

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: Fay Creek Ranch Acquisition SNC1433-LC

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 2.5mi north of Weldon on Fay Ranch Road, APNs 055-030-05, 055-050-02, 055-050-09, 055-050-12, 055-050-13, 055-410-02, 055-410-03, 055-070-6, 055-070-08,

Project Location - City: 2.5mi north of Weldon

Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Western Rivers Conservancy to purchase the 2,274-acre Fay Creek Ranch located near the community of Weldon in Kern County, adjacent to the Sequoia National Forest. This project will acquire the parcels from the current landowner and transfer the southwestern 1,040 acres to the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation, and the northeastern 1,234 acres to the Tübatulabal Tribe's nonprofit organization for long-term stewardship maintaining a working ranch. Acquisition would protect a perennial water source used by wildlife and the headwaters of Fay Creek and land that is culturally significant to the Tübatulabal Tribe.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Western Rivers Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Class 13 Section 15313 Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife Conservation Purposes, Class 25 Section 15325 Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15313 Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife Conservation Purposes (Class 13) which consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes including (a) preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, (b) establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and (c) preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition. The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 (Class 25) Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources which consists of the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The intent of this acquisition is to conserve the wildlife habitat and

cultural values on the landscape. SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies.

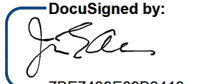
Lead Agency

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

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.