



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To.	County Clerk Tehama County, CA 633 Washington St , Room 111 Red Bluff, CA 96080	FROM:	RCD of Tehama County 202 Walnut Street Red Bluff, CA 96080
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PROJECT TITLE	Surrey Village/Wilcox and surrounding WUI - Fuels Reduction Project
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PROJECT LOCATION	PROJECT LOCATION – Surrey Village & Wilcox Area (see attached map for project boundary)	COUNTY Tehama
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DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT

Vegetative density (especially blue oak) surrounding the densely populated Surrey Village/Wilcox communities poses an imminent threat with the potential of High Severity Wildfire. The project goal is to reduce the risk of ignitions and rate of fire spread into adjacent grasslands, shrublands and high-quality oak woodlands. In addition, project work would result in the continued expansion and maintenance of fuel-break networks that is used during wildfire events to protect homes and developed parcels and create a space from which backfire operations or future landscape scale vegetation treatments not affiliated with this project can be developed.

The proposed project entails vegetation management/reduction and maintenance treatments (cutting, chipping, thinning, limbing, mastication and herbicide applications) within and/or surrounding the WUI Communities of Surrey Village/Adobe area. The aspiration is to reduce the ladder fuels, space the canopies, and thin the fuels load in order to lower wildfire susceptibility and spread to the area. The removal and control of target vegetation will reduce ignition risk, reduce the rate of fire spread and intensity as well as removal excess trees and other vegetation thus improving conditions for larger, more mature trees particularly oaks that are currently in good health and continue to sequester Greenhouse Gases (GHGs).

The RCDTC will manage, operate, and maintain hand crew(s), chipper(s) along with masticator(s) during fuel treatment projects. In addition, the RCDTC will conduct photo monitoring as well as prepare field progress reports and mapping which will be incorporated into project status reports submitted to the funder by the RCDTC Project Manager. Treatment areas will be conducted along County Roadside Easements as well as various parcel owners dispersed throughout the attached map (reference below), The total area addressed will entail approximately **300** acres.

Specific treatments to be completed in connection with this project include

- Chipping of downed branches/snags
- The cutting, thinning and chipping of ground fuels along with shrubs, vines and small, poorly developed trees (< 14" in diameter) [that create ladder fuels extending into the crowns of mature oaks] Dead, dying, overcrowded and/or diseased trees will be specifically targeted
- herbicide(s) [approved by the State and the Tehama County Agriculture Department] after several months, up to one growing season, will potentially be applied – dependent on landowner preference/

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FEB 03 2025

SEAN HOUGHTBY
TEHAMA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
BY *Maize*

LEAD AGENCY RCD of Tehama County

CONTACT PERSON Drew Barnhart **PHONE** (916) 525 5510

ADDRESS 202 Walnut Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080

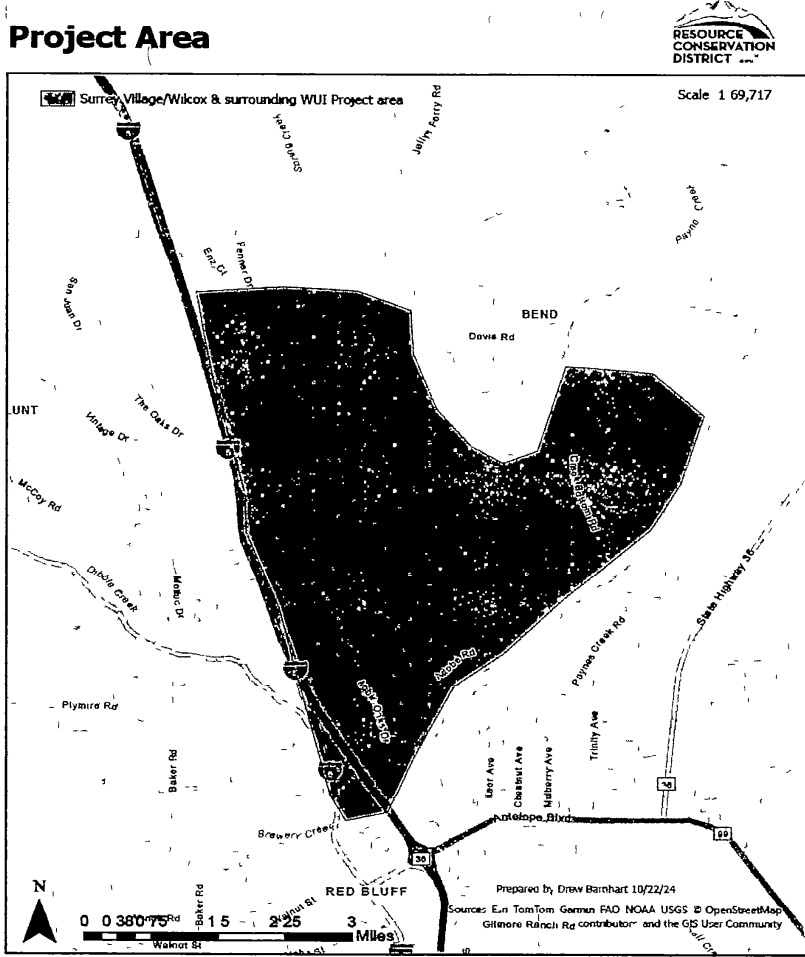
NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

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))

PROPOSED PROJECT AREA



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 areas and biomass chips will be broadcast onsite. A current California Natural Diversity Database and Cultural Resources search will be conducted, and will determine if Proposed project area affects any env or cultural resources. If any Environmental or Cultural Resources area identified, project area will be amended to exclude this area and/or appropriate avoidance measures/monitoring and ancillary task(s) conducted.

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 Drew Barnhart DATE 2/3/2025

TITLE Drew Barnhart, RCD of Tehama County Project Manager II

- Signed by Lead Agency
 Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR

Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15304

Section 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land

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

Cal Code Regs Tit 14, § 15304

Note Authority cited Section 21083, Public Resources Code Reference Section 21084, Public Resources Code

- 1 Amendment of subsections (a) and (b) and new subsection (i) filed 10-26-98, operative 10-26-98 pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21087 (Register 98, No 44)
- 2 Change without regulatory effect amending Note filed 10-6-2005 pursuant to section 100, title 1, California Code of Regulations (Register 2005, No 40)