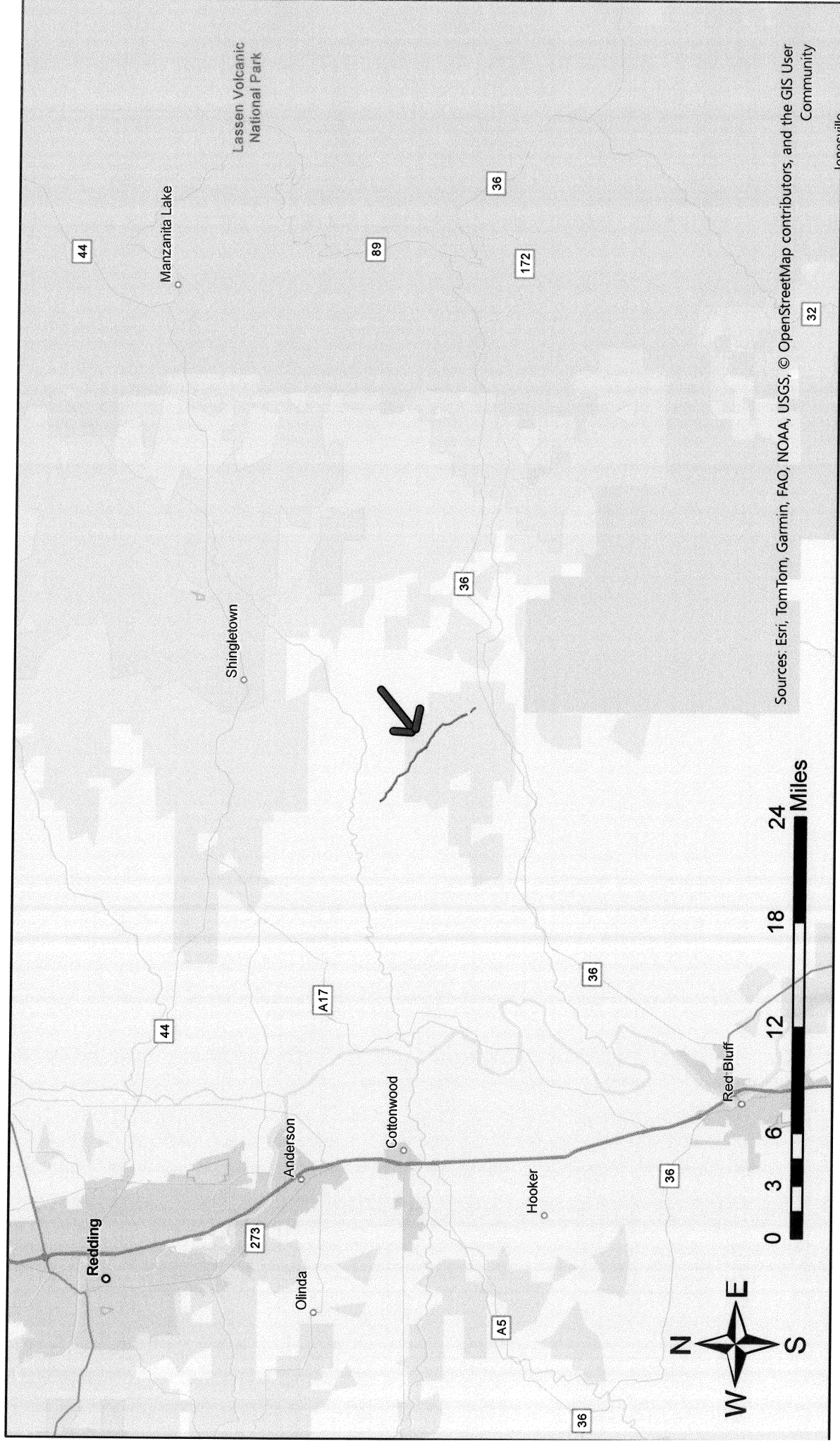
Project is located on Tehama County and private landowner parcels located adjacent to Lanes Valley Road. The project is situated between Long Road and Highway 36, roughly between the WUI communities of Manton (to the North) and Paynes Creek (to the South). The project area is located 13 miles West of Lassen National Forest and 14 miles NW of Ishi Wilderness.

