

## 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: Deer Creek Hazardous Fuels Treatment Project – Nevada City (SNC1517)

Project Location – Specific: Private and public land totaling 348 acres on the south side of Deer Creek in the southwest portion of Nevada City, in Nevada County. Includes portions of Providence Mine Road and Hoover Lane, to the west of Zion Street. Parcels include the Deer Creek and Seven Hills Schools, the St. Canice Center, the Tech Center, Nevada City’s wastewater treatment plant, and other critical infrastructure. Project center at approximately 39.15’18N/121.02’00W .

Project Location - City: Southwest portion of Nevada City.

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the City of Nevada City to conduct planning activities to develop an environmentally sound fuels treatment plan for heavily forested wildland properties in the Wildland-Urban Interface. The project area consists of a combination of 273 acres of private lands and 75 acres of public land in the most heavily forested area within the city limits and is vulnerable to wildfires coming up Deer Creek Canyon. The City will work with a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to design a fuels treatment plan, with treatments designed to achieve the greatest benefits of understory thinning and forest ecosystem health while protecting watercourses, archaeological features, and facilities. The RPF will ensure that the fuels treatment plan will meet all environmental compliance needs, and the City will complete CEQA analysis.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

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.

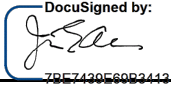
Lead Agency

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