

## 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: WIP Capacity Program Subgrant – Sierra Foothill Conservancy SNC967-RFFCP

Project Location – Specific: The project is located adjacent to Mariposa Creek, between 6th Street and Joe Howard Street on Mariposa County-owned parcels managed for public and wildlife use.

Project Location - City: Mariposa (town)

Project Location - County: Mariposa

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for partnership coordination between the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Mariposa County, and the Southern Sierra Miwok Nation, including outreach, education, and training as well as the design and implementation of a small cultural prescribed burn project in partnership with CAL FIRE, to maintain vegetation on public land. The prescribed burn treatment area is approximately 3.5 acres of riparian woodland habitat, and 4.5 acres of riverine habitat, comprised of 3,000 linear feet of creek with an average width of 22 feet on each side of the creek channel. The treatment site is county-owned property managed for public and wildlife use, and the prescribed burn would be used as a vegetation maintenance tool. A specific burn plan (VMP) and burn permitting will be completed with CAL FIRE and Mariposa County Fire. Once preliminary site work is complete, burning operations will be timed to occur in the winter, when high-moisture conditions are conducive to low-intensity prescribed fire, and specific weather patterns (including wind speed/direction, temperature, and humidity) will be closely monitored before determining a specific day to conduct burning activities. Professional fire personnel, including the Mariposa County and Tuolumne Rancheria Fire Departments, as well as CALFIRE, will be on-site to coordinate both site preparation and prescribed burning activities, and to respond rapidly to potentially hazardous fire conditions. Mariposa County prepared and submitted a smoke management permit to the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District. All activities will be implemented subject to the approved plans and permits. Mariposa County filed a Notice of Exemption which included analysis of these activities in January 2021 (SCH 2021010094)

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Class 1; Section 15301(h) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs; and Section 15301(i) Maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project is Categorically Exempt under Class 1 15301 Existing Facilities as the project is continued maintenance of vegetation on public lands with no expansion of existing use. The project qualifies under Section 15301(h) as the activities are for continued maintenance of existing landscaping / vegetation on county- owned lands managed for public use and wildlife purposes. The project also qualifies under Class 1 Section 15301(i) as the activities are for continued vegetation maintenance on county-owned lands managed for wildlife habitat, including to protect flows and water quality in the adjacent county-owned stream. This project does not fall within any exceptions to these exemptions.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
7BE7439E69B3413

Date: 11/4/2022

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.