

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: Sherwins Area Trails and Trailhead Expansion SNC1485-RT

Project Location – Specific: Town of Mammoth Lakes and Inyo National Forest land adjacent to the south to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, accessed by Sherwin Creek Road off of Old Mammoth Road, across from Mammoth Creek Park. Sherwins Trailhead and surrounding trails.

Project Location - City: Town of Mammoth Lakes

Project Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for Mammoth Lakes Recreation to partner with Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to develop a proposed action and complete CEQA and NEPA environmental analysis for the expansion of the Sherwins Trailhead and creation and reconstruction of 19 miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails so that they are shovel-ready for potential future implementation. Planning and analysis would include consideration of an additional paved parking area with ADA accessible parking stalls and an ADA accessible picnic area with shade structure, new trail construction and reconstruction of user-created trails, and new wayfinding signage on the trails. If implemented in the future, the trails and trailhead expansion would improve year-round access and connection to the current Mammoth Lakes Trails System and beyond to hundreds of miles of regional trails, including the John Muir, High Sierra, and Pacific Crest Trails.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mammoth Lakes Recreation

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.

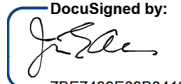
Lead Agency

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.