

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: Amador County Clerk
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Project Title: Crestview Fuel Break Project Amendment (SNC 1200.2 & 1330.1)

Project Location – Specific: 18 acres of BLM land along Pine Grove Volcano Road, immediately north of the intersection with State Highway 88. Project center at approximately -120.653, 38.415 degrees.

Project Location - City: Pine Grove

Project Location - County: Amador

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would amend grant agreements 1200 and 1330 for the Tiger Creek Fuel Break, to authorize the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) to use SNC grant funds towards implementation of the Crestview Fuel Break Project. AFSC would work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement 18 acres of fuels reduction to create a strategic shaded fuel break that would reduce high intensity fire behavior and make suppression efforts more effective. This project is located in the Wildland Urban Interface of the community of Pine Grove on BLM land. Project activities could include hand cutting/piling small diameter trees and brush for future pile burning; pruning and limbing of tree species to raise canopy base height to decrease ladder fuels; mechanical mastication of surface fuels, brush, and small trees; chipping of vegetation, lopping and scattering, and removal of vegetation offsite; manual removal of noxious weeds by pulling or cutting; and pile burning and/or understory burning to reduce residual fuel loading. Maintenance activities may include re-mastication, hand cut/pile and pile burning, grubbing of brush species, herbicide application on resprouting vegetation, and/or the use of broadcast burning. The project would include all design features and management practices as required by the National Environmental Policy Act decision approving the project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Amador Fire Safe Council
John Heissenbuttel, Treasurer
P.O. Box 1055
Pine Grove, CA 95665

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 is funding the project to conduct fuels reduction treatments on land owned by Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the BLM Rancheria Ridge and Crestview Fuel Breaks Determination of NEPA Adequacy and Decision Record signed on November 20, 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: DocuSigned by:
Angela Avery
B362EA00050B496...

Executive Officer

Title: _____

Date: 5/30/2024

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.