

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 21
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

To: El Dorado County Recorder Clerk
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

To: Placer County Clerk-Recorder
2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: LGPP Crystal Basin Forest Health Activities Workplan (SNC937-B-LGPP)

Project Location – Specific: Crystal Basin, within the Pacific Ranger District of Eldorado National Forest. Activities will occur in select areas across the 85,000-acre basin, including the vicinity of Wrights Lake, Ice House Reservoir, Union Valley Reservoir, Bassi Creek, Silver Creek, Gerle Creek, Francis Cow Camp, Deer Creek, Robbs Peak, Cheese Camp Creek, and Atherton Flat.

Project Location - City: No communities within the project area, in National Forest. The towns of Strawberry and Kyburz are near the southern boundary of the project area.

Project Location - County: El Dorado and Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

SNC would provide funding to the Great Basin Institute for the Crystal Basin - Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership pilot project, to implement the Forest Health Activities Workplan consisting of forest health vegetation treatments on the Eldorado National Forest. The vegetation treatments include but are not limited to: fuels reduction, prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, and/or fuel reduction, and related activities including road reconstruction to facilitate completion of forest health treatments, as well as any and all related activities necessary to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire on federal lands. These project treatments have been designed to increase the National Forest System land area treated for fuels reduction and protect surrounding communities while contributing to the long-term resiliency of the Crystal Basin landscape.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Great Basin Institute
Jerry Keir, Consultant
16750 Mt. Rose Hwy

Reno, NV 89511
775.674.5475

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

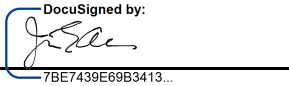
Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC is providing funding to the Great Basin Institute to conduct fuels reduction and forest-health treatments in the Eldorado National Forest (ENF). The Project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the ENF's John Don't Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment, with Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed on April 9, 2018 and in the ENF's Reservoir Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment, with Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact signed on May 17, 2021.

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: 4/12/2024

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.