

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of: Plumas
520 Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Mohawk Valley Wildfire Resilience Project - SNC 1319

Project Location – Specific: Plumas National Forest and Plumas-Eureka Community Services District lands along the Middle Fork Feather River near the communities of Blairsden, Graeagle, Johnsville, and Plumas Pines (T22N, R12E S 4,8,9; T22N, R11E S 4,5,9,8,7,12,18,19; T22N, R12E S 2,3,11,12)

Project Location - City: Blairsden, CA

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Feather River Resource Conservation District for fuel reduction and thinning treatments on lands within Plumas National Forest and on lands owned by Plumas Eureka Community Services District. This project aims to reduce hazardous fuels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and restore at least 762 acres of mixed conifer forest along the Middle Fork Feather River to an improved state of ecosystem health through manual and mechanical thinning and prescribed fire, including pile burning.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines Section 15304

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

A portion of the Mohawk Valley Wildfire Resilience Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of forestry treatments and pile burning to reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI and improve ecosystem health. The project activities have been analyzed and would not result in significant adverse impacts or any exceptions to the exemption. Additionally, 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. SNC would provide funding for fuels reduction treatments on federal lands within the Plumas National Forest that comprise the rest of the project area. The proposed activities on federal land were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Mohawk Vista Forest Health Project Decision Memo, signed in 2017 by the U.S. Forest Service, and the Plumas-Eureka Forest Health Project Decision Memo, signed in 2018 by the U.S. Forest Service.

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

Signature:  Date: 7/15/2021 Title: 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.