

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: Taylorville Community Defense Zone, Planning Phase – SNC 1404

Project Location – Specific: 40° 4'15.21"N 120°50'30.57"W

Project Location - City: Taylorville, CA

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide funding to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment to work with partners to finalize conceptual planning and complete environmental compliance for a strategic shaded fuel break of approximately 350 acres around the community of Taylorville to create the Taylorville Community Defense Zone (TCDZ). This planning project involves resource surveys, planning and analysis that will not have a physical effect on the environment. Once implemented, the TCDZ will directly protect approximately 88 homes and 140 residents as well as numerous former residents from Greenville who lost homes in the Dixie Fire and are currently residing in Taylorville. The TCDZ will also increase the resilience of a critical portion of remaining green forest in Indian Valley. Planned future treatments will create conditions with low basal area and bulk crown density, low volumes of surface and ladder fuels, discontinuous fuel beds, and heterogenous, fire-resilient remnant stand structure – all conditions will minimize wildfire hazard, reduce ignition probability, and reduce potential wildfire behavior in the wildland-urban interface surrounding Taylorville. Post-treatment conditions will have a high probability of reducing severe fire behavior should fire enter the area, eliciting fire behavior that does not require the use of aggressive fire suppression tactics, but allows implementation of safe, efficient, and diverse fire control measures when necessary.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemptions, 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 Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. The planning project will not result in physical effects on the environment. 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.

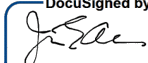
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

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

If filed by applicant: **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.