

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Lead Agency
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Tribal Land Back Purchase to Conserve Cultural and Natural Resources Amendment (SNC1610.2-LC) (SCH2023060188)

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 amend Grant Agreement #1610 with the Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association (Grantee) to allow for the use of grant funds to conduct remediation of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil at one location within the subject property. The agreement previously included a property appraisal, Phase One ESA, and additional due diligence activities for and the potential future purchase of the subject property, for which SNC filed a Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 in June 2023, as well as a Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment for which SNC filed a Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15330 in August 2024. The Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment included the removal of three underground storage tanks and testing of the underlying soil. Soil testing revealed the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons under one of the tanks; this project will remediate those contaminated soils. Remediation activities include the removal, transport, and off-site disposal of approximately 3.5 cubic yards of soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons, associated additional sampling, testing, and analysis to confirm that no contaminated soil remains onsite, and preparation of a summary report of site activities and laboratory results. The Mono County Environmental Health Department issued a Permit to Close an Underground Storage Tank (No. 021-090-011, EPA No. CAC003292898/ CAC00330694). No additional funding will be required under this discretionary determination to amend the Grant Agreement.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association
Dean Tonenna, Vice President
PO Box 273, Lee Vining, CA 93541
775-515-1273

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15330 Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances.

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15330, which consists of any minor cleanup actions taken to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of a hazardous waste or substance which are small or medium removal actions costing \$1 million or less, unless the action requires the onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit or the relocation of residences or businesses, or the action involves the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25123.6, except for small scale in situ soil vapor extraction and treatment systems which have been permitted by the local Air Pollution Control District or Air Quality Management District. All actions must be consistent with applicable state and local environmental permitting requirements. The purpose of the remediation activities is to remove approximately 3.25 cubic yards or less of soil found to be contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons, transport the contaminated soil for appropriate off-site disposal, and conduct additional testing to assure that no contaminated soil remains on-site. The remediation activities are estimated to cost under \$25,000. The project will not require the onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit or the relocation of residences or businesses and does not risk the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds. All required permits are authorized, and actions will be consistent with permitting requirements. In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15330 exempts soil testing and analysis from CEQA. Soil testing and analysis is necessary to confirm that no contaminated soil remains onsite. The project has been independently reviewed and considered by the SNC and the SNC has determined that none of the exceptions to the categorical exemption contained within CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 are applicable.

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: Angela Avery

Title: Executive officer

Date: 10/8/2024

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.