

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: Mountain Meadows Trail Planning (SNC #1592-RT)

Project Location – Specific: The northern shore of Mountain Meadows Reservoir, between Old Town Road and Delwood Street, directly south/southeast of the community of Westwood, Lassen County.

Project Location - City: Immediately south of Westwood.

Project Location - County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Mountain Meadows Conservancy (MMC), in partnership with the landowners, to complete pre-construction planning and review and analysis for a new proposed 7.3-mile non-motorized, shared-use trail and two trailheads at Mountain Meadows Reservoir in the headwaters of the Feather River Watershed. One potential trailhead would be considered on the eastern terminus of the trail along Old Town Road, and the other on the western terminus in the town of Westwood. The proposed project is located on lands owned by Pacific Gas and Electric, Collins Pine Company, and the Feather River Land Trust, adjacent to and south of the community of Westwood in Lassen County. The proposed project will complete all pre-construction planning and prepare CEQA compliance documents, including biological and cultural surveys, right-of-way agreements, land surveys and trailhead designs, pre-construction engineering and cost estimates, licensing and permitting, and public-engagement activities. The proposed project will provide new outdoor recreation opportunities and contribute to economic vitality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mountain Meadows Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, Section 21150 and CEQA Guidelines Section, 15262; Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306; Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Pub. Resources Code, Section 21150 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies, as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions, which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also Categorical Exempt under Section 15306

Information Collection because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes and are part of a study leading to an action, which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. This project does not fall within any exceptions to the categorical exemption. The MMC will collect data, conduct environmental analysis, and complete designs for potential future trail development near Mountain Meadows Reservoir.

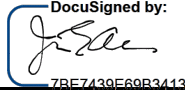
Lead Agency

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.