

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: Butte Creek Canyon Preserve SNC1439-LC

Project Location – Specific: 5234 Coleman Ranch Rd, 13457 Centerville Rd, 13461 Centerville Rd, near the community of Centerville, approximately 3 miles west of Paradise, Butte County.

Project Location - City: Centerville

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Paradise Recreation and Park District (District) to purchase three parcels in Butte Creek Canyon comprising an approximately 20-acre property, encompassing about 2,000 linear feet of Butte Creek and associated riparian and upland terrain. The project consists of only the purchase and transfer of ownership of the property from the current owners to the District; a comprehensive, long-term management plan with full review under the California Environmental Quality Act will be prepared after the property is acquired by the District. Butte Creek still represents a relatively pristine example of a Sierra foothills stream, hosting one of the last remaining spring-runs of Chinook salmon in California, along with a diversity of aquatic, riparian and upland wildlife and plant species. The property contains three single-family homes and several outbuildings that could potentially be repurposed for a variety of public uses. Aside from the residences, the property is largely in a natural condition, providing migratory habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon, a robust riparian zone and relatively undisturbed upland vegetation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Paradise Recreation and Park District

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Class 16 Section 15316 Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks.

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15316 Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks which consists of the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of land in order to establish a park where the land is in a natural condition or contains historical or archaeological resources and either: (a) The management plan for the park has not been prepared, or

(b) The management plan proposes to keep the area in a natural condition or preserve the historic or archaeological resources. Although the project site contains three residences, it is largely in a natural condition, providing migratory habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon, a robust riparian zone, and relatively undisturbed upland vegetation. It also shows evidence of indigenous people's presence and the area's 19th century gold rush era. There is no existing management plan for the property; a comprehensive, long-term management plan with full review under the California Environmental Quality Act will be prepared after property is acquired by the District. SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies.

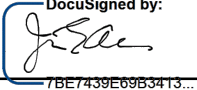
Lead Agency

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.