

## 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) (SCH 2023030173)

**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 (SQF) 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. SQF 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. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy previously filed an NOE for this project on March 6, 2023; this additional NOE identifies all NEPA analyses under which work may occur.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

### Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Tulare County Resource Management Agency  
Denise England, Grants and Resource Manager  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277  
559-624-7000

### 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 the Sequoia National Forest in the *Pier Fire Roadside Hazard Tree Mitigation Project*, with a Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo signed on October 3, 2018. SNC has determined that the proposed activities were also reviewed in their entirety under NEPA by the Sequoia National Forest as follows: The *Castle Fire North Road Hazard Tree Mitigation Project* with a Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo signed on August 25, 2021, and by U.S. Forest Service Region 5 in the *Region 5 Post-disturbance Hazardous Tree Management Project - Southern Sierra Zone Hazard Tree Mitigation Environmental Assessment* with Decision Memo signed on January 24, 2023.

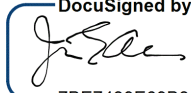
**Lead Agency**

**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: 10/11/2023 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.