

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: Plumas County Clerk-Recorder
520 Main Street, Room 102
Quincy, CA 95971

Project Title: Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation (SNC 1647)

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 300 acres of forested private land on the south side of the community of Taylorsville, between the town and Plumas National Forest. MDB&M Township 26N, Range 10E, Sec 27, 34, 35.

Project Location - City: Taylorsville

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is funding the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (SI) to implement the #1647 Taylorsville Community Defense Zone (TCDZ) Implementation project located in Plumas County within and adjacent to the community of Taylorsville. The SI will work with the private landowners to implement forest thinning and fuels reduction for a strategic shaded fuel break on the south side of the community of Taylorsville. Treatments will reduce the risk to the community during future wildfire events by creating a stand structure intended to moderate fire behavior and provide safe and effective opportunities for fire-suppression actions. The project will cut and remove trees to eliminate the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials to reduce fire spread, duration, intensity, and ignition of tree crowns. Planned treatments include hand thinning and mechanical treatments across the approximately 300-acre footprint that will create conditions with low basal area and bulk crown density, low volumes of ladder fuels, discontinuous fuel beds, and a heterogenous, fire-resilient stand structure. The TCDZ will directly protect approximately 88 homes and 140 residents and increase the resilience of a critical portion of remaining green forest in Indian Valley, following the 2021 Dixie Fire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
Jonathan Kusel, Executive Director
4438 Main Street, Taylorsville, CA 95938
530-284-1022

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Cal.Code Regs.Tit.14 (CEQA Guidelines), section 15304; Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, provides that projects that consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes, are exempt for CEQA environmental documentation requirements, provided no exceptions apply. The minor land alterations proposed by the project involve hand and mechanical thinning across a 300-acre footprint to eliminate the vertical continuity of vegetative fuels and the horizontal continuity of tree crowns for the purpose of reducing flammable materials to reduce fire spread, duration, intensity, and ignition of tree crowns. All work will be implemented consistent with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection issued Forest Fire Prevention Exemption No. 2-23EX-00799-PLU under the Forest Practice Act, Cal. Code Regs. title 14, section 1038. The SNC reviewed the project and determined that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, and none of the exceptions to the exemptions apply to the project.

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: 

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.