

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: AB 2551 Watershed Coordinator Grant – Maidu Summit Consortium (SNC957-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities with tribal communities across parts of Lassen, Shasta, Plumas, and Sierra counties.

Project Location - City: None – landscape planning. The landscape area includes the communities of Susanville, Chester, and Quincy.

Project Location - County: parts of Lassen, Shasta, Plumas, and Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Maidu Summit Consortium to conduct outreach to and collaboration with tribal communities and other stakeholders to identify watershed-scale priorities to enhance forest health and resilience and priority forest and fire protection projects, with a focus on Maidu properties. The Maidu Summit Consortium may work with consultants on spatial analysis and mapping of priorities and potential future projects, determine future permitting and design needs for potential future projects, and the preparation of a grant application to fund the design and permitting of at least one potential future project which has not yet been approved, adopted, or funded. Tasks conducted under this activity would include meetings, individual conversations, and possibly field visits. The purpose is to identify and prioritize potential future projects that will improve watershed function and resilience, water quality supply and reliability, forest carbon stores, wildlife habitat, and climate adaptation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Maidu Summit Consortium

Exempt Status:

Exemptions: Common Sense Exemption - CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) and Feasibility and Planning Studies under Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is exempt under the common sense exemption under Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines which states that that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it

can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. This grant funding would only support watershed scale outreach and coordination meetings, as well as expert consultant guidance, for general planning and prioritization of potential future projects related to forest and watershed health. They are early-stage general planning activities; no specific projects have yet been identified, nor have they been approved, adopted, or funded. There will be no ground or resource disturbance. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, the project would be statutorily exempt under Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, section 15262 as a feasibility and planning studies as the activity 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 proposed activities are only for meeting and coordination activities; there is no on-the-ground work involved.

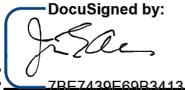
Lead Agency

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:** 8/4/2023 **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.