

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO:</p> <p><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)</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk County of: San Bernardino</p>	<p>Address 25864- K Business Center Drive Redlands, CA 92374</p>

1. Project Title:	Goldspotted Oak Borer Management, Removals, and Treatments in San Bernardino Mountain Communities.
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):	Big Bear, Crestline, Forest Falls, Oak Glen, Wrightwood, Calimesa and Yucaipa See attached map.
4. (a) Project Location – City: Big Bear, Crestline, Forest Falls, Oak Glen, Wrightwood, Calimesa and Yucaipa	(b) Project Location – County: San Bernardino and Riverside
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) is an invasive pest to Southern California that has been decimating oak populations in many communities. GSOB infestations have been confirmed in the Cities of Big Bear, Calimesa and Yucaipa and the communities of Crestline, Forest Falls, Oak Glen, and Wrightwood. The project is anticipated to cover 21,971 acres, remove approximately 244 high-infested trees, and treat an additional 62 trees with low infestations or high value trees.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to remove infested oak trees in the Cities of Big Bear, Calimesa and Yucaipa and the communities of Crestline, Silverwood, Forest Falls, Oak Glen, and Wrightwood to prevent larvae living within the infested oak trees from flying during spring/summer and potentially infesting additional oak trees. Additionally, the removal of dead or highly infested trees will reduce the wildfire risk by reducing fuels. Highly infested trees will be fully removed and the infested wood will be either chipped and moved off site using best management practices or tarped on site if access is a challenge. Trees classified as “high-value” or with low infestations will be treated using insecticide.</p> <p>All trees removed during nesting season will be surveyed by a biologist prior to removal to ensure that no nests are observed. If any nest is found, removal of that tree 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	The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) awarded IERCD with grant funding for the removal and treatment of GSOB infested trees. IERCD will

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:	hire an arborist to complete the removals of infested trees.
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.	
(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 pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land), 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 dead and heavily infested oak trees that pose a risk to other nearby trees susceptible to attack by the GSOB pest, which will be a minor alteration to the condition of land and vegetation. Removal will also reduce wildfire risk by removing fuels. Trees classified as “high-value” or with low infestations will be treated using insecticide. The activities will not result in the taking of an endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters.</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), as the Project is designed to maintain and protect the environment through the reduction of dead trees which could serve as fuel in a wildfire-prone community.</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. 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.
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: March 12 th 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.

