

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: Forest Projects Plan (SNC 1280)

Project Location – Specific: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed upstream of Pardee Reservoir

Project Location - City: West Point, Volcano, Jackson, Pioneer, and Murphys

Project Location - Counties: Amador, Calaveras, Alpine

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed Forest Projects Plan is a landscape-level, NEPA/CEQA planning project located within the upper Mokelumne watershed on lands administered by the Calaveras Ranger District on the Stanislaus National Forest and the Amador Ranger District on the Eldorado National Forest. The project involves the initial steps of the NEPA process, specifically the development of the proposed action through scoping and issues analysis. This plan will address a large landscape area that will be refined to identify a minimum of 10,000 acres of the highest priority fuels treatment areas. This project is proposed by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) comprised of six water agencies and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, of the CEQA Guidelines. This project involves only the planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. The 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.

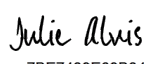
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 906-7345

If filed by applicant: 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

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: 7BE7439E69B3413 Date: 6/3/2021 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.