

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: Replacement of Dry Creek Bridge SNC # 1198-RT (SCH 2023040705)

Project Location – Specific: Great Shasta Rail Trail Crossing of Dry Creek (Mile Post 34.3), approximately four miles southeast of Pondosa, and six miles upstream from the confluence with Fall River. Coordinates: 41.150890, -121.655921

Project Location - City: Pondosa

Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project involves replacement of the existing composite (treated wood/steel beam) Dry Creek Bridge located on the Great Shasta Rail Trail (GSRT), which crosses Dry Creek in northern Shasta County, as well as associated bank stabilization downstream of the bridge. The GSRT is managed for non-motorized recreational purposes (cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding). Due to the condition of the timber abutments and deck planks of the bridge, repairs and upgrades are required prior to opening this section of the trail to public pedestrian, bicyclist and equestrian use. The bridge would be replaced with a bottomless multi-plate culvert. Bank stabilization would involve installation of root-wads to provide scour protection and reduce erosion of the bank. Bank stabilization would involve minimal disturbance of the bank and would not require tree removal.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Great Shasta Rail Trail Association

Exempt Status

Categorical Exemption: Class 2 Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction and Class 4 Section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction. The existing bridge occurs in a disturbed area and would be replaced with a bottomless multi-plate culvert located on the same site as the existing bridge. The replacement bridge would also have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing bridge. Associated bank stabilization activities downstream of the bridge would involve installation of large woody debris downstream of the bridge to provide scour and erosion protection. Bank stabilization activity would involve minimal disturbance of the bank and would not require tree removal. The bank stabilization activities would also be categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304

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. Biological and cultural resource assessments have been conducted for the project and demonstrate that no significant effects would occur with implementation of the project. The project would also comply with all applicable permits from the approving agencies and would be designed to minimize impacts per the best management practices outlined in the biological and cultural resource assessments. Furthermore, none of the exceptions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to these activities.

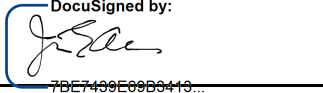
Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary U. 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: 3/22/2024

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.