

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

Project Title: Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project – SNC1369

Project Location – Specific: 38°23'56.47"N 120°29'56.77"W

Project Location - City: West Point, CA

Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to improve forest health and create fire-resistant and fire-tolerant conditions on a minimum 460 acres of forested land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by reducing stand densities via fuels reduction and commercial thinning activities in the identified units. The project would improve fire protection in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) by reducing potential wildfire intensity and rate of spread and would improve forest health and vigor by reducing stand densities and inter-tree resource competition. Commercial thinning and fuels reduction in the WUI may help mitigate the extreme fire behavior observed during wildfires throughout California in the past decade. These management approaches would also mimic the effects of lower severity wildfire and create conditions more suitable for the reintroduction of prescribed fire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 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 wildfire that have been reviewed under NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to conduct fuel reduction activities on a minimum of 460 acres of federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The actions to be undertaken by this project 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 for the project were signed by the Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field office on December 9th, 2021.

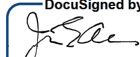
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-906-7345

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

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 6/3/2022 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer
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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.