

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: Sierra Valley Recreation Project SNC1451-RT

Project Location – Specific: Tahoe National Forest (Sierraville and Truckee Ranger Districts) and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Project Location - City: US Forest Service lands south of Loyalton and east of Sierraville

Project Location - County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) to lead a regional trail planning effort in the Tahoe National Forest (Sierraville and Truckee Ranger Districts) and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Primarily serving the communities of Loyalton and Sierraville in Sierra County, the project will complete planning for a regional trail plan, including environmental compliance for a 63-mile segment of the potential Lost Sierra trail in Sierra Valley to improve access to recreational opportunities and provide a linkage to other trail systems including the East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project (currently under construction), Prosser OHV Trail System, Boca Reservoir Trail System, Boca-Loyalton Rails to Trails, Badenaugh Trail, Little Truckee Summit, and the Town of Truckee. Specific activities include collaboration with regional Tribal Councils, ground truthing of potential trail alignment, public scoping, resource surveys, and CEQA and NEPA analysis for the potential trail route.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship

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.

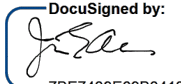
Lead Agency

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

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.