

# 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

County Clerk  
County of: Mariposa  
4982 10th Street  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Project Title: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break Project – SNC 1328

Project Location – Specific: 4.2 miles along Wagner Ridge in northern Mariposa County bordering Tuolumne County, centered approximately at 37°47'10.5"N 120°07'10.6"W

Project Location - City: Greeley Hill, Wagner Ridge, and Buck Meadows communities

Project Location - County: Mariposa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding for fuel reduction and thinning treatments to widen the existing 4.2-mile-long Wagner Ridge Fuel Break by at least 100-200 feet, ultimately creating an approximately 400-foot shaded fuel break along the entirety of the ridgetop to reduce risk of high severity wildfire. The project consists of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and lands managed by Stanislaus National Forest, totaling at least 213 acres of treatments. The project would provide a location for: 1) fire to remain as a surface fire and not transition to a destructive, fast moving tree crown fire, and 2) suppression crews to safely make a tactical fight against the next approaching wildfire. The proposed activities serve to reduce wildfire risks to wildland-urban interface communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mariposa County Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption. 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 the NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC would provide funding to implement fuel reduction and thinning treatments on federal land within Stanislaus National Forest and land managed by BLM. The proposed activities within Stanislaus National Forest were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Monotti Urban Fuel Reduction and Plantation Thinning Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Decision Notice for the EA/FONSI was signed by the U.S. Forest Service on May 12, 2011. Although the decision was signed 10 years ago, it has been determined that the NEPA decision is still relevant and viable. The proposed activities within BLM-managed lands were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Wagner Ridge Fuel Break Watershed Protection Project Initial Study/EA and Proposed Negative Declaration. The Initial Study/Proposed Negative Declaration was never approved or adopted; however, the Decision Record for the EA/FONSI was signed by BLM on July 24, 2019.

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: 7/15/2021 Title: 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.