

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

To: Sierra County Clerk-Recorder
100 Courthouse Square, Room 11
Downieville, CA 95936

Project Title: Independence Fuels Thinning and Forest Health Restoration (SNC 1234)
(SCH 2020030349)

Project Location – Specific: Truckee River Watershed Council

Project site located in the Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District, east of SR 89; US Forest Service roads 301-75 and 350-25

Project Location - City: 12 miles South
of Sierraville

Project Location - County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy previously approved \$619,482.00 in funding for forest thinning and fuel reduction treatments (mechanical and hand thinning) on 400 acres of federal land within the Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District. This project is to amend the grant agreement to add 40 acres of high-density fuel loads to be treated by mastication (40-acre Amendment). The 40-acre Amendment project area is located approximately 2 miles west of the current treatment area, along USFS roads 301-75 and 350-25, within the Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest, within Sierra County.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Truckee River Watershed Council
Eben Swain, Program Manager
10418 Donner Pass Rd, Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 550-8760

Exempt Status

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Categorical Exemption: _____

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 the state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has provided funding for this project but is amending its grant agreement to add 40 acres to the project area for fuel reduction on federal lands within the Tahoe National Forest. The proposed activity was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the Sierraville Roadside Fuel Breaks Project Decision Memo determining that the project is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment under category of actions identified in USFS procedures as Sec. 40806 Establishment of Fuel Breaks in Forests and other Wildland Vegetation.

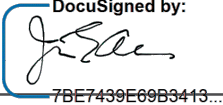
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

If filed by applicant: N/A

- 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:** 10/13/2023 **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.