



Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 201
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk
County of: Mono
PO Box 237
Bridgeport, CA 93517

(Address)

Project Title: Buckeye Hotsprings Recreation Enhancement and Watershed Restoration (SNC 1273-RT)

Project Applicant: Mammoth Lakes Recreation with Mono County

Project Location - Specific:

Buckeye Hot Spring on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Approximately -119.325 and 38.239 degrees.

Project Location - City: 10mi W of Bridgeport Project Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

SNC will provide \$79,275 to Mammoth Lakes Recreation to reduce the natural resource impacts of current recreational use of Buckeye Hotsprings. Recreation enhancements consist of minor public alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation for the purpose of providing sustainable recreation and limiting environmental impacts caused by existing informally created trails, paths, and parking areas. Road grading performed to the informal pullout on Buckeye Road will involve minor alterations within the existing prior-disturbed footprint and with a slope of less than 10 percent. The proposed project will not involve the removal of any trees and is intended to provide a sustainable recreation opportunity that benefits the local watershed and better manages current environmental impacts. The project will replace the current informal trails with a sustainable access trail, a new educational/interpretive kiosk, a vault toilet, and delimitation of the parking area. These new improvements will mitigate existing impacts caused by redundant, unsustainable trail-braiding, rehabilitate existing resource damage, and substantially improve public health and safety. The project includes no expansion of or beyond existing user-created disturbance areas. Mono County filed SCH NOE #2020030016 for this project in February 2020.



Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mammoth Lakes Recreation and Mono County

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)); Class 1, 15301(c)&(d) and Class 3, 15303(d)&(e) and Class 4, 14304(a)
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4, 14304(a)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____



Reasons why project is exempt:

Please see attached discussion.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jamie Sammut Area Code/Telephone/Extension (530) 823-4688

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: Julie Alwis Date: 6/4/2020 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

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: _____

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Buckeye Hotsprings Recreation Enhancement and Watershed Restoration
Reasons why project is exempt:**

15301. EXISTING FACILITIES

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

Examples include but are not limited to:

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes)

The proposed project will implement minor alteration and rehabilitation of unsustainable user created trails and informal staging area that involves no expansion of use beyond that which currently exists. The creation of a sustainable access trail will mitigate existing impacts caused by redundant, unsustainable trail-braiding.

(d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such and earthquake, landslide, or flood

The proposed project will restore and rehabilitate the deterioration of site conditions caused by existing use, restoration of sagebrush steppe caused by informal parking will be completed by grading and construction of a formal parking area and will improve current erosion and vegetation damage. The project includes no expansion of existing use.

15303. NEW CONSTRUCTION OR CONVERSION OF SMALL STRUCTURES

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made I the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel. Examples of this exemption include, but are not limited to:

(d) Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

The proposed project will install a new vault toilet to greatly improve current fecal coliform contamination created by the absence of a bathroom facility.

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(e) Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.

The proposed project will restore and rehabilitate the deterioration of site conditions caused by the informal parking area that is user created. The new parking area will be centralized on-site and will improve current erosion and vegetation damage. The project includes no expansion of existing use.

15304. MINOR ALTERATIONS TO LAND

Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(a) Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist.

This project will perform grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent to reduce hillside erosion, and delineate parking on durable, permeable surfaces.