

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: WIP Capacity Program Subgrant –Butte County Resource Conservation District (SNC962.1-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: Butte Creek Ecological Preserve, along Butte Creek, 6mi SE of Chico. Accessed through Honey Run Rd, 4mi E of Hwy99. T22N, R02E, section 35 MDBM .

Project Location - City: 6mi SE of Chico (unincorporated)

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Butte County Resource Conservation District conduct multiple activities: 1) partner with the Butte County Fire Safe Council for outreach activities, project identification, and environmental compliance for forest health treatments across Butte County’s wildlife-urban-interface, 2) engage landowners with the Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program and complete environmental compliance to implement fuels reduction treatments on the private lands, and 3) partner with the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve and the Mechoopda Cultural Resources Preservation Enterprise to conduct post-fire restoration activities on approximately 93 acres of the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve which burned in the 2018 Camp Fire. Activities on the Preserve would include removal of non-native invasive species; hand-cutting and piling of brush and/or dead wood, burning piles and conducting small-patch cultural burns; chipping cut brush; maintenance of existing trails/firebreaks; and planting a mix of native plants using locally collected seed and/or small plugs or cuttings. The objectives of these activities are to 1) restore a resilient riparian woodland that will not support high-intensity fire behavior, 2) reduce pressure from invasive species, and 3) increase availability of cultural, medicinal, and ceremonial plant resources in the project area for Tribal members.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Butte County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt:

The *WIP Capacity Program Subgrant –Butte County Resource Conservation District* 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 consist 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 land proposed by the project would include cultural fire and/or selective manual and/or mechanical weed removal, followed by planting of native plants by seed or small plugs in ground disturbed by severe fire. No channel disturbance, mastication, or herbicide usage are authorized. The additional planning activities and environmental compliance analysis would not involve ground disturbance. SNC has reviewed the project and determined that none of the exceptions to the Class 4 categorical exemption apply to the project.

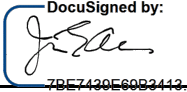
Lead Agency

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: 5/22/2023 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