

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sonoma

From: (Public Agency): _____
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
2776 Sullivan Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472

(Address)

Project Title: Barnett Valley Road 2026-2027 Forest Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

11337, 11333, 11341 Barnett Vly Rd & 950 Freestone Rnch Rd, Sebastopol, 95472

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is located 6 miles west of downtown Sebastopol and will encompass approximately 26 acres of forestland across 4 properties. The purpose of the project is to reduce hazardous forestland fuels and improve forest resilience to disease and wildfire. Project area slopes are moderate (20-40 degrees). Vegetation is primarily a coast redwood alliance forest. The Project involves removing trees 1"-10" diameter at breast height to reduce the total trees per acre and improve growth of residual trees in this size class; pruning of residual trees to reduce wildfire ladder fuel load; reduction of the height of woody understory vegetation to reduce wildfire ladder fuel load and prepare site for replanting; piling and burning of resulting woody material. Work will be completed using hand crews, hand tools, and chainsaws. The project will avoid impacts to sensitive resources, retain mature trees, and support long-term forest health and fire resilience. Work is anticipated to take place November 2026 - December 2027.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Adriana Stagnaro

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15304 Minor Alteration to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

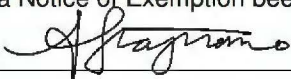
The project is exempt because the planned activities meet the definition of "forestry" in PRC§753, and have been reviewed and approved by a Registered Professional Forester in consultation with experts from other pertinent fields who have attested that the activities proposed in this project will only have the potential for at most impacts that are less than significant to the environment, having provided adequate measures for avoidance of sensitive environmental resources. Project activities will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees, and will not result in a substantial alteration of the current function of the land. Project specific analysis is on file at the RCD.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Adriana Stagnaro Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-823-5244 ex 13

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 9/24/26 Title: Forestry Project Manager

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____