

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

From: Humboldt County Resource
Conservation District
5630 South Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503

Humboldt County Clerk-Recorder
825 5th St., 5th Floor
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Blue Lake Rancheria- Good Fire Healing Coalition

Project Location – Specific: Blue Lake, CA

Project Location – County: Humboldt County

Lead Agency: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Lead Person: Jill Demers **Email:** jill@hcrd.org **Telephone:** 707-296-3992

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR), with the support of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, will be implementing eco-cultural burns and restoration activities in and near Blue Lake, CA under the ‘Good Fire Healing Coalition’ project (Project). The Project centers on the return of traditional fire management regimes to pyrodependent ecosystems. Implementation objectives include 1) improved forest health and wildfire resilience, 2) minimization of conifer encroachment in historic prairies, and 3) enhancement of ecological benefits to forest and prairie ecosystems within BLR’s ancestral footprint. Project activities include manual forest thinning, mechanical thinning with using small equipment, invasive species management, fuels reduction, livestock management and exclusion fencing, Native species planting and seeding, and prescribed fire (broadcast, pile, and cultural burning) on the landscape; these activities would have minimal to no ground disturbance. The project area is 240 acres on BLR fee-title land, known as Leavey Ranch.

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: Section 15304, Class 4
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304. Pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations of vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project involves removal of small diameter understory trees and brush species to reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of forest fuels. The trees being removed are in a suppressed state and are not considered healthy.

Review by Humboldt County Resource Conservation District staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. No significant adverse effects were identified during the evaluation process.

Date Received / Posted Through


Jill Demers
Executive Director

4/30/2026
Date

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District