

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, Rm 105
Visalia, CA 93291

Project Title: Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two (SNC 1666)

Project Location – Specific: Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District, Tulare County. Two project areas 1) Near Alder Creek Grove, three miles north of Camp Nelson, center approximately at -118.638, 36.188 degrees. 2) Near Freeman Creek Grove, five miles east of Camp Nelson, center approximately at -118.515, 36.143 degrees

Project Location - City: Three miles north of Camp Nelson and five miles east 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 Save the Redwoods League to implement project #1666 Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two in partnership with Sequoia National Forest. The project will reduce hazardous fuels loads on approximately 1,462 acres to protect monarch giant sequoias, restore fire and drought resistance, promote reforestation in areas that previously burned, prepare for more regular use of prescribed fire, and to improve habitat complexity across the area. Activities include, but are not limited to: manual and mechanical fuels reduction; biomass removal; broadcast burning, pile burning, and air curtain burning where feasible; road maintenance, as needed, to safely access treatment areas and minimize impacts from road use. The proposed project is part of the larger (approximately 40,000 acre) Castle Fire Ecological Restoration Project planned by the Sequoia National Forest.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Save the Redwoods League
Tim Borden, Sequoia Restoration and Stewardship Manager
111 Sutter St., 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104
415-820-5879

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 SNC would provide funding to the Save the Redwoods League to conduct fuels reduction and forest-health treatments for recreation area protection, habitat protection, and forest resilience in the Sequoia National Forest. The proposed project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the Castle Fire Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Notice signed Dec. 28, 2023.

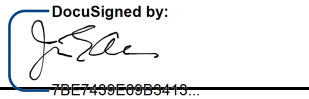
Lead Agency

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.