

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: Tuolumne
2 South Green St.,
Sonora, CA 95370

Project Title: Rim Fire Plantation Thin/Biomass Treatment project – SNC 1338

Project Location – Specific: Multiple locations along the Tuolumne River Watershed including sites located: 0.5 miles north of the Groveland Ranger Station, in and around Buck Meadows north of State Route 120, and west of Sawmill Quarry and Sawmill Mountain north of State Route 120.

Project Location - City: east of Groveland, California

Project Location - County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Rim Fire Plantation Thin/Biomass Treatment project is part of the Federal Phase II Restoration Plan for the Rim Fire within the Tuolumne River watershed. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding for fuel reduction activities and thinning of at least 684 acres of forested land within the Stanislaus National Forest, in multiple separate locations along the Tuolumne River watershed adjacent near the State Route 120 corridor and private property. The project purpose is to reduce the threat of high intensity wildfires in the project area through forest fuels reduction and thinning activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)
- Statutory Exemption. Executive Order (EO) B-23-13

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 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 684 acres of land within the Stanislaus National Forest. The proposed activities and the project area were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was prepared by the U.S. Forest Service for the Phase II Restoration Plan for the Rim Fire. For these reasons, the Rim Fire Plantation Thin/Biomass Treatment project is not subject to CEQA consistent with PRC Section 4799.05(d)(1).

The Rim Fire Plantation/Biomass Treatment project is also exempt from CEQA under Executive Order B-23-13, enacted by Governor Jerry Brown on September 5, 2013. The order states: "Pursuant to Executive Order B-23-13 a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), (Public Resources Code 21000 et seq) does not apply to implementation of the Federal Phase II Restoration Plan for the Rim Fire."

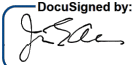
Lead Agency

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

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.