

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: Tribal Land Back Purchase to Conserve Cultural and Natural Resources (SNC #1610-LC)

Project Location – Specific: 677 Log Cabin Mine Road, 4 miles west of the community of Lee Vining along Hwy 120, Mono County. APN 021-090-011.

Project Location - City: Lee Vining

Project Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association (Association) to acquire fee title to a 160-acre parcel in Mono County. The parcel is surrounded by Inyo National Forest land and is approximately 10 miles from the east entrance to Yosemite National Park. The parcel is composed of spring-fed creeks with meadows, riparian vegetation, aspen groves, and conifer forests. The property is currently privately owned, with a conservation easement held by Claremont McKenna College for protecting, preserving, and conserving the natural habitat and ecosystem of the property, and to use as an educational resource. It is used by Claremont McKenna College as the Burger Sierra Research Station and has several rustic cabins and a main lodge with kitchen and dining facilities. The Association will complete a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and will work with the College to develop a Stewardship, Management, and Monitoring Plan to ensure conservation values, as expressed in the conservation easement, are upheld. The project will restore land ownership to the Tribe, allowing the Tribe to manage the buildings and scenic landscape for multiple uses that will help the Tribe preserve cultural heritage and utilize traditional knowledge to steward the parcel, as well as support nature-based solutions to climate change impacts for the Tribe and adjacent communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association

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 natural conditions, habitat, and cultural resources on the property. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has independently reviewed the project and determined that no exception under Section 15300.2 applies.

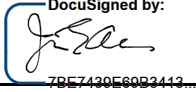
Lead Agency

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.