

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
 County Clerk
 County of: Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

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

Project Title: Black Springs Restoration Project Amendment (SNC 1091)

Project Applicant: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA)

Project Location - Specific:

Both areas are in Eastern Calaveras County on Stanislaus National Forest Lands. Black Springs is centered 12mi NE of Arnold and SW of Bear Valley along Hwy4 just W of Ganns: 38.400011, -120.207351. West Calaveras Thin Project is centered about 5mi E of West Point, NE of Arnold, and W of Bear Valley along Winton Rd: 38.413, -120.187.

Project Location - City: Between Arnold & Bear Valley, N of Hwy 4 Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

In March 2019, SNC awarded \$1,000,000 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority for the Black Springs Restoration project to implement forest fuels reduction treatments to reduce fire intensity, severity, and risk on 825 acres in the Calaveras Ranger District. SNC filed an NOD as responsible agency on UMRWA's IS/MND (SCH201909025). SNC is now amending the agreement to include fuels reduction work on up to 438 acres of overgrown pine plantations on the nearby West Calaveras Thin project. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and enhance the general health and resiliency of forest stands to insect, diseases, and drought-related mortality. Activities include mechanical thinning, hand thinning, piling and/or lopping, and mastication of small trees and brush.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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)

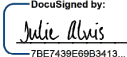
Reasons why project is exempt:

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 for those projects. All West Calaveras Thin project activities are included in the The West Calaveras Thin Plantation Health Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice, and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed in 2014 and updated in 2019. All Black Springs project activities are included in the Hemlock Landscape Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice, and Finding of No Significant Impact signed in 2016.

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:  Date: 6/4/2020 Title: Deputy Executy 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: _____