

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Humboldt County Resource
Conservation District
5630 South Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503

Humboldt County Clerk-Recorder
825 5th St.; 5th floor
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Greater Willow Creek Area Post Fire Disaster Recovery Project

Project Location – Specific: Willow Creek, CA

Project Location – County: Humboldt County

Lead Agency: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Lead Person: Jill Demers **Email:** jill@hcrd.org **Telephone:** 707-442-6058 x5

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will conduct hazardous fuels reduction to support post fire recovery and forest health and resiliency. The project occurs in the Knob (2021) and Six Rivers Lightning Complex (2022) wildfire footprints. Treatments will vary based on conditions present and location- specific objectives but will generally include removing hazardous vegetation, including brush and small diameter trees, to increase horizontal spacing and eliminate vertical continuity of fuels. Hazardous fuels treatments will include: chipping, lop and scattered, or pile and burn. These treatments will reduce wildfire risks to local resources and community members, improve forest health and promote resilience in natural ecosystem services. Worksites will be located throughout the greater Willow Creek area and will occur periodically throughout a 2-year time frame (through March 2027).

Exempt Status: (check one)

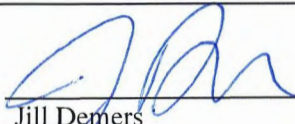
- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080 (b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, Class 4
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: General Rule exemption, Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves removal of small diameter understory trees and brush species to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state and are not considered healthy. The project includes a range of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to assure no significant adverse environmental impacts would occur.

Review by Humboldt County Resource Conservation District staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. (See attached memo). No significant adverse effects were identified during the evaluation process. Therefore the General Rule exemption also would apply.

Date Received / Posted Through



Jill Demers

Executive Director

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

5/23/2025
Date