

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: Marian Creek Fire Recovery Project (SNC 1549)

Project Location – Specific: Northwestern Plumas County and a portion of the eastern edge of Tehama County, within the 2021 Dixie Fire footprint on land owned Collins Pine Company. The project will take place on either side of Hwy 89/36, between Lake Almanor and the Hwy 32 and Hwy 89/36 intersection.

Project Location - City: Adjacent to the project is the Lassen National Forest, and small rural communities including Chester, Lake Almanor West and Prattville.

Location - County: Plumas and Tehama Counties

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will provide funding to implement post-fire recovery on approximately 1,100 acres burned by the 2021 Dixie Fire in the Collins Almanor Forest. This project will help restore the headwaters of the Feather River Watershed and forest habitat for many species. The three components to the project are 1) removal of dead non-merchantable woody material 2) preparing the land for planting seedlings by reducing understory competition and 3) planting mixed conifer seedlings. These steps will create resilience in the forest's post-fire recovery from the Dixie Fire and aid in the larger regional recovery efforts.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4), minor alterations to land

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Marian Creek Fire Recovery Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4). Class 4 is applicable to projects which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor alterations to vegetation proposed by the project involve forest restoration through removing hazardous, dead, and dying trees, preparing the land for planting, and planting seedling of mixed conifer species. Tree removal would occur although it would only remove trees affected by the Dixie Fire for forestry purposes, and to allow subsequent planting efforts to be successful and ecosystem services to function in the forest. None of the exceptions to the categorical exemption apply to the project.

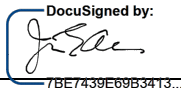
Lead Agency

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.