

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: Placer
2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: French Meadows Ecological Restoration, Project Completion – SNC 1396

Project Location – Specific:

Latitude (decimal degrees): 39.15563224; Longitude (decimal degrees): -120.394106

Project Location - City: Foresthill, CA

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to implement ecologically sound forest management and wood utilization treatments on a minimum of 1,740 acres of defined treatment areas to improve forest health, resilience, and carbon stability and reduce the risk of large, damaging wildfires that can negatively affect lives, property, and critical resources such as habitat, water supply, energy generation, carbon storage, and recreation. The project is located northeast of Foresthill, in the Middle Fork American River watershed headwaters surrounding French Meadows Reservoir. Completion of the project would reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire through application of proven fuel treatments in an ecologically significant area containing critical water infrastructure, recreational facilities, meadows, and a State Game Refuge.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County in partnership with the Tahoe National Forest

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemption, 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 1,740 gross acres of federal lands within the Tahoe National Forest. 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 was signed by the Tahoe National Forest on December 10, 2018.

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: 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.