

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of:
Address:

From:

Public Agency: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Address: 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Contact: Shannon Ciotti
Phone: (530) 906-7345

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Calaveras County
Address: 891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
Contact: Gina Kathan
Phone: 209-754-6394

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resource Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017052033

Project Title: Blue Mountain Biomass Project (SNC1288-RC)

Project Applicant: Sierra Business Council

Project Location (include county): The project is located near the boundary of the Eldorado and Sierra National Forests. Surrounding communities include West Point, Mokelumne Hill, Pine Grove, Railroad Flat, Arnold and Pioneer. The region benefiting from the project is Wilseyville, a small, severely economically disadvantaged ("SDAC") and fire threatened town in census tract 4 of Calaveras County.

Project Description: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will provide grant funding to the Sierra Business Council for the design, purchase and installation of fuel preparation and water treatment equipment to support the Blue Mountain Biomass Project (project). The project involves the construction and operation of a 3-Megawatt Forest Biomass Plant in Wilseyville, CA which will sell electricity under a 20-year agreement with PG&E. It will also produce and sell biochar, a carbon negative byproduct of the advanced gasification technology. The facility is designed to create electricity, heat, and biochar from forest-sourced biomass. The entire Blue Mountain Biomass Project was evaluated by Calaveras County, including the preparation of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and an addendum to the IS/MND. In November 2021, Calaveras County approved the IS/MND and addendum, and issued a Conditional Use Permit for the project. SNC has independently reviewed the analysis in the IS/MND and has determined that the project, with mitigation measures incorporated, would not have a significant effect on the environment.

This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above

(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

Described project on 3/3/2022 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.
(date)

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation Measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature (Public Agency):  Title: _____
DocuSigned by: 7BE7439E69B3413...

Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Date: 3/3/2022 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____