

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 - Sierra RCD (1712-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities across parts Fresno County

Project Location - City: None – feasibility planning. The community of Auberry is within the project area.

Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Sierra Resource Conservation District to collaborate with local communities, regional partners, and stakeholders to develop a priority plan to improve forest health and fire resiliency. The proposed activities will increase capacity to identify, prioritize, and develop potential future projects, specifically in the Sierra National Forest high priority Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, although not exclusively. Tasks conducted under these activities would include participating in training sessions, attending regional conferences, working to develop monitoring and evaluation plans, surveying and mapping, creation of a Stakeholder Advisory Council, communicating and engaging with stakeholders, conducting meetings, and the gathering of pertinent data and information for plan development. The Sierra Resource Conservation District would also evaluate the planning, permitting and compliance requirements for potential future projects which have not yet been identified. The purpose is to engage with their community and stakeholders to generate a list of future priority forest health projects and create a plan for monitoring projects as well as completing a Capacity Building Sustainability Report. These activities could potentially lead to improved forest health and fire resiliency, facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and increase carbon sequestration.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Sierra Resource Conservation District
Kelly Kucharski
P.O. Box 693, Auberry, CA 93602
(810)300-2515

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 and project pipeline development tasks such as training, coordination of meetings, surveying, mapping, and community engagement as well as the gathering and sharing of data for early-stage planning and prioritization of currently unidentified, potential future projects related to forest health and fire resiliency. 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: 6/19/2024

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.