

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Inland Empire Resource Conservation District</p>
<p><input 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:	Tree of Heaven Removals – Mountain Home Village
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):	Mountain Home Village - 37038 Alder Dr. Mentone CA 92359 & 36750 Hilltop Dr. Mentone CA, 92359
4. (a) Project Location – City: Mentone	(b) Project Location – County: San Bernardino County
5. Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	<p>The Mountain Home Village community in Mentone, CA has been identified as a priority site by the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) due to the presence of the invasive species Tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>). Tree of heaven is rated as moderately invasive by the California Invasive Plant Council due to its ability to spread rapidly and dominate landscapes by suppressing surrounding vegetation and native species. Due to its close proximity to Mill Creek, IERCD has been prioritizing this community since it could help stop the spread the invasive species to other regions within the Santa Ana River Basin.</p> <p>IERCD identified nine (9) trees for removal and has treated the trees with Pathfinder II herbicide. The contracted arborist will then cut down and remove the nine trees from the two properties. Trees will be fully removed, stumps ground, and the green waste hauled to an offsite green waste disposal. The removal of these trees will help prevent the spread of the invasive species to other parts of the watershed.</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) will be hiring an arborist to remove nine (9) invasive Tree of heaven trees from the Mountain Home Village community.
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 nine (9) Tree of heaven trees which are classified as invasive.</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 the invasive species to reduce the spread of the species. By removing the trees, the District will be able to limit and/or prevent the further spread of tree of heaven in the preserve.</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
	Telephone:	(909) 307-4934
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 type="checkbox"/> If yes, the date of the public hearing was: 11/14/2024	

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.

