

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

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Calaveras891 Mountain Ranch Rd. Building DSan Andreas, CA 95249**Project Title:** Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration (SNC 1257)**Project****Applicant:** U.S. Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest**Project Location – Specific:**

In the Wildland-Urban interface (WUI) on Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest (Sec 13, 25, 36, T5N R14E; Sec 7, 8, 11-15, 17-21, 24, 27-30, T5N R15E; Sec 18, T5N R16E; Sec 1, 12-14, 23, 24, T4N R14E; Sec 18, T4N R15E).

Project Location - City: Dorrington**Project Location - County:** Calaveras**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$1,000,000 in funding for forest thinning and fuel reduction treatments on up to 800 acres of federal land within the Stanislaus National Forest. The treatments would include hand and mechanical thinning and prescribed burning to enhance forest health, promote ecosystem and watershed resiliency in the event of wildfire, and reduce tree mortality due to bark beetle infestations.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:Sierra Nevada Conservancy**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**Stanislaus National Forest, Calaveras Ranger District**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: _____ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for fuel reduction on up to 800 acres of federal land within the Stanislaus National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA, including through resource surveys, preparation of applicable specialist reports, and a Decision Memo documenting why the project qualified for a Categorical Exclusion. The Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Decision Memo was signed 10/01/2018.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jamie SammutArea 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 NoSignature: Date: 3/6/2020Title: Deputy Executive Officer

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

 Signed by Applicant Signed by Lead Agency:

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

MAR 10 2020