

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Lead agency:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: Placer County Clerk Recorder
3715 Atherton Drive
Rocklin, CA 95765

Project Title: Michigan Bluff Community Protection Project (SNC 1322.1) (SCH 2021070335)

Project Location – Specific: Along forest service roads on the American River Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest, approximately six miles north of Foresthill and near Sugar Pine Reservoir and Big Reservoir in Placer County, CA.

Project Location - City: None. USFS roads around Sugar Pine and Big Reservoirs on Tahoe National Forest. 4.6mi NE of Iowa Hill and 5.7 mi SE of Secret Town.

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will amend its grant agreement for funding to the National Forest Foundation to partner with the U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest to implement fuel breaks on both sides of Forest Service Roads extending from Michigan Bluff to Sugar Pine Reservoir. The project strategically addresses safe access for communities in the Wildland Urban Intermix. Fuel breaks up to 600 ft wide (300 ft each side of road) will be created on up to 17.3 miles of road (855.7 acres). A combination of mastication, cutting and piling, pruning, pile burning, and broadcast prescribed fire will be used to create and maintain defensible areas where fire suppression actions have a high probability of success. These treatments will concentrate on surface, ladder, conifer fuels generally less than 10 inches diameter at breast height (dbh), and concentrations of standing dead trees.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
National Forest Foundation
Dan Alvey, Sierra Nevada Program
530-247-5443
27 Fort Missoula Rd. Ste 3
Missoula, MT 59804-7212

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

Public Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1) statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken in whole or in part 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 or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is amending its grant agreement to the National Forest Foundation to partner with the U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest to implement fuel reduction treatments on the Tahoe National Forest. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the Sugar Pine Roadside Fuel Break Decision Memo signed on July 14, 2023.

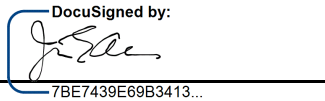
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

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

Signature: 

Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Date: 4/15/2024

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.