

## 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:** Almanor Rail Trail Planning (SNC #1465-RT)

**Project Location – Specific:**

Twelve miles of rail right-of-way between Chester and Clear Creek in Plumas and Lassen counties along the northern portion of Lake Almanor. The right-of-way roughly follows State Route (SR) 36.

**Project Location – City:** Rail right-of-way from Main Street in Chester, California to SR 147 in Clear Creek, California

**Project Location - County:** Plumas

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Almanor Recreation and Park District (ARPD) to complete pre-construction planning activities to convert the 12-mile rail right-of-way into a multi-modal, non-motorized trail. Five accompanying trailhead parking areas would be planned. Collins Pine Company is donating the 100-foot railroad right-of-way to the ARPD. The project would provide an economic development opportunity to increase tourism infrastructure in the area, provide a safe corridor of travel separated from cars, and expand upon the growing trail network in the region. This phase of the project would include completing right-of-way surveys, condition inventories and a report of trail infrastructure, pre-construction conceptual designs and cost estimates to repair or replace deficient structures, cultural and natural resource surveys in the corridor, a wayfinding plan, and applying for encroachment permits to authorize use of right-of-way to construct the trail and install wayfinding signs where other public agencies have jurisdiction.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Almanor Recreation and Park District

**Exempt Status:**

**Statutory Exemption:** See Pub. Resources Code, Section 21150 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The Almanor Rail Trail Planning Project is Statutorily Exempt under Pub. Resources Code, Section 21150; and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies of the CEQA Guidelines. This project involves only planning studies for possible future actions, which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has not approved, adopted, or funded. The planning project does not require the preparation of a Negative Declaration or Environmental Improvement Report, but does require consideration of environmental factors.

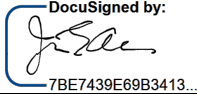
**Lead Agency**

**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:** 6/1/2023

**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.