

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: Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Land Use Plan (SNC 1682)

Project Location – Specific: Approximately 2,900-acre planning project located on the Tuolumne Rancheria in Tuolumne County. One portion of the property is along the western side of Tuolumne City, another portion is about three miles east of Tuolumne City.

Project Location - City: Tuolumne Rancheria, near Tuolumne City.

Project Location - County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will provide funding to the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians for project #1682, a planning effort to prepare a comprehensive fuels-reduction/wildfire-reduction plan and joint National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act (NEPA/CEQA) analysis on 2,895 acres of the Tuolumne Rancheria. The Rancheria is located in Tuolumne County, with the primary portion of the Rancheria along the western boundary of Tuolumne City, with an additional parcel about three miles east of Tuolumne City. The Rancheria is within the Tuolumne River watershed, with Turnback, Bear, Preacher's, Westside, and Duckwall creeks on tribal land. The project would develop two distinct documents: the Wildfire Resilience and Land Use Plan and a joint NEPA/CEQA document. The activities to complete these documents include surveys for cultural resources, biology, wildlife, and botany; data analysis; document development; and partner coordination and stakeholder outreach meetings. 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:

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
Diana Beasley, Planning & Development Manager
P.O. Box 699, Tuolumne, CA 95379
(209) 928-5367

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, Section 21150; CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306, Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The planning activities under this project are resource surveys, data analysis, and planning and design towards the development of a forest-management plan and environmental compliance documents considering potential future forest-management projects, which have not yet been approved, adopted, or funded. The planning and due diligence activities to be carried out as part of the project involve no ground or resource disturbance. The project is Statutorily Exempt under CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions, which 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 CEQA Guidelines, Section 15306 Information Collection because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which 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, which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

Lead Agency

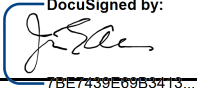
Contact Person: Mary Akens

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: 

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.