

RECORDING REQUESTED BY & MAILED TO:

NAME: Mendocino County Resource
Conservation District
STREET: 115 East Smith Street
CITY Ukiah

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Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

(Title of Document)

This page added to provide adequate space for recording information.

(Additional recording fee applies)

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

From: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
115 East Smith Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

County Clerk
Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Rd.
Ukiah, Ca 95482

Project Title: North Bay Forest Improvement Program – Chelius

Project Applicant: Graham Chelius

Project Location: APN:152-240-12

Legal Description: Section 35, T16N R 13W, Section 2, T15N R13W MDBM

Lat: 39.1969184 ° N, Long: 123.2671063 ° W

City: Ukiah

County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Approximately 26 acres are to be treated. The project consists of selective thinning, mastication, pruning, and follow up slash treatment within designated treatment units to reduce hazardous surface and ladder fuels, improve stand structure and growing conditions, and promote a more fire resilient forest condition. Treatments will primarily target dense small and intermediate sized trees, generally less than 10 inches DBH, including Douglas-fir, madrone, tanoak, and other hardwoods where removal will reduce competition, improve spacing, release desirable residual trees, and reduce horizontal and vertical fuel continuity. Within oak woodland areas, treatment will emphasize retention and release of healthy mature oaks and other desirable overstory trees. Competing Douglas-fir and overly dense groups of hardwood stems may be selectively removed to improve growing space, crown development, and stand structure. Selected large snags and larger down woody material may be retained where consistent with safety, habitat, and treatment objectives.

Where terrain, access, and stand conditions are suitable, mastication equipment may be used to treat appropriately sized standing trees, brush, and woody residue. In hand treated areas, project generated slash may be lopped and scattered, piled for burning, chipped, or masticated in accordance with project specifications.

The Registered Professional Forester will use professional judgment during implementation to adjust tree selection and treatment methods as necessary to account for actual stand conditions and to ensure work remains consistent with the approved project specifications, NBFIP requirements, and applicable resource protection measures.

The purpose of the project is to reduce wildfire hazard, improve forest health and stand resilience, enhance oak woodland conditions, and create a more open and maintainable forest structure. The beneficiaries of the project include the landowner, adjacent properties, wildlife habitat, and the public through reduced wildfire risk and improved forest condition.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION - Continued

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Graham Chelius

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 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

This project qualifies for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. The exemption applies to fuel management and forest improvement activities involving selective removal of vegetation where the work does not result in a substantial alteration of land use. Treatments will consist of selective thinning, mastication, and associated slash treatment to reduce hazardous surface and ladder fuels, improve spacing among residual trees, release desirable oaks and other overstory trees, and improve stand structure and resilience. Mastication may be used to treat appropriately sized standing vegetation and woody residue where site conditions allow. The project will retain the overall forested character and ecological function of the site and will not result in conversion of the property to another land use. Project specific documentation supporting the use of this exemption is on file at the RCD.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Adam Coleman **Phone Number:** 707-462-3664 ext. 102

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:** 9/25/2026 **Title:** Forestry Project Manager

☒ *Signed by Lead Agency*

☐ *Signed by Applicant*

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

4250 ORR SPRINGS RD

Client: G. Chelius

Property Size: 130 acres

Location: Ukiah

Map: CEQA

