

## 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:** Tulare County Clerk / Recorder  
221 S. Mooney Blvd, Room 105  
Visalia, CA 93291

**Project Title:** Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (SNC 1639)

**Project Location – Specific:** Southwest corner of the Tule River Indian Reservation in the South Fork Tule River watershed. Project center at approximately -118.651, 35.984 degrees.

**Project Location - City:** 20 miles east/southeast of Porterville, 12 miles south/southeast of Springville, 10 miles south of Camp Nelson

**Project Location - County:** Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Tule River Indian Tribe to work in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to implement project #1639 Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (Project). The Project is an approximately 1,500-acre hazardous fuel reduction and wildfire-recovery project on the Tule River Indian Reservation in Tulare County. The Project is planned entirely on tribal trust lands administered by the Tule River Tribal Council through the Tribal Natural Resources Department, with oversight provided by the BIA. The Project focuses on improving forest health and hydrologic function by reducing hazardous fuels, conducting restoration, and stabilizing burn scars caused by the 2021 Windy Fire. The 2021 Windy Fire burned over 97,000 acres, including over 19,000 acres of the Tule River Indian Reservation, resulting in widespread tree mortality and erosion. The Project is aimed at restoring areas that burned, and treating areas that burned at low intensity so they will be more resilient to future fires. Activities under the Project include, but are not limited to: pre-implementation surveys and delineation; manual and mechanical thinning/mastication; and off-hauling of biomass, as feasible.

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

**Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**  
Tule River Indian Tribe  
Ian Cummings, Tribal Forester  
1010 Indian Reservation Drive, Porterville, CA 93257  
559-853-6163

**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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Tule River Indian Tribe to conduct fuels reduction, wildfire recovery, and forest-health treatments on the Tule River Indian Reservation, tribal trust lands held by and with oversight provided by the BIA. The Project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the Windy Fire Emergency Stabilization and Salvage Sale Projects Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination signed on June 13, 2023.

**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.