

DEC 26 2023



JENNIFER A. VISE

TEHAMA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

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

PROJECT TITLE TinderSmart Tehama – Phase III

**PROJECT
LOCATION**

COUNTY: Tehama

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. Various Locations within Tehama County. See attached map and highlighted area for reference.

Communities within Project area include:	Cities and Towns included:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bend • Flournoy • Gerber • Las Flores • Los Molinos • Manton • Mineral • Paskenta • Paynes Creek • Proberta • Richfield • Vina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corning • Lake California • Rancho Tehama • Red Bluff • Tehama

**DESCRIPTION
OF NATURE,
PURPOSE, AND
BENEFICIARIES
OF PROJECT**

The TinderSmart Tehama 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 (RCDTC) personnel and equipment to develop and implement a comprehensive County-wide wildfire risk reduction program. This project is a continuation and Expansion of RCDTC's established TinderSmart Tehama Program). In addition, this Program combines 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 footage. located within Tehama County's SRA and LRA this ongoing program will continue to provide defensible space assistance to residents (who qualify) within the County of Tehama. . It is estimated that the total acreage for all parcels treated in connection with the TinderSmart Tehama Program will be approximately up to **250 acres** annually. 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 8 feet (minimum), and/or 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, mowing/weedwhacking or masticating 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. This program's chipping component will entail the chipping of woody vegetation that property owners have cut and stacked along the roadside for processing on a pre-determined day. 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 or hauled off site. 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 parcels outside 100' foot buffer 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.

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. Through the implementation of pre-treatment inspections made by RCDTC 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 wetland 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 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

LEAD AGENCY RCD of Tehama County

CONTACT PERSON ADDRESS Drew Barnhart 2 Sutter St., Suite D Red Bluff, CA 96080 **P H O N E** (916) 19735 5510

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

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 (e) 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))
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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
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SIGNATURE: Drew Barnhart **DATE:** 12/26/23

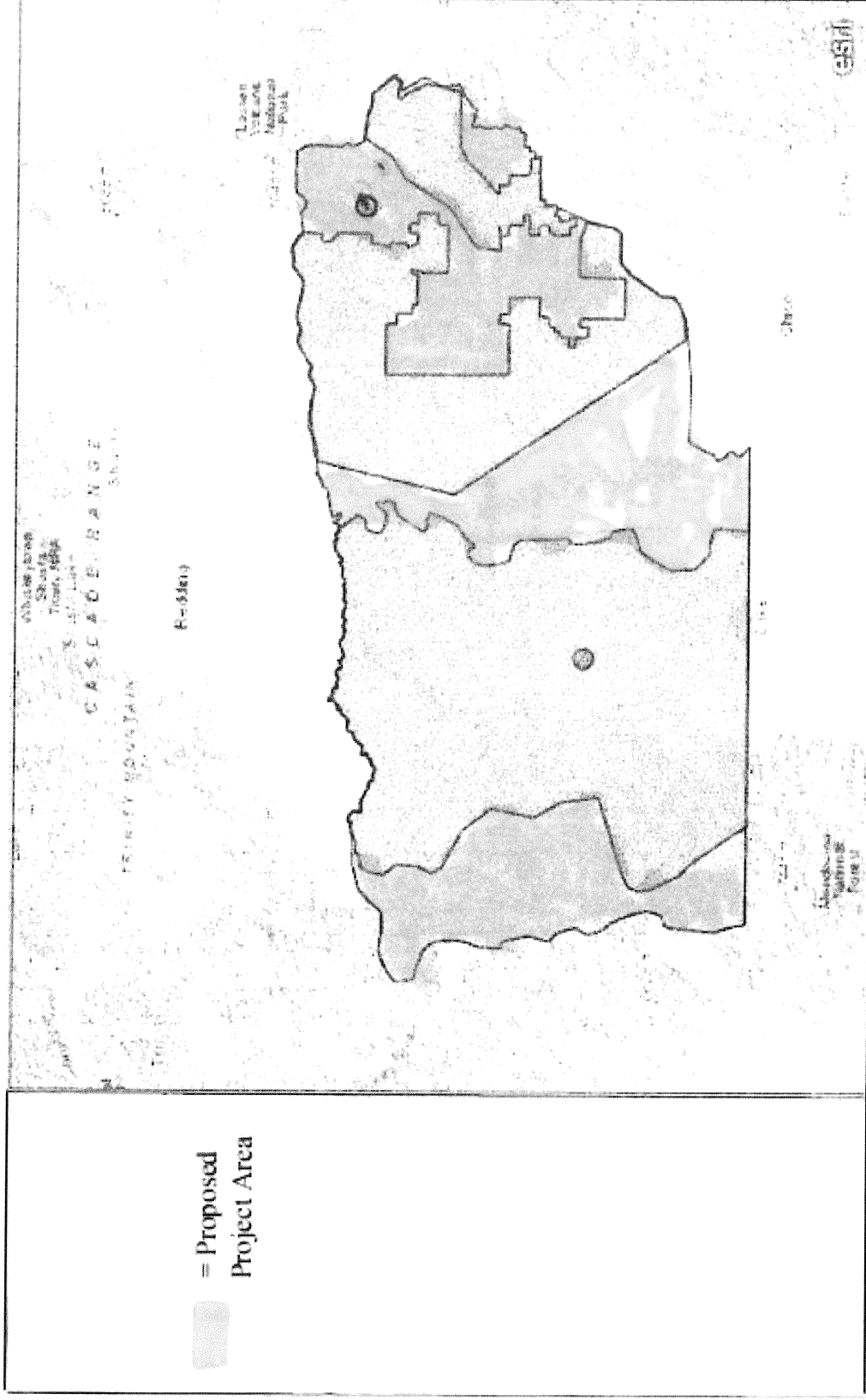
TITLE: RCD of Tehama County Project Manager, Drew Barnhart

X Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:

TinderSmart Tehama Project Program

TinderSmart Tehama



All Treatments will be within SRA and select LRA lands.