

# 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: Siskiyou

**From:** (Public Agency): California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

(Address)

Project Title: Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Location - Specific:

3 North Old Stage Road, Mount Shasta, CA 96067

Project Location - City: Mt Shasta Project Location - County: Siskiyou

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project consists of fuel reduction treatments to reduce the potential for detrimental wildfire impacts. Project activity will entail the use of hand tools for removal of overgrown understory native and invasive brush and woody vines, removing any dead and dying trees, and removing small diameter conifer saplings and sprouts (< 8" diameter at breast height) from the understory to prevent near-future overcrowding conditions and disease. Larger healthy trees will be pruned up to a height of 10' from the ground. Dead woody material will be pile burned or chipped, and/or removed from site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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: 15304, Class 4, and 15308, Class 8
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

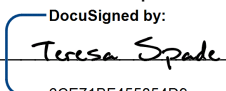
The project does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project is not expected to result in the taking of rare, endangered, or threatened plant or animal species, or significant erosion or sedimentation to surface waters. The project does not involve construction activities and will not result in environmental degradation.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Teresa Spade Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-319-1345

**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:  Date: 12/16/2025 Title: Environmental Scientist

■ 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: 12/16/2025



## **ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION Mt Shasta Fish Hatchery Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), through its Region 1 Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program, has approved a fire resiliency project for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) that includes fuel reduction treatments to reduce the potential for detrimental wildfire impacts. The main project activity will entail the use of hand tools for removal of overgrown understory native and invasive brush and woody vines, removing any dead and dying trees, and removing small diameter conifer saplings and sprouts ( $\leq 8$ " diameter at breast height) from the understory to prevent near-future overcrowding conditions and disease. Larger healthy trees will be pruned up to a height of 10' from the ground. Dead woody material will be pile burned or chipped, and/or removed from site.

CDFW approved the Project, relying on the Class 4 and Class 8 Categorical Exemptions, respectively, (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15304, 15308.)<sup>1</sup> Each exemption is relevant to the project as discussed below.

### Class 4 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA guidelines Section 15304, the exemption for "Minor Alterations to Land." Class 4, as relevant here, 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 or agriculture purposes. The project falls within the class because it involves minor public alterations to land consisting of alterations in the condition of vegetation. The project does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

### Class 8 Categorical Exemption

CDFW finds the Project to be exempt pursuant to CEQA guidelines Section 15308, the exemption for "Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment." Class 8, as relevant here, consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption. The project falls within the class because CDFW is a regulatory agency authorized by California Fish and Game Code and its mission (ie § 712.1. (a)(1) and (2)), to manage

---

<sup>1</sup> The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with Section 15000.

California's diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats, including but not limited to the management of departmental lands and facilities. CDFW is additionally tasked by the Governor's Forest Management Task Force in the comprehensive strategy outlined in the 2021 document, "California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan," to expand forest management on state-owned lands, to improve resilience against wildfires and other impacts of climate change, and assist Calfire and other state agencies in scaling up fuel treatments to the target of 500,000 acres annually. Fire resiliency activities proposed are for the protection of the environment to reduce the potential for devastating catastrophic wildfire through fuel load reduction. The project does not include proposed construction, or relaxation of environmental standards that would result in environmental degradation.