

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency)

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

(Address)

County Clerk / County of

Project Title: Alder Creek Slope Stabilization Project, Emergency Project

Project Location – Specific:

The project area consists of a 530-acre property located adjacent to the community of Sequoia Crest; approximately 11.5 miles east-by-northeast of Springville in Tulare County, California. The proposed slope stabilization work would occur upslope from the Stagg Tree on the Save the Redwood League (League) Alder Creek property.

Project Location - City: Springville

Project Location - County: Tulare County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is considering an application for grant funding submitted by the League to provide slope stabilization work in the project area upslope from the Stagg Tree, which was damaged during the 2020 Castle Fire. This portion of the project area shows signs of significant erosion and requires major slope stabilization work to prevent future erosion, address existing damage to the two roads that cross the eroded area, and prevent damage to the Stagg Tree. Methods to stabilize the slope could include a combination of installing erosion control fabric, laying back slopes, planting appropriate vegetation, placing mulch, and installing retaining walls or other slope support structures; specific methods would be implemented based on the results of geotechnical investigation. In addition to the immediate benefit of slope stabilization to prevent further damage to the Stagg Tree, implementation of the project would promote resilience in the natural ecosystem services, such as overall watershed improvements through improved regulation of surface runoff and groundwater infiltration, increased uptake of carbon dioxide, and production of oxygen. This project has been reviewed by SNC and is consistent with applicable local requirements.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Save the Redwoods League

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

On August 18, 2020, in accordance the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code Section 8625, California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in California due to fires burning statewide. The Castle Fire ignited on August 19, 2020, the day after the statewide emergency proclamation. The Castle Fire burned a substantial portion of the Save the Redwood League (League) Alder Creek property with 255 acres experiencing high rates of tree mortality from high-severity fire and resulted in accumulation of debris and destabilization of slopes. The Alder Creek Sequoia Resilience – Slope Stabilization Project involves erosion control measures in response to damage caused by the Castle Fire during the declared emergency.

This project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a), which states that a project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA when it “maintain[s], repair[s]... property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.”

The action is therefore exempt from CEQA because it would be implemented in response to the proclaimed state of emergency, pursuant to CEQA Section 21080(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a).

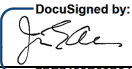
Lead Agency Contact Person: Benjamin Barry, Sierra Nevada

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (760) 223-5841

If filed by applicant:

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:  _____
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Date: 3/2/2023

Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency:

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Signed by Applicant

Revised 2005