

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

Project Title: Forbestown Forest Resilience Project Amendment (SNC1343.1)
(SCH2021070343)

Project Location – Specific: In the greater Clipper Mills community, approximately 0.5 mile south of the intersection of La Porte Road and Bean Clipper Road, on private lands.

Project Location - City: Clipper Mills

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would amend Grant Agreement #1343 with the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) to allow the treatment of an additional 30 acres of fuels reduction treatments within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) of the greater Forbestown Ridge Planning Area in the community of Clipper Mills under the current agreement between SNC and BCFSC. The SNC previously funded 219 acres of treatment and filed a Notice of Exemption (SCH2021070343). No additional funding will be required under this discretionary determination to amend the Grant Agreement. The project aims to prevent catastrophic wildfire by restoring forest ecosystems from overstocked conditions through forest thinning on private property. Thinning treatments to be done primarily through the use of mastication. But may also include chipping and hand cutting (chainsaws).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Butte County Fire Safe Council
Taylor Nilsson, Assistant Director
5619 Black Olive Dr. Paradise, CA 95969
530-877-0984

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of 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 the removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of fuel reduction treatments on private property to reduce hazardous fuels in order to protect communities in the WUI, primarily through the use of mastication. But may also include chipping and hand cutting

(chainsaws). The project has been independently reviewed and considered by the SNC and the SNC has determined that none of the exceptions to the categorical exemption contained within CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 are applicable.

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:  _____
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Title: Executive officer _____

Date: 8/5/2024 _____

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.