

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

Project Title: (RFFCP2022) WIP Capacity Subgrant – Butte County Collaborative Group (SNC 1710-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities across Counties of Butte, Tehama, Yuba, and Plumas.

Project Location - City: None – feasibility planning.

Project Location - County: Butte, Tehama, Yuba, and Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Butte County Resource Conservation District for the Butte County Collaborative Group to engage in capacity building efforts to prioritize, develop, and identify future projects related to forest health and fire resiliency. The Butte County Collaborative Group will engage and collaborate with their local communities, regional partners, tribes, and stakeholders. The proposed activities will increase capacity to prioritize, develop, and to identify future projects, not yet identified. Tasks conducted under these activities would include but are not limited to engaging in project prioritization, partner engagement, grant writing, and planning forest health and fire protection projects through the coordination of the Butte County Collaborative Group. The project will provide GIS trainings, workshops, support and technical assistance focused on tribal entities in Butte County. The proposed project will develop monitoring and evaluation plans and protocols by engaging in Sierra Nevada Conservancy Monitoring Workshop Series and other collaborative activities. The project including working on the development of projects not yet identified along Deer Creek bordering Lassen National Forest in Butte and Tehama Counties. The project will complete pre-CEQA work for tribal projects including management plans, goals for traditional territories, and coordinated plans for shared land. The proposed project will evaluate and prioritize in conjunction with the development and submission of a project portfolio for Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Regional Priority Plan.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Butte County Resource Conservation District
Wolfy Rogle, Planning and Watershed Program Manager
641 Entler Avenue, Suite 47
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 721-0164

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Common Sense Exemption – CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) and Feasibility and Planning Studies under Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines, Section 15262.

Reasons why project is exempt:

These activities are exempt under the commonsense exemption under Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines which states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. This grant funding will support capacity building activities, coordination of meetings and community engagement including engaging in project prioritization, partner engagement, grant writing, and planning for forest health and fire protection projects through the coordination of the Butte County Collaborative Group. They are early-stage planning activities; no specific projects have yet been identified, nor have they been approved, adopted, or funded. There will be no ground or resource disturbance. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, the project would be statutorily exempt under CEQA Guidelines, section 15262 exempting feasibility and planning studies as the activity involves planning studies for possible future actions which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. Further, there is no legally binding effect on later activities.

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: 7/19/2024 _____

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.