

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District  
215 Executive Court, Suite A  
Yreka, CA 9097

Project File

County Clerk  
County of Siskiyou  
311 Forth Street, Rm 201  
Yreka, CA 96097

**Project Title:** Athithuuf: Slater Fire Restoration Project

**Project Location Specific.** Happy Camp & Slater Butte USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle(s), Section 2, T16N, R7E and Deadman Point USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle Section 9, T17N, R7E, HB&M.

**Project Location** – Near Community of Happy Camp, CA - The project area(s) are located ½ mile northeast of Happy Camp, CA Calwatershed 1105.320405 (Cade Creek) and also at the southeast junction of Indian Creek Road and Indian Creek Drive 7 miles north of Highway 96 in Siskiyou County California Calwatershed Baker Gulch 110.5320104

County: Siskiyou

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** – The project located on 37 acres of Karuk fee land located near Happy Camp, CA, and is within the Slater Fire footprint. Treatments include fuel reduction, invasive plant removal, oak woodland restoration, pile burning and prescribed fire on approximately 37 acres. Treatments include mechanical and hand crews that will focus on the removal of hazardous dead vegetation including standing dead material and brush regrowth. Standing dead and dying hardwoods and conifers will be removed except for trees that show wildlife use or provide other cultural use value. Mechanical operations will include the use of a masticator and chipping equipment and manual treatments will include chainsaws, loppers or pruners, piling and burning. Removal of hazardous trees and fuels reduction will have a direct benefit to the life and safety of residents and travelling motorists in the area. Trees that have firewood value will be put into decks for tribal members and staff to access, and later processed to be put into firewood banks for the tribal elders and community use. Those trees that are of the right size and specs to be used for tribal fisheries restorations projects will be harvested with root-wad attached for large woody debris stream loading and saved for that purpose. All the rest of the trees, and activity fuels will be put into burn piles that will be burned by tribal fire/fuels staff in the correct burn window following their construction. There is no selling, bartering, or trading planned as a part of this project. The value of the fuel treatments, both in terms of reduced fire behavior/intensity and in terms of impacts will produce long-term benefits. Live trees that do not pose a threat to people or property will be retained.

The overall project objective is to utilize low intensity prescribed fire to maintain and enhance previous vegetative fuel reduction efforts in an oak woodland forest type. The goal is to reduce wildfire risk and to enhance fire resilient conditions and to ensure that the exposure of human assets and communities to wildfire risk has been reduced. The proposed Project will provide follow up treatments to previous thinning of white oak (*Quercus garryana*) and black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) to continue efforts to modify forest conditions to maintain oak/woodland forest habitat and reduce fuel loads and prepare forests for long-term stewardship through practices such as prescribed fire.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

- 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 Section 15304, Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land;**
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4). Class 4 is applicable to projects which consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor alterations to land proposed by the project would include cultural fire and/or selective manual and/or mechanical weed removal, followed by planting of native plants by seed or small plants in ground disturbed by severe fire. No channel disturbance or herbicide usage are authorized. The Shasta Valley RCD has reviewed the project and determined that none of the exceptions to the Class 4 categorical exemption apply to the project.

Project involves minor alteration of vegetation, including post-wildfire follow-up fuel management activities to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation and dead material to maintain an oak woodland habitat. No healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed as

part of this project. An environmental review was completed concluding that project implementation as designed could not have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. There will be no impact to historic or cultural resources due to minimal ground disturbance and or avoidance.

**Contact Person:**

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:**

Rod Dowse \_\_\_\_\_

(530) 572-3120

Date: 6/26/25

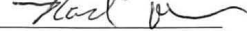
Signature: 

Title: District Manager

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signed by:   Lead Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_