The PSA will cover 6,371 acres located entirely on private industrial timberlands, owned by Sierra Pacific Industries, a family owned and operated forest products company. The 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. The specific treatment area is accessed from the L-Line Road along Onion Ridge that members of the public utilize when accessing the Ishi Wilderness.

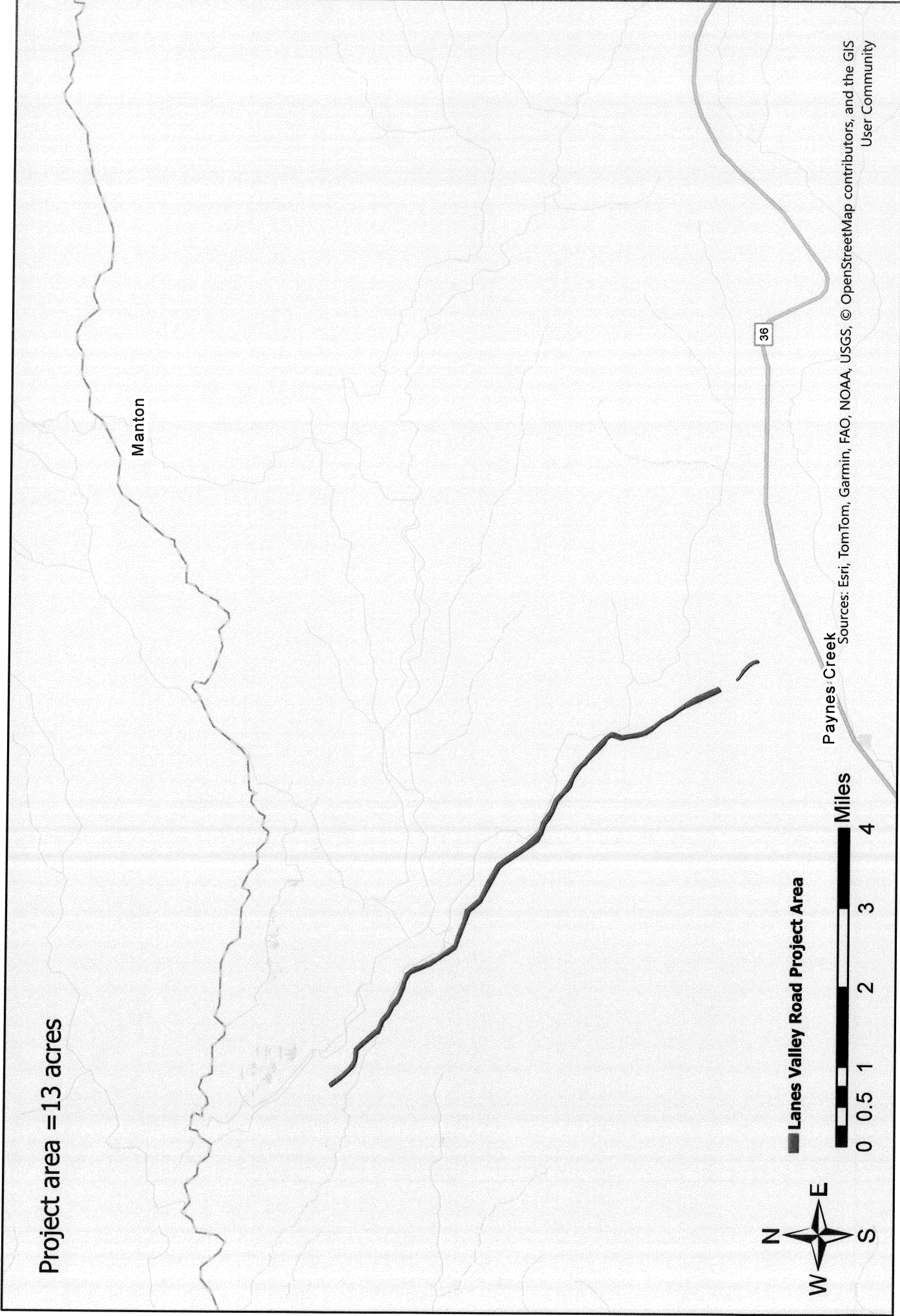
MONITORING & EVALUATION OF RESULTS

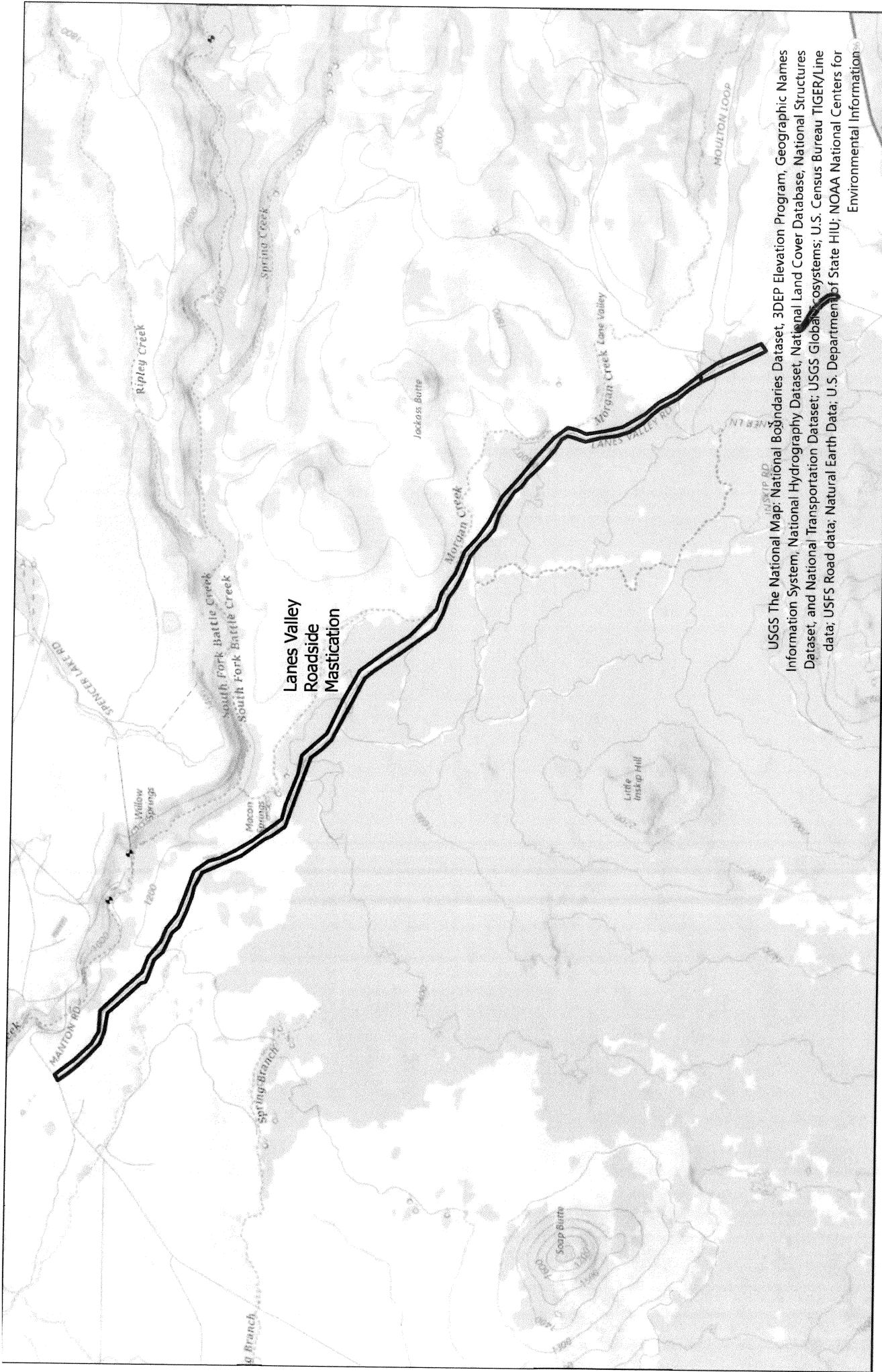
Future CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention funding will be pursued to enable maintenance of this fuel break. Application of herbicide will prevent non-native/invasive regrowth.

