

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: Veater Ranch Conservation Easement Development Project SNC1431-LC

Project Location – Specific: Six contiguous parcels directly east of the community of Coarsegold. APNs 054-271-002, 066-110-014, 050-010-009, 054-271-006, 054-260-004, 050-010-011

Project Location - City: Coarsegold

Project Location - County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to conduct planning and due diligence activities for a potential future conservation easement to be placed on approximately 2,165-acres just outside of Coarsegold, CA. Specific actions include obtaining a mineral remoteness opinion, a phase one environment site assessment (ESA) or transaction screen, and an appraisal, review of the title report and resolution of issues, developing an agreement reflecting the final financial structure of the acquisition, a long-term adaptive management plan, a baseline conditions report, and a draft of the conservation easement terms. The entire planning area is identified as a Conservation Planning linkage by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Areas of Conservation Emphasis tool and is within one mile of a critical conservation priority area of the California Rangeland Conservation Council.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: Class 6 Section 15306 Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes and are part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. This project does not fall within any exceptions to the categorical exemption.

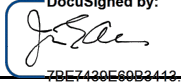
Lead Agency

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.