

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: Modoc Line Rail Trail Planning SNC1410-RT

Project Location – Specific: 45-mile rail trail paralleling US Highway 395 between the communities of Wendel in Lassen County and Likely in Modoc County.

Project Location - City: between Wendel and Likely

Project Location - County: Lassen and Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) to complete environmental planning, pre-construction engineering and designs, and permitting along 45.6 miles of the Modoc Line Rail Trail (MLRT). The trail roughly parallels US Highway 395 in Modoc and Lassen counties and is anchored in the small rural communities of Wendel in the south and Likely in the north. The *Modoc Line Rail Trail Management Plan* was finalized in 2012 after extensive public engagement. Since 2012, LLTT has prepared environmental clearances, completed improvements, and opened approximately 40 miles of trail for public use in three discontinuous sections along the 85.6-mile former railroad grade. This project will complete necessary planning to design the remaining 45.6 miles of trail. Specific activities include stakeholder outreach and meetings, condition inventories of trail infrastructure, pre-engineering design, and CEQA/NEPA resource surveys and analysis.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen Land and Trails 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 categorial exemption.

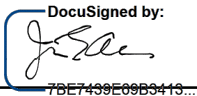
Lead Agency

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

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.