



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:	County Clerk Tehama County, CA 633 Washington St., Room 111 Red Bluff, CA 96080	FROM:	RCD of Tehama County 2 Sutter St., Suite D Red Bluff, CA 96080
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PROJECT TITLE	Mill Creek/Surrey Village & Wilcox Community Improvement, Maintenance and Development Project
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PROJECT LOCATION	The project areas are located on private properties within Tehama County's State Responsibility Areas (SRA), Local Response Area (LRA) and/or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zones. The following locations represent the targeted communities and surrounding areas where project work may be implemented. The exact location of homes and other parcels to receive treatment are to be determined; therefore, CEQA analysis has been completed for the entire county.	COUNTY	Tehama
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FILED

FEB 06 2023

JENNIFER A. VISE
TEHAMA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
BY Tina Robinson

Manton vicinity: Latitude N 40° 26' 5.4" Longitude W 121° 52' 11."
Payne's Creek vicinity: Latitude N 40° 20' 01.59" Longitude W 121° 54' 52.07"
Dales vicinity: Latitude N 40° 18' 52.72" Longitude W 122° 4' 10.20"
Lyman Springs vicinity: Latitude N 40° 20' 03.14" Longitude W 121° 54' 58.66"
Boondocks vicinity: Latitude N 40° 14' 19.82" Longitude W 121° 46' 11.58"
Ponderosa Sky Ranch vicinity: Latitude N 40° 20' 34.13" Longitude W 121° 46' 37.41"
Mineral vicinity: Latitude N 40° 20' 45.57" Longitude W 121° 36' 14.29"
Mill Creek vicinity: Latitude N 40° 19' 34.49" Longitude W 121° 31' 20.04"
Childs Meadow vicinity: Latitude N 40° 21' 34.70" Longitude W 121° 29' 43.94"
Deer Creek vicinity: Latitude N 40° 16' 19.31" Longitude W 121° 26' 0.41"
Red Bluff vicinity: Latitude N 40° 10' 31.17" Longitude W 122° 16' 10.33"
Wilcox vicinity: Latitude N 40° 12' 12.37" Longitude W 122° 13' 39.06"
Bend vicinity: Latitude N 40° 15' 4.79" Longitude W 122° 12' 52.53"
Beegum vicinity: Latitude N 40° 34' 4.87" Longitude W 122° 88' 80.73"
Red Bank vicinity: Latitude N 40° 5' 56.58" Longitude W 122° 26' 46.38"
Lowery vicinity: Latitude N 39° 59' 50.10" Longitude W 122° 33' 17.97"
Paskenta vicinity: Latitude N 39° 52' 58.82" Longitude W 122° 32' 47.55"
Flournoy vicinity: Latitude N 39° 55' 02.33" Longitude W 122° 26' 27.60"

#6

Henleyville vicinity: Latitude N 39°57' 44.25" Longitude W 122°19' 40.02"
Corning vicinity: Latitude N 39° 55' 24.34" Longitude W 122° 11' 50.95"

LEAD AGENCY	RCD of Tehama County		
CONTACT PERSON	Chris Wagoner	PHONE	(530) 727-1292
ADDRESS	2 Sutter St., Suite D Red Bluff, CA 96080		

Project Description

The TinderSmart Tehama Defensible Space Program (Program) will occur within Tehama County's State Responsibility Areas (SRA), Local Response Area (LRA) and/or Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zones. These targeted communities and surrounding areas are comprised of valley oak woodland, oak savanna (also considered oak barrens or oak openings), mixed chaparral, riparian and conifer forest habitat as well as an urban setting. The Program will utilize RCD of Tehama County personnel and equipment to develop and implement a comprehensive County-wide wildfire risk reduction program. This project is a continuation and expansion of TCF's existing CAL FIRE CCI grant funded Wildfire Defensible Space Assistance and Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Project #5GG19150) by extending the free defensible space assistance service for all homeowners in Tehama County. The program will allow community access to the RCDTC Equipment Services/Vegetation Management Program which provides chippers (see Photo: 1), masticators (see Photo: 2) and other vegetation/fuels management equipment and operator for treatment of vegetation on public and private property through grant funding. In addition, this Program combines the TCF and RCDTC outreach efforts into a unified community engagement effort that includes development of educational and promotional materials, updated educational websites, the development of project applications, the development of an updated GIS map of all fuel treatments within Tehama County and demonstration of defensible space through use of drone imagery.

