

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

County Clerk
County of: Plumas County Planning and Building Services
520 Main Street
Quincy, CA 95370

Project Title: Advancing Community-Scale Wood Energy in Plumas County – SNC 1270.1-RC

Project Location – Specific: Sierra Institute Crescent Mills Campus, 15690 Highway 89, Crescent Mills, CA 95934

Project Location - City: Crescent Mills, California

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will fund the purchase and placement of sawmill equipment at the Crescent Mills Wood Utilization Campus in Crescent Mills, CA owned by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment. The equipment will support the removal of debris generated by the Dixie Fire by processing burned timber for reuse. Burned timber will be transported to the site for processing and cutting. The proposed equipment includes two saw systems, feed decks, scissor lifts, loader, green chain, conveyors, and other related equipment. Sierra Institute will contract the milling work to a local logging company. The mill will be used to mill burned timber from the Dixie Fire and produce lumber for building and related projects. The mill would provide inexpensive wood for rebuilding local communities that burned in wildfires including Greenville, Indian Falls, and Canyon Dam. The sawmill footprint will be approximately 40 by 120 feet. This site has previously been used to mill timber and is zoned for heavy industrial use. The project has been reviewed by Plumas County and is consistent with applicable local requirements.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Exempt Status:

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); Section 1.a of Executive Order EO-N-13-21

Reasons why project is exempt:

On July 23, 2021, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in Plumas County due to the Dixie and Fly Fires. Pursuant to Executive Order EO-N-13-21, State statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements are suspended to the extent they would prevent, hinder, or delay the removal, storage, transportation of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste and debris resulting from the wildfires that have burned and continue to burn in areas that are subject to the jurisdiction of departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency. The proposed project involves the placement and operation of sawmill equipment for the purpose of removing and processing debris generated by the Dixie Fire. The project would be funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and is within the jurisdiction of the California Natural Resources Agency. Review of the placement and operation of sawmill equipment pursuant to CEQA would delay the removal of debris generated by the Dixie Fire. The action is therefore exempt from CEQA consistent with Section 1.a of Executive Order EA-N-13-21. Additionally, the sawmill equipment would be placed on an existing developed industrial site that does not contain sensitive or historical resources. SNC independently reviewed the proposed project and determined that no significant environmental or cumulative effects would occur as the result of the project.

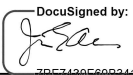
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-906-7345

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: 10/6/2021 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.