

## 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 – Pit Resource Conservation District (SNC958-RFFCP)

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

**Project Location - City:** None – landscape planning. The landscape area includes the communities of Alturas and Burney.

**Project Location - County:** parts of Shasta, Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen

### **Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for the Pit Resource Conservation District to collaborate with Pit River Tribe members, local organizations, and the broader community to pinpoint critical projects related to forest and fire protection. The primary focus is directed towards tribal lands, although not exclusively. The Proposed Project will further assess the planning and permitting requirements for each future project or projects which have not yet been identified. The Pit Resource Conservation District may work with consultants and partners to identify and complete permitting for 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 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:** Pit Resource Conservation District

### **Exempt Status:**

**Statutory 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.

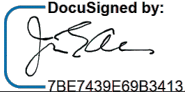
**Lead Agency**

**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:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** Chief Deputy Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 1/16/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.