

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk
County of Butte
155 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

(Address)

Project Title: Big Chico Creek Forest Management Plan (SNC #1126)

Project Location - Specific:

The project includes 7,939 acres of forested lands in the Big Chico Creek Watershed, located between three communities: Forest Ranch to the east, Cohasset to the west, and the City of Chico to the southwest. Land within the project area includes Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, Bureau of Land Management lands, and private lands.

Project Location - City: Northeast of Chico

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$100,000 to the Butte County Fire Safe Council for development of a Forest Health Management Plan and CEQA document for 1,500 acres of mixed conifer forests in the Big Chico Creek Watershed. Project planning work will include development of a forest management plan, archaeological surveys, traditional ecological knowledge review and input into the plan, and completion of a CEQA document.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Butte County Fire Safe Council

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: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
[X] Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262, "Feasibility and Planning Studies"

Reasons why project is exempt:

This is a planning project involving the preparation of environmental compliance documents; it does not involve physical alterations to the environment. Specific actions include development of a Forest Management Plan, archaeological surveys, traditional ecological knowledge input into the plan, and completion of a CEQA document. However, those actions have not been approved, and the completion of these environmental documents will not have a legally binding effect on future activities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

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: [Signature] Date: 3/14/19 Title: A.F.O.

- Signed by Lead Agency
Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 14 2019