

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: Ray-Mar Ranch Conservation Easement Project SNC1430-LC

Project Location – Specific: Western Calaveras County along Rock Creek Road, adjacent to Salt Springs Valley Reservoir and approximately three miles southeast of the community of Rancho Calaveras. APNs 050-024-002, -018; 050-025-007, -008, -009, -032; 050-30-002, -011, -016, -020, -022.

Project Location - City: 3mi SE of Rancho Calaveras

Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the California Rangeland Trust to conduct planning and due diligence activities for a potential future conservation easement to be placed on the approximately 3,004-acre Ray-Mar Ranch. Specific actions include completing an appraisal, baseline conditions report, phase one environmental site assessment, management plan, and contracting with a biologist and archaeologist to document habitat and cultural/historic resource needs. The potential future conservation easement on the Ray-Mar Ranch would connect two large conservation easements held by California Department of Fish and Wildlife on the west bank of Salt Springs Valley Reservoir creating an approximate 10,550-acre protected greenbelt.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Rangeland Trust

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: Class 6 Section 15306 Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes and are part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. This project does not fall within any exceptions to the categorical exemption.

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

Signature: _____ Date: 12/12/2022
 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

DocuSigned by:

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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.