

## 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

**To:** Amador County Clerk  
810 Court Street  
Jackson, CA 95642

**Project Title:** Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (SNC 1636)

**Project Location – Specific:** Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District. Three project areas 1) along Salt Springs Road west of Salt Springs Reservoir, 2) approximately three miles west of Lower Bear River Reservoir, north of State Highway 88, 3) along Salt Springs and Tiger Reservoir roads, in the vicinity of Tiger Creek Forebay.

**Project Location - City:** Five – 15 miles east of the town of Pioneer.

**Project Location - County:** Amador

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is funding the #1636 Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B (Project), which is a minimum 1,595-acre fuels reduction and forest-health implementation project within Eldorado National Forest (ENF) in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed in eastern Amador County, and implemented in partnership between the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) and the ENF. Activities under the Project include, but are not limited to: Completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) required, pre-implementation natural and cultural resource surveys; mechanical thinning/mastication with chips to be spread on the forest floor; and/or hand-thinning. The Project is part of the larger landscape-scale 25,671-acre ENF Forest Projects Plan Phase One project, a timber stand and wildlife-habitat improvement and protection project designed to help prevent high-intensity, larger scale wildfires, improve forest conditions, and protect important wildlife habitat and other resources. Phase One consists of non-commercial actions to reduce forest ladder fuels and implement other forest-management activities on the Amador Ranger District.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**  
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority  
Karen Quidachay, Program Director  
2864 Ray Lawyer Drive, Suite 205, Placerville, California 95667  
530-903-0116

**Exempt Status:**

**Statutory Exemption:** Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC is providing funding to the UMRWA to conduct fuels reduction and forest-health treatments in the ENF. The Project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the ENF Projects Plan Phase One Decision Notice signed on November 23, 2022.

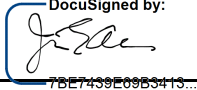
**Lead Agency**

**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:** 3/7/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.