

## 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:** North Vegetation Assessment, Data Development and Project NEPA (SNC 1645).

**Project Location – Specific:** The project is a large-landscape assessment across 6.4 million acres including Modoc, Lassen, and Shasta National forests in the McCloud, Upper Sacramento, Battle Creek, Klamath, and Pit River watersheds, located within Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, and Tehama counties.

**Project Location - City:** Cities within the assessment area include Mount Shasta, Alturas, Susanville, and Burney.

**Project Location - County:** Portions of Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, and Tehama.

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is funding project #1645 North Vegetation Assessment, Data Development and Project NEPA, led by Fall River Resource Conservation District. The project is a large-scale, cross-jurisdictional data collection, assessment, and planning project to enhance existing forest and watershed conditions and reduce wildfire risk across 6.4 million acres. The project includes environmental assessments in portions of Modoc, Lassen, and Shasta National forests in the McCloud, Upper Sacramento, Battle Creek, Klamath, and Pit River watersheds, in portions of Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, and Tehama counties. The project will produce (1) consistent and high-resolution, lidar-based vegetation structure analysis and biomass estimates; (2) lidar and imagery-based resilient forest assessment (including assessment of departure of existing conditions from desired conditions) to inform design and planning of forest health and fuels-management projects; (3) surface fuels classifications; (4) 3D-National Hydrograph Dataset (NHD) watershed dataset update to inform project planning, provide comprehensive waterbody inventory and post-fire recovery tools; (5) site surveys, reports, and support for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for approximately 314,000 acres of federal lands on the Lassen and Modoc National forests; and (6) establish and facilitate a new collaborative in the Upper Sacramento River watershed. These tools will be leveraged with other relevant data including the Sierra Nevada Regional Resource Kit information to help all Regional stakeholders and tribes plan and prioritize projects. The activities to reach these deliverables involve remote sensing and remote data analysis, NEPA-related surveys and reports, database creation, and collaborative meetings and workshops. There will be no ground or resource disturbance as part of this project.

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

**Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Fall River Resource Conservation District  
Sharmie Stevenson, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 83, McArthur, CA 96056  
(530) 336-6591

**Exempt Status:**

**Statutory Exemption:** Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies

**Categorical Exemption:** Section 15306, Information Collection

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The activities under this project involve remote sensing and remote data analysis, NEPA-related surveys and reports, database creation, and collaborative meetings and workshops. There will be no resource or ground disturbance as part of this project. The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves assessment and planning studies for possible future actions that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also Categorical Exempt under Section 15306 Information Collection because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that 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 that a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

**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:**  \_\_\_\_\_  
DocuSigned by: 7BE7439E09B3413...

Chief Deputy Executive Officer

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

**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.