

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: South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (SNC1512)

Project Location – Specific: Forested land on the San Juan Ridge in Nevada County, between the communities of Bridgeport and Lake City, on US Bureau of Land Management and private property. Project center at approximately 39.19'30N/121.03'39W .

Project Location - City: Approx. 3 mi southeast of Sweetland, on the ridge between Bridgeport and Lake City.

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the County of Nevada to conduct planning activities to identify 800 acres of priority treatments within a 6,000 acre strategic planning area to reduce wildfire risk for over 44,000 residents in local communities and protect critical infrastructure and natural resources, including two State Parks, the South Yuba River watershed, and Tahoe National Forest and BLM public lands. The County of Nevada will 1) Engage partners in planning, including individual landowners, communities, and experts on the San Juan Ridge; 2) identify approximately 800 acres of priority treatment areas within the 6,000-acre strategic planning area, obtain permissions from private landowners to initiate treatment design and agree to right of access, land tenure, and maintenance. Treatment design will include surveying and mapping of treatment areas, development of treatment prescriptions by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and landowner approval of treatment prescriptions; and 3) for the 800-acre priority area, reconnaissance-level biological surveys, a cultural resource records search and cultural resource site surveys, and pre-treatment biological surveys will be conducted. These data will be used to prepare the required State environmental review and permitting elements, which may be a Project Specific Analysis (PSA)- Addendum to the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), required findings, etc. under CalVTP. In addition, a visual impact survey and environmental justice analysis will be conducted.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Nevada

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: 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 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. SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15306 applies.

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: 3/2/2023 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.