

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: Morrissey Conservation Easement Development Project (SNC #1613-LC)

Project Location – Specific: Intersection of Exchequer Rd, Exchequer Dam Rd, and Bear Valley Rd on the north side of the town of Hornitos. Parcels 007-120-009, 011-040-002, 011-040-005, 011-040-013, 011-040-011.

Project Location - City: Hornitos

Project Location - County: Mariposa

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to complete due-diligence activities to determine the feasibility and structure of the potential future acquisition of a conservation easement over 2,086 acres near the community of Hornitos. Activities to be completed include acquiring an appraisal and title report; completing a boundary survey and a Phase 1 Environmental Site assessment; developing a draft conservation easement and baseline conditions report. The potential future conservation easement could protect the land for agriculture, open space, habitat, and cultural values. There will be no ground or resource disturbance, and the easement will not be acquired as part of this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code, Section 21150; 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 categorically 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 would carry out due-diligence work to determine the feasibility and structure of a potential future conservation easement acquisition; there will be no ground or

resource disturbance, and the easement will not be acquired as part of this project. This project does not fall within any exceptions to the categorical exemption.

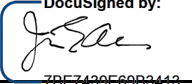
Lead Agency

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.