

## Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

**To:** Modoc County Clerk  
108 E Modoc Street  
Alturas, CA 96101

**Project Title:** AB2551 Watershed Coordinator Grant – Modoc Resource Conservation District (SNC959-RFFCP) – Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation WUI Western Fuel Break Maintenance

**Project Location – Specific:** Fort Bidwell Reservation, in the wildland urban interface along the western boundary of the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation.

**Project Location - City:** Fort Bidwell Reservation

**Project Location - County:** Modoc

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will authorize/permit the Modoc Resource Conservation District to use SNC grant funds to work with the Fort Bidwell Tribe to conduct fuel break maintenance in the wildland urban interface along the western boundary of the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation. Treatment activity will consist of mowing (weedeating), thinning and hand piling, which will assist in reducing the potential loss of human life and damage to property and natural resources on the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation. It will be meeting three fire management goals and provisions in the Forest Management Plan which are: 1. Tribe's desire for immediate and long-term management of their timber resources, 2. Continue to maintain and upgrade the fuel breaks around the reservation area, and 3. Reduce fuel loading to acceptable levels.

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

**Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**  
Modoc Resource Conservation District  
Lani Estill, Executive Director  
530-233-4317

**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 Sierra Nevada Conservancy is authorizing/permitting the use of the funding for the Modoc Resource Conservation District to work in partnership with the Fort Bidwell Tribe to conduct fuels reduction treatments on the Fort Bidwell Indian Reservation, tribal trust lands held by and with oversight provided by the BIA. The Project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, in the TR-4432.b - p5 52518T FY24 WUI Western Fuel Break Maintenance Ft. Bidwell Categorical Exemption signed by the Regional Director on September 9, 2024.

**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:** Angela Avery

**Title:** Executive Officer

**Date:** 9/26/2024

**Signed by Lead Agency:** Yes

**Signed by Applicant:** No

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.