

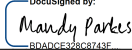
**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Office of Planning and Research <input type="checkbox"/> P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Clerk County of: San Bernardino	FROM: Inland Empire Resource Conservation (Public District Agency) 25864-K Business Center Drive Redlands, CA
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1. Project Title:	Post-Fire Disaster Recovery at Bear Paw Reserve
2. Project Applicant:	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
3. Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	38801 Valley of the Falls Drive, Forest Falls, CA 92339
4. (a) Project Location – City:	Forest Falls, CA
(b) Project Location – County:	San Bernardino County
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>The ecology and forests of the Bear Paw Reserve in the San Bernardino Mountains suffered major damages from the 2020 El Dorado Fire and there is now hazardous vegetation surrounding the entire infrastructure and trail system posing a safety risk for visitors that could burn in a secondary fire, if not reduced. The overall goal of this project is to improve forest health in a recent burn scar while also increasing safety for residents and visitors by removing hazardous vegetation.</p> <p>As part of this project, IERCD staff and its contractors will reduce the density of the charred scrub oak resurgence immediately surrounding important infrastructure such as roads and facilities to encourage more coniferous growth for better fuel management. Several conifer saplings will be planted to help expedite the resurgence of conifer species. The Project will also promote more biodiversity for both flora and fauna by eliminating a near monoculture of scrub oak and allowing for better foraging sites for multiple species within the shaded fuel break. In addition, the Project will use small excavator to remove some stumps as appropriate to establish a more permanent fuel break at strategic areas such as along the access roads.</p>
6. Name of Public Agency approving project:	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
7. Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
8. Exempt status: (check one)	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	

(b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a project.	
(c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Project.	
(d)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	Class 4 – §15304 Minor Alteration to Land Class 8 – §15308 Action by Regulatory Agency to Protect Environment
(e)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency.	
(f)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation:	
9.		Reason why project was exempt:	<p><b>State CEQA Guidelines, §15304 - Minor Alterations to Land:</b> The Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15304, which applies to minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. This exemption includes fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters.</p> <p>This project consists of the removal of burned vegetation surrounding the Bear Paw Reserve that will include fuel management within 100 feet of sensitive Reserve’s infrastructures. Additionally, this project will establish fuel breaks along access roads that serve as the primary corridors to the Reserve. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Thus, these minor alterations to the land and vegetation to remove hazardous and burned vegetation to reduce the risk of fire do not require environmental review and are exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15304.</p> <p><b>State CEQA Guidelines, §15308 - Protection of the Environment:</b> this project is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15308, which applies to a project that “consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.” The project will serve to assist the Bear Paw Reserve with the removal of hazardous vegetation that pose a safety risk to the Reserve’s infrastructure and that could burn in a secondary fire, if not reduced. Therefore, through this project the District is improving the forest health conditions and safety of the Reserve and protecting near residential buildings from future fires.</p> <p>Finally, there are no unusual circumstances, environmentally sensitive areas, cumulative impacts, or other significant effects that could otherwise make these</p>

	exemptions inappropriate pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2.
10. Lead Agency Contact Person:	Mandy Parkes, District Manager
Telephone:	(909) 283-7779
11. If filed by applicant: Attach Preliminary Exemption Assessment (Form "A") before filing. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Was a public hearing held by the lead agency to consider the exemption? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, the date of the public hearing was: August 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	

Signature:  Date: 8/18/2023 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Clerk Stamp Here)

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21100, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.