Print Form

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: Hobel Dump Fuel Reduction 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: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

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 involves the removal of small diameter understory trees to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels, and does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, 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: Kelly D Sheen Digitally signed by Kelly D Sheen Date: 2025.11.06 15:08:41 -08'00' Date: 11/6/2025 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: _____

Notice of Exemption
Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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

PROJECT TITLE	Hobel Dump Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project is located along Hobel Dump Road off of Highway 3, near Trinity Center, Trinity County, California. T36N R8W, Section 26 (Mount Diablo Principal Meridian).	**COUNTY**	Trinity
LEAD AGENCY	Trinity County Resource Conservation District		
CONTACT ADDRESS	Dylan Kirkley, EC Program Manager – dkirkley@tcrcd.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 on Hobel Dump Rd, near Trinity Center, CA. This work will take place entirely on APN-007-340-010, a County-owned parcel. This reduction in fuels along the dump access road and within the wooded area surrounding the dump will reduce the risk of human-related wildfire and allow for the burning of several large piles of woody debris which have accumulated at the site for years.

The District plans to implement manual thinning and pile burning treatments on approximately 15 acres. The primary goal of this project is to reduce fuels and create defensible space in this community-accessible area, reduce surface and ladder fuels to support safe pile burning activities, prevent potential ember cast from burning existing piles onsite from igniting adjacent high-fuel load areas, improve firefighter access and safety in and around the dump site for potential fire suppression activities, and to allow for the regular burning of woody debris onsite. Our objectives include reducing the risk of wildfire by thinning overgrown stands near a community transfer station (Hobel Dump), and to burn two (2) large existing piles of green waste that poses a fire risk due to human-related activities. Project activities will occur over a 3-5-year period. Burn activities will occur in collaboration with the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department.

The prescription includes manual thinning of small diameter conifers up to 12" DBH and 20-foot spacing between retained trees. Healthy, fire-resistant tree species and native hardwoods will be retained, retained trees will be limbed up to 10 feet from ground level or 1/3 of tree height, whichever is less, to prevent crown fires. Snags under 14" will be removed, with larger snags retained for habitat if they pose no safety risk. Trees will be cut at no more than 5" on the high side of slope. At minimum, a 10-foot buffer will be cleared on either side of the dump access road. Thinned material will be piled in place, wrapped in wax paper to season and be burned at a later date. The burning of existing large piles of green waste will occur in two to three 10'x10'x10' maximum-sized piles, to be burned continuously. These burn piles will have a minimum 10-foot buffer around the entirety of the piles. Only clean woody material will be burned. All trash, treated wood, or non-vegetative debris will be removed from the piles prior to placing in the burn piles. Material will be moved by hand or utilizing small machinery to the designated burn piles. Any use of small machinery to move materials from the existing large piles to the burn pies will occur entirely on land that has been cleared for dump purposes, no machinery will be utilized within the surrounding wooded area. Burning will occur during days when Hobel Dump is closed to the public (Wednesday-Thursday). Burning will occur during approved burn windows and comply with Air Quality Management District burn permits and conditions of the approved Smoke Management Plan. Burn piles will be attended at all times during burning activities with appropriate fire-suppression tools, water supply, and contingency measures on site. A post-burn inspection will be conducted to confirm full consumption of material and lack of residual smoldering or risk to surrounding areas. Monitoring will occur post-treatment to ensure no re-establishment of surface or ladder fuels in treated areas. Additional treatments may be necessary to maintain desired conditions.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))

Notice of Exemption

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

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

☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

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 involves the removal of small diameter understory trees to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels, and does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, 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.

