

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: Tulare County Clerk-Recorder
Office
221 South Mooney Blvd, Room 103
Visalia, CA 93291-4593

Project Title: Sequoia National Forest Wildfire and Forest Hazard Mitigation Project (SNC1562)

Project Location – Specific: Along Redwood Drive and related US Forest Service Roads between Hwy 190 near the town of Camp Nelson, north towards Road 208 near Wishon Campground. Treatment area center at approximately 36.162257, -118.621703.

Project Location - City: Camp Nelson

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for Tulare County to partner with Sequoia National Forest (SNF) to address hazard tree mitigation needs from the Pier, Windy, and Castle fires. SNC funding will be used for approximately 9 miles of treatments along Forest Service Roads in and around the communities of Sierra Crest, Alpine Village, Camp Nelson, Cedar Slope, Ponderosa, and Johnsondale. SNF will treat additional areas for a total of approximately 25 miles of roadside treatments. Hazard tree removal will consist of hand and mechanical felling, and will require skidding of logs, managing areas for processing, and loading and hauling material. Biomass disposal options will depend on the proportion of market to non-market material and capacity of facilities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tulare County

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 Sequoia

National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by Sequoia National Forest in the *Pier Fire Roadside Hazard Tree Mitigation Project*, with a Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo signed on October 3, 2018.

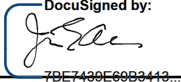
Lead Agency

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.