

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: Butte County Resource Conservation District Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program – SNC 962-RFFCP (SCH2023050543)

Project Location – The project's 15 units comprise a total of ~ 92 acres across the Berry Creek and Brush Creek USGS quadrangles, including parts of T21N, R06E sections 5 & 31; T21N R05E sns 14, 28, 29, 34, & 35; and T20N R05E sns 1, 3, & 17.

Project Location - City: Berry Creek (95916) **Project Location - County:** Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for project implementation. The purpose of the project is to maintain, repair, and restore property that was damaged or destroyed as a result of the 2020 North Complex Fire emergency. The purpose of the project is to restore to pre-disaster conditions so the small forest landowners can safely rebuild, maintain ingress-egress routes, utilize their land and reduce the likelihood of a future fire disaster. To achieve this, standing dead trees and brush would be removed, using manual and mechanical means, logs would be decked using e.g. feller-bunchers, and excess woody biomass would be scattered, burned on site, and/or transported to a biomass facility or mill, as dictated by fuels levels on each unit. Pile-burns and underburns would be conducted on some properties. Where natural regeneration is not sufficient, native conifers and hardwoods would be re-planted; on sites where re-planting occurs, herbicide would be sprayed on tanoak only.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Exempt Status

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources, Code, section 21080, subd. (b)(3) ; CEQA Guidelines, section 15269, subd. (a). The Governor's emergency proclamation is attached.

Categorical Exemption: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is statutorily exempt under Sections 21080, subd. (b)(3) of the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines, section 15269, subd. (a) as the project is one to maintain, repair, and restore property that was damages or destroyed as a result of the 2020 North Fire Complex Emergency. On

August 18, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an emergency declaration pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code for fires affecting the State of California.

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:** 8/31/2023 **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.