NOTICE OF CEQA EXEMPTION

To: Shasta County Clerk
1450 Court Street, Suite 108
Redding, CA 96001

From: Fall River Resource Conservation District
PO Box 83
McArthur, CA 96056

Date: December 11, 2025

Project Title: Saddle Mountain

Project Location:
Township 37 North, Range 4 East, Parts of Sections 16, 20, & 21

Project Description:

The Fall River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) has proposed Saddle Mountain Project (the Project) in Shasta County, California. The Project would improve the protection of structures, communities, critical infrastructure, and public and private lands from wildfire while protecting environmental, natural and cultural resources. The Project would reduce fuel loads in a mixed hardwood and conifer forest. Fuels reduction treatments would include prescribed fire as well as hand cutting and piling, mechanical fuels reduction (grapple piling), herbicide, prescribed herbivory, and mastication. Methods would also include the use of mechanical and hand tools for site preparation and ignition devices for broadcast burning. Existing roads and trails will be utilized for control lines to avoid ground disturbing impacts to the extent feasible. Heavy equipment may also be used to create and hold fire lines. Maintenance methods would include hand treatment, mastication, broadcast burning, targeted grazing, and herbicide application. Broadcast burning would be used on a frequency to approximate the historical fire regime, while herbicide would be used to reduce the density and continuity of resprouting brush and to control invasive, non-native weeds.

Exempt Status (Guidelines Section and Class) Categorical Exemption:

Section 15304, which exempts minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The Fall River RCD has reviewed the environmental/specialists' reports prepared by Registered Professional Foresters and other specialists and has determined that the project's implementation will result in multiple benefits – including restoration of the forest, watershed, and wildlife habitat. There will be no significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or

threatened species or their habitats. There are no known hazardous materials at or around the project site. The project will avoid all archeological resource sites. The project will not result in cumulatively significant impacts. The project will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

Public Agencies that will be involved with the Project:
Fall River Resource Conservation District

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Sharmie Stevenson, Executive Director
Fall River Resource Conservation District
(530) 336-6591

Signature: Sharmie Stevenson Date: 12/23/25

Sharmie Stevenson, Chair
Fall River Resource Conservation District