

Notice of Exemption

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: Fresno
2220 Tulare Street, 1st Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: Sierra-Sequoia Burn Cooperative Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (SNC 1278)

Project Location – Specific: Three private properties surrounded by the Sierra National Forest near Dinkey Creek and Nutmeg Creek

Project Location - City: Dinkey Creek, Shaver Lake, Tollhouse, and Trimmer Springs

Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West (ICW) to conduct fuel reduction activities on at least 115 acres within Fresno County. This project would reduce wildfire risk and restore historical fire stewardship by implementing at least three 20- to 50-acre prescribed burns to reduce fuel loads and remove ladder fuels in collaboration with regional Native American Tribes on three privately-owned parcels surrounded by the Sierra National Forest. The three private properties are referred to as the Forked Meadow/Van Bossuyt property, the Camp El-O-Win property, and the Haslett Basin Preserve property. Two of the properties are located near or on Dinkey Creek, and the third is located along Nutmeg Creek. Both watersheds are tributaries to the Kings River and Pine Flat Lake. Prescribed burning would be implemented between late fall and early winter, dependent on burn windows and resource availability, and is expected to be completed by early 2024. The project would also involve the establishment of fire containment lines and low-limbing of trees.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4

Reasons why project is exempt:

Sierra-Sequoia Burn Cooperative Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (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 removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of forestry treatments to improve forest health and resilience. The project would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment or any exceptions to the exemption.

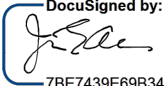
Lead Agency

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: 7BF7439F69B3413 Date: 9/2/2021 Title: Chief 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.