

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

To: Calaveras County Clerk-Recorder
Office
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

Project Title: McKays Strategic Fuelbreak (SNC1514)

Project Location – Specific: Stanislaus National Forest land in southern Calaveras County near the community of Arnold, Highway 4, and on the north rim of the North Fork of the Stanislaus River. Project center at approximately 38.237407, -120.305571.

Project Location - City: Approx. 3 mi east of Arnold.

Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services to partner with Stanislaus National Forest (STF) to treat 957 acres of mixed conifer forest within the STF. The Project will reduce hazardous fuel loading and refresh an old Forest Service fuelbreak that no longer provides protection to the Highway 4 corridor from wildfires traveling out of the Stanislaus River Canyon. Treatments may include mastication, fell and remove hazard trees, piling and burning, and biomass removal. Long term benefits from this treatment will be a working and defensible fuelbreak protecting the communities of Camp Connell, Dorrington, Arnold, and Douds Landing as well as the Calaveras Big Trees State Park and industrial timberlands; as well as restored forest conditions that promote growth of overstory dominant and codominant trees.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for

those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to conduct fuel reduction activities on federal lands in Stanislaus National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Stanislaus National Forest, with a Decision Memo signed on July 7, 2022 approving a Categorical Exclusion under Section 605 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (16 U.S.C.6591d).

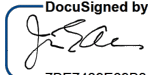
Lead Agency

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

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 3/2/2023 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer
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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.