

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: Placer County Clerk-Recorder
3715 Atherton Road
Rocklin, CA 95765

Project Title: Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project (SNC 1692.1)

Project Location – Specific: T15N, R16E, Sections 3, 4, 8, and 9; T16N, R16E, Sections 28, 33, and 34.

Project Location - City: Alpine Meadows and the unincorporated community of Olympic Valley

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would amend grant agreement 1692.1 to update the project description with respect to thinning to include that thinning would also focus on live trees up to 30 inches diameter at breast height and may be removed in limited circumstances where both the following conditions occur: 1) the larger diameter material is located in an area that is accessible by mechanical equipment, and 2) where a 16-inch diameter limited would not adequately reduce flame lengths to desired conditions in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Threat and Defense zones. This project provides funding to the National Forest Foundation to partner with the Tahoe National Forest to mitigate wildfire risk for the communities of Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley through active forest management in the Tahoe National Forest. As stated in the previously filed NOE, this project would reduce wildfire risk on up to 1,080 acres of federal land near important ingress and egress routes, private property, and valuable public infrastructure. Expected outcomes from the project are to reduce fuels in the WUI Defense and WUI Threat Zones so that these zones can be used for wildfire suppression and control; allow for safe ingress and egress by first responders and the public in the event of a wildfire or during an emergency evacuation; improve overall forest health and resilience; and protect important upland water resources. Proposed treatment methods include mastication, mechanical thinning, hand thinning, and biomass removal.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

National Forest Foundation
Dan Alvey, California Program Manager
10599 Martis Drive, Truckee, CA 96161

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(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 reduce forest fuels within the Tahoe National Forest. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA in a Categorical Exclusion (2024) under the "Wildfire Resilience" category within HFRA Section 605(c)(2)(c). The Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project Decision Memo was signed on March 8, 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:  _____
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Executive Officer
Title: _____

Date: 9/6/2024

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.