

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: El Dorado County Recorder-Clerk
Office
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Project Title: Sierra-at-Tahoe – Caldor Recovery Phase II (SNC1553)

Project Location – Specific: Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort on Eldorado National Forest lands. 1111 Sierra-At-Tahoe Rd, Twin Bridges, CA 95735. 12 miles west of South Lake Tahoe, off of Hwy 50. Project area is at 38.80096, -120.08045.

Project Location - City: Twin Bridges

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the El Dorado Resource Conservation District to partner with Eldorado National Forest (ENF) to continue recovery and restoration activities from the Caldor Fire at the Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, which is on ENF land. Nearly the entire forested area within the ski resort boundary burned in the 2021 Caldor Fire. Partners are already working on restoration efforts and fuels reduction through hazard tree removal within the entire 1,368-acre area. SNC funding would initially support approximately 70 acres of hazard tree removal within glade areas using a combination of hand and machine felling. Healthy, live trees that do not pose a threat to people or property will be retained. Equipment deployed to accomplish fuel reduction activities will include using a combination of ground based mechanical and aerial systems when needed on steep difficult terrain. After felling, trees will be yarded to decking areas to reduce the large amount of woody hazardous fuel. Small diameter material under 14 inches will be broadcast chipped or lopped and scattered and left in place for slope stabilization. Sierra-at-Tahoe sits at the very top of the South Fork American River watershed, which was hugely impacted by the Caldor Fire, and was one of the most severely burned areas in need of restoration to maintain a major water source for El Dorado County and beyond.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado Resource Conservation District

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 fire recovery and restoration activities through fuel reduction on federal lands in Eldorado National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Eldorado National Forest in the *Sierra-at-Tahoe Vegetation Management and Trails Analysis*, with a Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo signed on July 14, 2022.

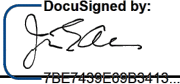
Lead Agency

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.