

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: Placer
2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Middle Fork American River Watershed Restoration Project – SNC 1337

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 1 mile northeast of the French Meadows Reservoir within the Tahoe National Forest.

Project Location - City: 14 miles northeast of Foresthill, CA Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding for fuel reduction and thinning treatments on at least 494 acres of federal land within the Tahoe National Forest. The primary goals of the project are to address hazardous fuel conditions to reduce the risk and wildfire and to restore the natural condition of a portion of the American River Headwaters surrounding French Meadows Reservoir. The Middle Fork American River Restoration Project would restore the forest to an ecological condition that can better support naturally occurring fires and enhance habitat for critical species by reducing forest canopy and ladder and surface fuels, which are in excess of historic conditions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County Water Agency

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code (PRC) 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 wildlife 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 SNC would provide funding for fuel reduction and thinning activities on at least 494 acres of land within the Tahoe National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA through an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Decision Notice and FONSI were signed by the U.S. Forest Service on December 10, 2018.

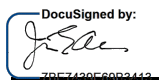
Lead Agency

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.