

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Butte County Resource Conservation District Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program Feather Falls 2024 – SNC 962-RFFCP.

Project Location – Specific: The project's 20 units comprise a total of ~170 acres across the Berry Creek, Oroville Dam, and Forbestown USGS quadrangles, including parts of T20N R05E section 21, 25, and 36; T20N R06E sections 14, 29, and 31; and T21N R05E sections 28 and 34.

Project Location - City: Feather Falls
(95966)

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would authorize funding from grant agreement 962-RFFCP to be used for implementation of the Butte County Resource Conservation Districts' Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program on private properties in the Feather Falls area. 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 intent is to restore 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, and excess woody biomass would be scattered, removed, burned on site, and/or (where safe) piled for wildlife habitat, as dictated by fuels levels on each unit. Pile-burns and underburns may be conducted on some properties. Where natural regeneration is not sufficient, native conifers and hardwoods may be replanted. Herbicide may be sprayed, in accordance with label directions, on invasive species. The direct beneficiaries of the project are the forestland's owners and their immediate families and neighbors. The project would also benefit mid-seral-forest-dependent wildlife.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Butte County Resource Conservation District
Thad Walker, District Manager
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville CA, 95965
530-693-3173

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 21080, subd. (b)(3); CEQA

Guidelines section 15269, subd. (a);

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines, section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

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. Further, this project is categorically exempt under section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines as a minor alteration to land and no exceptions to exemption under section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines are applicable.

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: Angela Avery

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 9/11/2024

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.