

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

To: El Dorado County Clerk
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, California, 95667

Project Title: Caldor Fire Restoration Project, Phase One (SNC #1516)

Project Location – Specific:

The project footprint is within El Dorado County and encompasses the South Fork American River and Cosumnes River watersheds. Work will focus predominately on a priority segment of Bonetti Road and a small portion of corridor along Capps Reservoir Road near the communities of Grizzly Flat, Pollock Pines, and Kyburz.

Project Location – City: Pollock Pines

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to treat a minimum of 450 acres of hazardous roadside vegetation to expedite priority restoration measures in high-severity burn areas on approximately 22,095 acres of Eldorado National Forest (ENF) land southeast of Pollock Pines. Funding supports the broader goal to treat an estimated 2,461 miles of hazard-tree removal along fire-impacted travel corridors in the project area. SNC funding will focus entirely on hazard-tree removal, biomass transportation, harvest inspection, and monitoring services. The project supports a year-round local workforce, enabling continued operations of wood-processing facilities while catalyzing new biomass market opportunities. Partnerships between the ENF, Great Basin Institute (GBI), members of the South Fork American River (SOFAR), and Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP) will ensure the necessary collaborative resources are in place to sustain fire recovery over the next 10 years.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Great Basin Institute
Contact – Jerry Keir, Chief Executive Officer, 1341 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89503

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire

that have been reviewed under NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC would provide funding to conduct fuel reduction of hazardous roadside vegetation in high-severity burn areas on a minimum of 450 acres of ENF land. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Eldorado National Forest Roadside Hazard Tree Mitigation Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, with a Decision Notice signed in April 2023.

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.