

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: Alpine
99 Water Street
Markleeville, CA 96150

Mono
74 School St
Bridgeport, CA 93517

Inyo
168 N Edwards St
Independence, CA 93526

Project Title: Eastern Sierra Towns to Trails Plan (SNC1283-RT)

Project Location – Specific: Northern Alpine County, southern Inyo County, Mono County and the Eastern Sierras

Project Location: Northern Alpine County to southern Inyo County Project Location - County: Inyo, Mono, Alpine

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments for preparation of a regional trails plan, the Eastern Sierra Towns to Trails Plan ("Trails Plan"). The Trails Plan will identify opportunities to connect Eastern Sierra communities in California to each other and to public lands throughout the region, from northern Alpine County to southern Inyo County. The Trails Plan will build upon existing trail and soft-surface infrastructure in the region and will take advantage of existing priorities for trail connectivity developed by federal land managers, stakeholder ideas generated through the "Recreation Stakeholders" track of the SNC Proposition 68-funded Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI), and conceptual routes drafted by trail advocates. Partners in the Trails Plan effort will include the region's Indigenous tribes and numerous other stakeholders.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies of the CEQA Guidelines. This project involves only the planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has not approved, adopted, or funded. The project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15306, Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

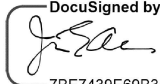
Lead Agency

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: 78E7439E69B3413 Date: 3/3/2022 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.