

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

<p>TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (Public Agency) 25864-K Business Center Drive Suite K Redlands, CA</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Clerk County of Riverside 2720 Gateway Drive Riverside, CA 92507</p> <p>County Clerk County of San Bernardino 222 West Hospitality Lane San Bernardino, CA 92415</p>	

1. Project Title:	Deep Creek Wild and Scenic River Garlic Mustard Removals
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):	Lake Arrowhead. See attached map.
4. (a) Project Location – City:	Lake Arrowhead
(b) Project Location – County:	San Bernardino County
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	IERCDC was awarded funding through the National Forest Foundation for the mapping, monitoring, and removal of the invasive species, garlic mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> ), near the town of Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino National Forest. Garlic mustard has been classified as an aggressive invasive plant that can quickly spread and push out native species. Removal of this invasive plant will be completed by applying an herbicide and hand pulling, bagging, and removing the plant from the property for proper disposal at a landfill. This project will help in limiting and/or stopping the spread of the invasive plant into other parts of the watershed.
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 and National Forest Foundation
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"/> number:	Categorical Exemption. State type and section	Class 4 – §15304 Minor Alteration to Land Class 8 – §15308 Action by Agencies for the Protection of the 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>This project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land), which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation that will not involve removal of mature scenic trees, except for forestry and agricultural purposes. For this project, the District will be utilizing herbicide to treat the invasive plant populations and manually removing, bagging, and disposing of the invasive plants resulting in minor alterations to the condition of land and vegetation.</p> <p>Additionally, the Project is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15308 (Class 8 – Action by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment), which applies to actions taken by regulatory as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement or protection of the environment. The purpose of the project is to remove the invasive plants to maintain and protect the health of the environment. By utilizing herbicide and manually removing the plants, the District will be able to limit and/or prevent the further spread of invasive garlic mustard into other regions of the watershed.</p> <p>None of the exceptions under State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply here. Notably, there will be little to no cumulative impacts for this project. Further, for this project, initial biological assessments will be conducted to ensure that living trees and sensitive species will not be damaged. The project will not result in any significant impacts on the environment because it is not located in a particularly sensitive environment nor are there any unusual circumstances. The project will not result in damage to any scenic resources within a state scenic highway, and the project is not located on a hazardous waste site or any other site included on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.</p>
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 checked="" 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: March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	

Signed by: Mandy Parkes Date: 03/12/26 Title: District Manager  
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Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: 3/16/2026

(Clerk Stamp Here)

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

