

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: Amador / El Dorado
810 Court Street / 360 Fair Lane
Jackson CA 95642 / Placerville CA 95667

(Address)

Project Title: View 88 Fuels Reduction and Prescribed Fire Readiness Project - SNC 1214

Project Applicant: Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)

Project Location - Specific:

Eastern Amador County, along the border of El Dorado County on the Amador Ranger District of Eldorado National Forest. The project runs along Highway 88. Project center at approximately -120.298 and 38.555 degrees.

Project Location - City: 10 mi NE of Pioneer Project Location - County: Amador, El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$999,196.00 in funding for forest fuel reduction and prescribed fire preparation treatments on up to 600 acres of federal land in the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest. The project aims to reduce surface fuels in strategic locations, prepare for the reintroduction of fire as a management tool, protect legacy trees, create and maintain a fuel break in the Wildland Urban Interface, maintain and enhance SR 88 for ingress/egress and tourism, and protect the water quality and supply of the Mokelumne, Cosumnes, and South Fork American Rivers.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)

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:

CEQA 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 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 600 acres of federal land in the Eldorado National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA, in the View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), signed in 2011. In 2019, the Forest Service reviewed the NEPA analysis and certified that the EA and FONSI are still valid and adequately address the current site conditions and project activities.

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 Bliss 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: _____