During the grant term of the Mill Creek/Surrey Village & Wilcox Community Improvement, Maintenance and Development Project properties located within Tehama County's SRA and LRA lands will receive Defensible Space services. It is estimated that the total acreage for all parcels treated in connection with the TinderSmart Phase II Defensible Space Project will be approximately 115 acres. The defensible space assistance service consists of thinning and pruning the brush and trees within the first one hundred (100) feet around primary residential structures; trimming tree limbs ten feet (minimum) from chimneys as safely applicable and removing dead branches three (3) inches and less hanging over structures as safely applicable; and removing of tree limbs to reduce the risk of a vertical ladder fire. As necessary, cutting of potentially ignitable grasses and weeds thirty to fifty (30-50) feet from ignitable structures will be completed. The program's safety parameters consider the amount and location of vegetation and dead fuels to be removed and will be based upon the ability of RCDTC personnel to complete such work in a manner that protects property owners and other inhabitants, RCDTC personnel as well as participant's property. Chips generated in connection with these efforts will be spread on the property, resulting in reduced fire fuel hazard and the creation of a protective mulch over treatment sites. Through this component of the TinderSmart Program landowners will have access to RCD of Tehama County equipment, trained operators, and project management personnel. It is anticipated that Program work on larger parcels will consist primarily of mechanical treatments such as cutting, chipping and mastication, of live and dead fuels. Mastication will occur on large areas that are immediately adjacent to homes in order to process both dead and down fuel

as well as standing vegetation that meet the size and environmental standards established for this project as described below. Through discussions with property owners a written description of vegetation treatment work that meets state standards will be developed for each participating parcel. The exact set of TinderSmart Tehama Program treatments will depend upon site conditions within a specific treatment area. If all the treatments detailed in the description of work are accepted by the landowner, a Temporary Entry Permit, authorizing TCF/RCDTC access to the property in order to provide the agreed upon hazardous fuel reduction activities will be issued. If the description of work is declined by the property owner, no work will be completed. The description of work will be made available to the property owner regardless of whether they agree to participate in the program or not, so that these individuals can complete work in the future at their own expense. Once completed, it is anticipated that this component of the overall TinderSmart Tehama program will provide treatment service to approximately 115 residents. Through the implementation of pre-treatment inspections made by RCDTC field personnel, all program related activities will avoid elderberry plants along with listed plant and animal species identified by the State of California as endangered, threatened, or of concern. Riparian areas and other aquatic habitat along with their related species will be protected through the formal establishment of 300' (150' both sides of water features) no treatment buffers around all streams, gulches, seeps, ponds and other wet areas. Program work will occur within a select area for a short period of time. Once all work is completed ambient conditions are anticipated to rapidly return. To comply with the no take provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5 any trees 10" dbh and under (oaks 6" dbh and under) identified for any project treatment will be assessed for nesting birds for treatments that may occur between March 1 and August 31. If nesting birds are found, such trees will be excluded from the project worksite and safeguarded with a 150' no treatment buffer if found to have an active occupation.1692

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Tehama Conservation Fund

EXEMPTION STATUS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: Class 4 | §15304 (e) Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) | | |

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Public Resources Code, Division 13, Chapter 6, Article 19, Section 15304 allows minor alteration of vegetation including fuel management activities to reduce volume of flammable vegetation provided the activities do not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant/animal species, or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This project is considered low impact given that the nature of the project work occurs on already disturbed and developed roadsides and biomass chips will be broadcast onsite. A current California Natural Diversity Database search was conducted and it has been determined that Project activities will have a low impact on the environment and low potential to effect cultural resources.

IF FILED BY APPLICANT:

1. Attached certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? x yes

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

TITLE: RCD of Tehama County Project Manager, Chris Wagoner

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: