

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: El Dorado Ranch Phase 4 Acquisition SNC1442-LC

Project Location – Specific: Southwestern area of El Dorado County, west of Highway 49 and north of the Cosumnes River. The subject property is located west of the Crystal Boulevard residential community and east of French Town Creek Road. within an unincorporated area of El Dorado County, CA 95613. APNs 091-020-048, -053 and -054 and -063; 091-020-063; 091-030-016 and -013; 092-031-006; and 092-040-059, -073 and -079.

Project Location - City: 5 miles south of the town of El Dorado

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the American River Conservancy (ARC) to purchase 1,026 acres of oak woodland, riparian, and grassland habitat near the Cosumnes River. The ARC already owns 3,157 acres contiguous to the property to be acquired under this project. The currently owned property is managed as a conservation area for wildlife values, and ARC will develop a land management plan focused on wildlife values for the newly acquired acres. The completion of the El Dorado Ranch acquisition will provide habitat linkages between lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and two large ranches upstream and downstream that are protected by conservation easements held by the American River Conservancy. The long-term intent is for the entire property to be managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife which would then provide public access for enjoyment and wildlife-based recreation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American River Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Class 13 Section 15313 Acquisition of Lands for Wildlife Conservation Purposes.

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 intent of this acquisition is to expand the existing El Dorado Ranch conservation area which manages the landscape for wildlife habitat and public access. SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies. El Dorado County filed a Notice of Exemption for this project in June 2022.

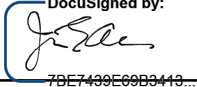
Lead Agency

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.