

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California
 The Natural Resources Agency
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

PROJECT TITLE	TGU Solar System Installation Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	3288 Rd 308, Elk Creek, CA 95939; 1200 Manton Road, Manton, CA 96059; 12960 Toomes Camp Rd, Paskenta, CA 96074; 105 CA-36, Paynes Creek, CA 96075; 15905 Red Bank Rd, Red Bluff, CA 96080	COUNTY	Tehama and Glenn
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Shannon Rich, Environmental Scientist, Tehama-Glenn Unit		
ADDRESS	604 Antelope Blvd. Red Bluff, CA 96080	PHONE	(530) 761-2592

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Tehama Glenn Unit is proposing a project to install solar panel system at five fire stations across the unit. The stations that will receive the solar panel upgrades are Elk Creek Fire Station, Manton Fire Station, Paskenta Fire Station, Paynes Creek Fire Station, Red Bank Fire Station.

All fire stations listed above will be equipped with solar panels. Paynes Creek will be the only station with ground mounted solar array, and all other stations will have solar arrays mounted on shade structures. The solar arrays will include steel supports on concrete footings to support the solar panels; underground conduit trenched from the solar arrays to the transfer switches. Electrical transfer switches will be mounted adjacent to the electrical panels on the existing buildings. Electrical conduit will be placed underground from the electrical transfer switches to the Battery and Energy Storage System (BESS).

BESS is a separate new building that will house battery back-up electrical storage. In addition, each site will include propane generators and propane storage tanks, which will entail underground trenched fuel lines from the propane tanks to the generators. Implementation of this project will allow the stations to have a reliable source of backup power in the event of power loss from inclement weather or other factors and maintain service to the community. Project work is expected to begin in 2027 and will conclude the same year.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class 3 § 15303– New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and Class 4 § 15304- Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of Class 3 § 15303– New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and Class 4 § 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, 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 or traffic, utilities and service systems, or to wildfire. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE’s Tehama-Glenn Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:

4/24/2026

 John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
 Resource Protection and Improvement
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection