

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

Project Title: Colby Mountain Recreation Area Planning (SNC1279-RT)

Project Location – Specific: Jonesville to Chester, CA and Colby Mountain

Project Location - City: Jonesville, CA
Counties

Project Location - County: Butte, Tehama and Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will complete the trail planning and layout of the connected communities trail from Jonesville to Chester; complete surveys on the Colby Mountain trail network located in Jonesville; develop an advisory board and volunteer corps representing the communities around Jonesville; and conduct outreach to and engagement of Jonesville residents and stakeholders as part of the Connected Communities network, including gathering public input about recreational needs and a vision for trails in the community. The planning project will collect all information needed and complete all analysis required for NEPA and CEQA decisions. In the wake of the Camp Fire and the massive displacement of Paradise Ridge residents to surrounding communities, the need for this project became critical, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased traffic on degraded local trail systems as the closures of gyms and other social spaces have motivated many urban residents to look for new places to exercise and recreate safely with friends, family, and pets. Improved access to open space and outdoor activities in the wake of the Camp Fire, as is proposed with this project, is an important factor in retaining existing or displaced area residents by increasing regional quality of life and stabilizing property values.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Butte County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies. This project involves only the planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. This planning project does not require the preparation of a Negative Declaration or Environmental Improvement Report but does require consideration of environmental factors. The project is also Categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15306 Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

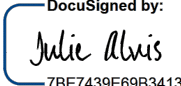
Lead Agency

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

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 6/3/2021 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer
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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.