

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	FROM: Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk County of:	Address 25864- K Business Center Drive Redlands, CA 92374

1. Project Title:	ISHB Tree Removals – Aurantia Park in Highland, CA
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):	Aurantia Park - 29624 Green spot Rd, Highland, CA 92346
4. (a) Project Location – City: Highland	(b) Project Location – County: San Bernardino County
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>The Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB) is an invasive beetle to Southern California that has been decimating a variety of tree populations in many parts of the Inland Empire. IERCD's Forestry staff has been monitoring the spread and contributing to the management of the beetles, specifically on the upper Santa Ana and Mojave River watersheds. Several infested trees have been identified across the upper Santa Ana River watershed including two (2) trees in Aurantia Park in Highland, CA that have a level of infestation consistent with that of amplifier trees that may cause additional insect spread.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to remove two (2) infested multi-stem sycamore trees located in Aurantia Park in Highland, CA to prevent the further spread of ISHB beetles. Trees will be fully removed, stumps ground, and the greenwaste hauled to a greenwaste disposal site where it will be chipped and composted to prevent the spread of the pests.</p> <p>Both trees will be surveyed by a biologist prior to removal to ensure that no nests are observed. If any nest is found, work will halt and tree removal will occur only once the biologist has confirmed that the birds have fledged the nest.</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:	West Coast Arborists, Inc. was contracted by the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) to remove two (2) trees that are infested with the Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB) beetle.

8. Exempt status: (check one)			
(a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial project.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(1); State CEQA Guidelines § 15268)
(b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a project.	
(c)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Project.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(4); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b),(c))

(d)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15304 – Minor Alteration to Land. • 15308 – Action By Agencies for Protection of the Environment
(e)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency.	(Pub. Res. Code § 21080(b)(3); State CEQA Guidelines § 15269(a))
(f)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
(g)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Explanation:	

9. Reason why project was exempt:	<p>The Project is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15304, which consists of minor public alterations in the condition of land which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The proposed project will remove two (2) dead and heavily infested trees that pose a risk to other nearby trees susceptible to attack by the ISHB beetle and its associated fungal pathogen that causes Fusarium Dieback.</p> <p>Additionally, the Project is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15308 (Class 8 – Action by Agencies for the Protection of the Environment), as the Project is designed to maintain and protect the environment through the removal of dead and heavily infested trees which could serve as amplifier trees. The removal of the infested trees could reduce and/or prevent the spread of ISHB to other nearby susceptible trees.</p>
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10. Lead Agency Contact Person:	Mandy Parkes
Telephone:	(909) 855-6473

11. If filed by applicant: Attach Preliminary Exemption Assessment (Form “A”) before filing.
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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, the date of the public hearing was: _____

DocuSigned by:
 Signature: Mandy Parkes Date: 4/7/2023 Title: District Manager
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Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: Mandy Parkes
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(Clerk Stamp Here)

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