

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: Wildflower Ridge Preserve Acquisition Project (SNC #1593-LC)

Project Location – Specific: 13167 Ridge Road., 0.5 mi northeast of the city of Grass Valley, on the north side of the intersection of Rough and Ready Hwy and Ridge Rd. APN 007-111-003.

Project Location - City: Grass Valley

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) to purchase fee title to the Wildflower Ridge Preserve, a 128-acre property adjacent to the northwest side of Grass Valley. The property holds many conservation values, including unique native plants on lava cap soils, heritage black oak groves and a productive conifer forest, existing trail easements with public access, and Nisenan cultural heritage sites. The current land use is undeveloped open space with actively used public trail easements. The intent of the acquisition is to protect the open space, habitat, cultural resources, and public recreation aspects of the property from potential future development. In addition, the BYLT would like to explore opportunities for public education on the property and donate a conservation easement to the Nevada City Nisenan Rancheria Tribe, but a management plan is not yet developed. Along with the fee title transfer, the project includes preparation of a Baseline Conditions Report, creating a land management plan, funding two community outreach meetings, and providing for tribal participation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Section 15325 Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources, which consists of the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The intent of this acquisition is to conserve the open space, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and existing public uses on the property. The SNC has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies.

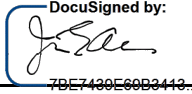
Lead Agency

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.