Lanes Valley Road Shaded Fuel Break



Lanes Valley Road Project Area





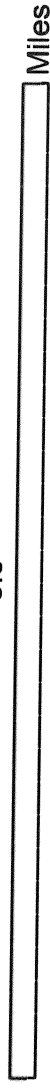
USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Systems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State HIU; NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information



Lanes Valley Roadside Treatment

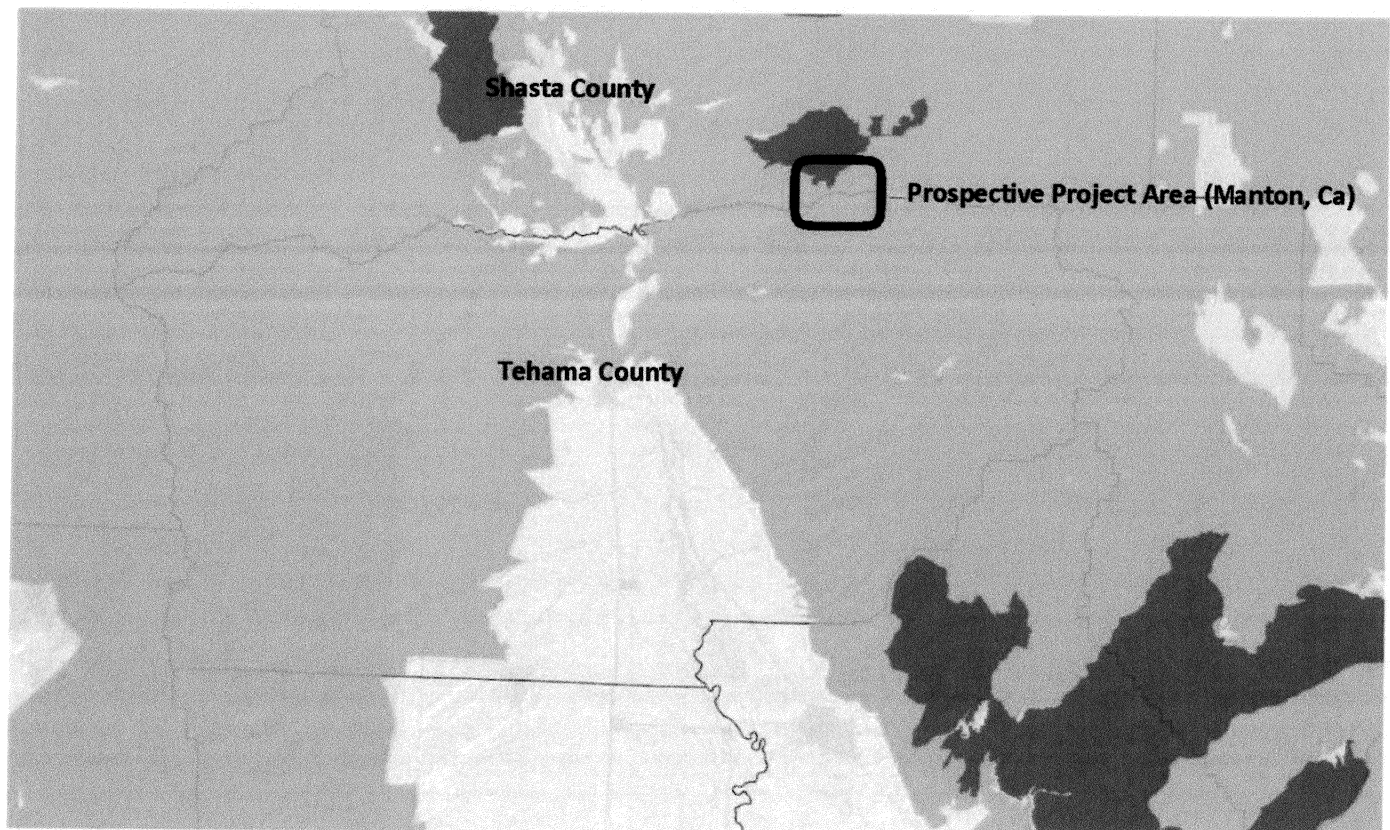
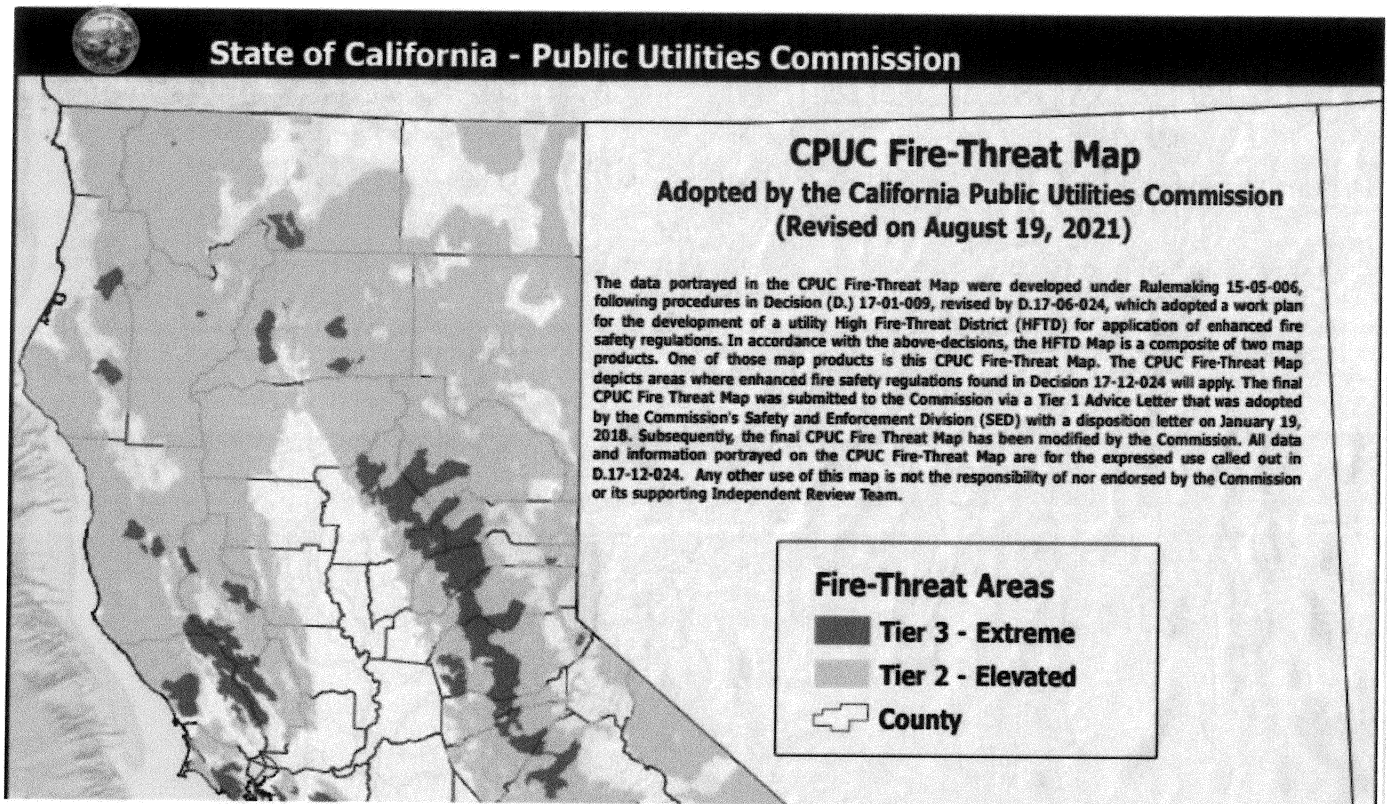
 LanesValleyRoad

3.5



USGS The National Map
Lanes Valley Road, Tehama County
40' Contours
Scale: 1:41,000

Prospective Project Area with relation to HFTD (CPUC standards – source: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/wildfires/fire-threat-maps-and-fire-safety-rulemaking>). Entirety of Project area occurs in Tier 2 or Tier 3 Fire Threat area.



Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land

State Regulations	Compare
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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. Examples include but are not limited to:

- (a) Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist.
- (b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping.
- (c) Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site.
- (d) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production.
- (e) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including carnivals, sales of Christmas trees, etc.
- (f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.
- (g) Maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies.
- (h) The creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way.
- (i) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.