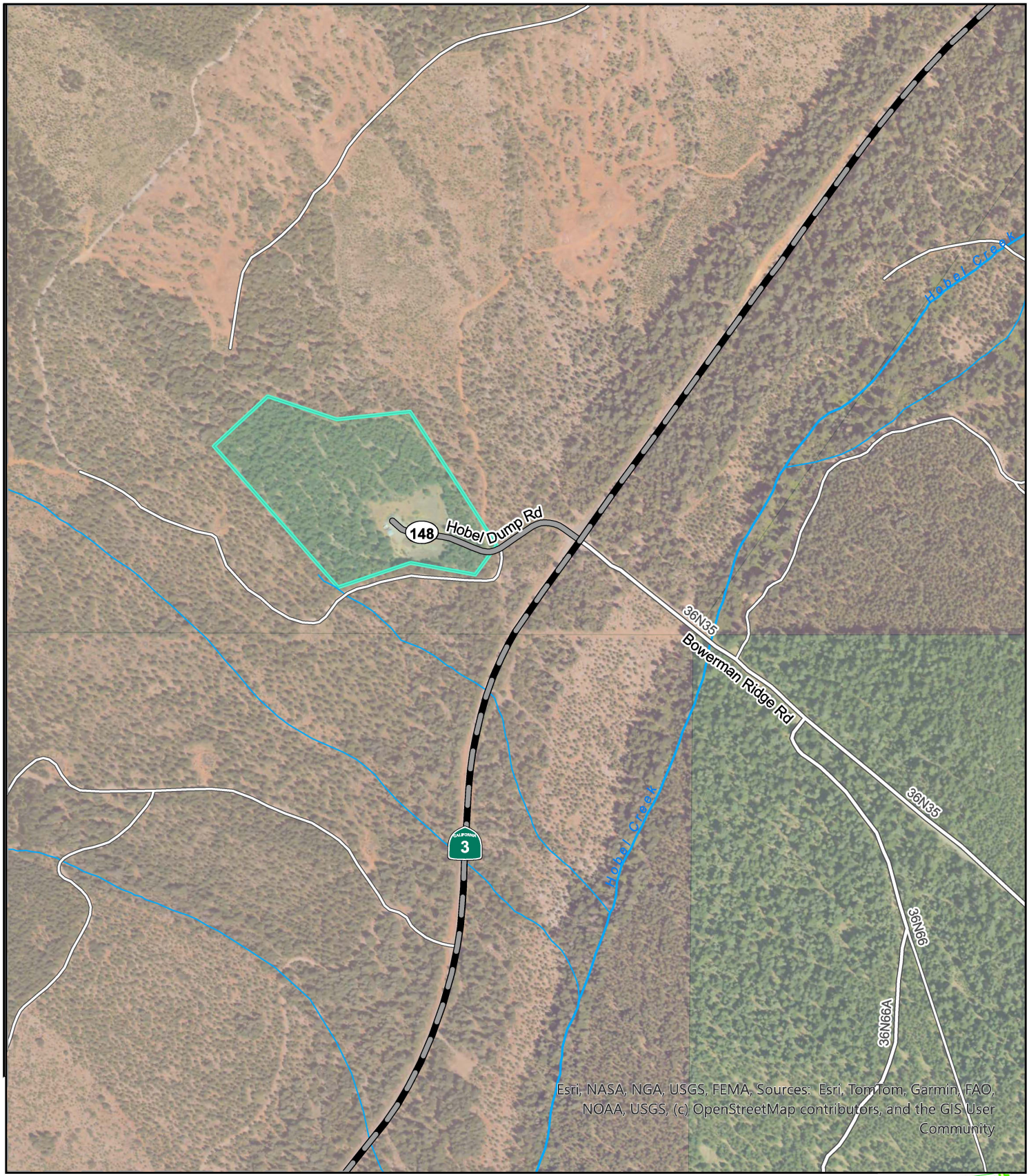
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Kelly D Sheen

X

Digitally signed by Kelly D Sheen
Date: 2025.11.06 15:09:29 -08'00'

Kelly Sheen
Executive Director



Legend

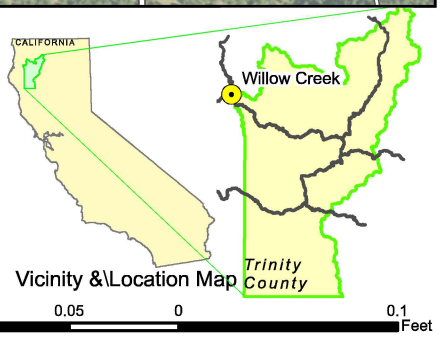
Hobel_Boundary

Ownership w/ Addressing

- Private: Timber Production
- Municipal Services
- US Forest Service

N
W E
S

Trinity County Resource Conservation District



Vicinity &\Location Map

0.1 0.05 0 0.1 Feet