

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or County Clerk County of: San Bernardino	ADDRESS: 25864- K Business Center Drive Redlands, CA 92374

1. Project Title:	Community Defense Fuel Break Project NEPA
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):	San Bernardino National Forest. See Map Below.
4. (a) Project Location – City: N/A	(b) Project Location – County: San Bernardino County
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) is requesting a \$500,000 grant from the National Forest Foundation to support the development of National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documentation for the Community Defense Fuel Break Project in partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest.</p> <p>The Community Defense Fuel Break Project aims to establish fuel breaks in three 3,000-acre areas within each of the Forest Service District, totaling nine areas across approximately 25,000 acres.</p> <p>The primary outcome of this project will be the development of NEPA analysis and documentation for the San Bernardino National Forest’s Community Defense Fuel Break Project. The full grant amount will be allocated to contracting a NEPA consultant team to perform the required work.</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:	The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) in partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest.
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"> <li>• 15307 – Action by Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources</li> <li>• 15308 – Action By Agencies for Protection of the Environment</li> </ul>
(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>This project is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines section 15307 (Class 7), which applies to actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state law or local ordinance, to maintain, restore, or enhance a natural resource. Here, IERCD is a special district responsible for the preservation and management of forest health, as well as fire prevention and preparedness, in the Inland Empire of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The grant will allow IERCD to develop NEPA documentation for the Community Defense Fuel Break Project in partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest. This project aims to establish fuel breaks in targeted areas to reduce wildfire risk, protect natural habitats, and improve forest resilience across approximately 25,000 acres. Thus, the project will help maintain, restore, and enhance these natural resources.</p> <p>In addition, this project is exempt under State CEQA Guidelines section 15308 (Class 8), 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 enable IERCD, in partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest, to develop NEPA documentation necessary for implementing the Community Defense Fuel Break Project. This action directly supports fire prevention and preparedness efforts, ultimately maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment.</p> <p>Finally, there are no unusual circumstances, environmentally sensitive areas, cumulative impacts, or other significant effects that could otherwise make these exemptions inappropriate pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2.</p>
10. Lead Agency Contact Person:	Mandy Parkes, District Manager
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 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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, the date of the public hearing was: _____	

Signed by: Mandy Parkes Date: 11/20/2024 Title: District Manager

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.

