

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Trinity County Resource
Conservation District - 30 Horseshoe Lane, Weaverville,
CA, 96093
(Address)

Project Title: Bowerman Cooperative Fuel Break Forest Health Project

Project Applicant: Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD)

Project Location - Specific:
See attached.

Project Location - City: Trinity Center, Covington Mill Project Location - County: Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
See attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: TCRCD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Multiple agencies, see attached.

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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 4799.05(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

It has been determined that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in PRC Section 4799.05(d)(1), and will have no significant environmental impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Dylan Kirkley Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530)623-6004

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

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 8/28/2025 Title: Executive Director

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: 8/29/2025



Notice of Exemption

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 1450 · 30 Horseshoe Lane · Weaverville, CA 96093-1450

PROJECT TITLE	Bowerman Cooperative Fuel Break Forest Health Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Covington Mill and Trinity Center, Trinity County, California. Township 36 North, Range 08 West: Sections 24, 36. Township 36 North, Range 07 West: Section 30. Township 35 North, Range 08 West: Sections 2, 9, 10, 12, 14, 26, 34. Township 35 North, Range 07 West: Sections 6, 7. Township 34 North, Range 08 West: Sections 3, 4 (Mount Diablo Base & Meridian)	COUNTY	Trinity
LEAD AGENCY	Trinity County Resource Conservation District		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Dylan Kirkley, EC Program Manager – dkirkley@tcrd.net P.O Box 1450, Weaverville, CA 96093	PHONE	530-623-6004

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Trinity County Resource Conservation District (the District) plans to implement fuels reduction activities in the form of manual thinning, roadside chipping and pile burning on an approximately 608-acre footprint. The project area is with National Forest Lands near the community of Trinity Center, and along State Route 3, stretching seven miles south to the community of Covington Mill. This project's NEPA coverage is under a Categorical Exclusion, 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(6), signed May 6th, 2025. This project is an integral part of the District's landscape strategy aimed at protecting Trinity County communities from future catastrophic wildfire events and returning the landscape to a healthy, less hazardous state. Fuel reduction treatments will be strategically implemented along roadsides, adjacent to critical infrastructure and as needed where access is feasible, to protect the life and property of residents of Trinity Center and Covington Mill as well as to provide safe evacuation routes and ease of firefighter access and suppression efforts.

Our objective is to treat approximately 608 acres over a 3-year period beginning in 2025. 565 acres of manual thinning, 523 acres of piling, and 42 acres of chipping will take place along roadsides and in areas where established road systems and topography are not conducive to mechanical equipment access. Pile burning will take place on up to 523 acres; 111 acres of broadcast burning will also be completed, with the District and the Watershed Resource and Training Center staff and the Trinity County Volunteer Fire Department providing support under a United States Forest Service burn boss. These treatments will take place in the 2026-2029 burn seasons as other treatments are completed.

The prescription includes manual thinning of small diameter conifers up to 10-inch DBH and 35-foot spacing; single and clumped hardwood tress up to 4-inch DBH and 20-foot spacing (clumped hardwoods down to 2-3 main stems); and brush species greater than 1-inch diameter and less than 6 feet high. Remaining trees will be pruned up to 7 feet from the ground or no more than half the live tree crown. Any brush or small-diameter trees (ladder fuels) under the drip line of leave trees will be cut and removed, which will reduce the likelihood of high-intensity crown fires in the future. Natural- and activity-created slash will be piled and burned or removed to meet desired fuel levels. Chippers may be used on up to 42 acres where roadside access is available. Broadcast burning will occur on 111 acres following the completion of manual thinning treatments. Desired conditions will be maintained with a combination of broadcast burning, understory burning, and/or jackpot burning at return intervals of 3-10 years. Additional manual thinning, and chipping may also be necessary to facilitate prescribed fire activities.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section:
- Statutory Exemption (state code section): 4799.05(d)(1)
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))




Notice of Exemption Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Post Office Box 1450 · 30 Horseshoe Lane · Weaverville, CA 96093-1450

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

It has been determined that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in PRC Section 4799.05(d)(1), and will have no significant environmental impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

X 

Kelly Sheen
District Manager