

## 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 – Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (1701-RFFCP)

**Project Location – Specific:** General communication, outreach, and planning activities across parts Calaveras and Amador counties.

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

**Project Location - County:** Calaveras, Amador

### **Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority to collaborate with local communities, local tribes, regional partners, and stakeholders to develop a priority plan to improve forest health and fire resiliency. The proposed activities will increase capacity to prioritize, develop, and to identify potential future projects, not yet identified. Tasks conducted under these activities would include engaging with Tribal Liaison to implement a Tribal Engagement Plan, developing a long-term strategy for obtaining future funding, participating in training sessions, attending regional conferences, working to develop monitoring and evaluation plans, communicating and engaging with stakeholders, facilitating meetings, and the gathering of pertinent data and information for potential plan development. The purpose is to engage with the local community, local tribes, and stakeholders to identify and prioritize potential future forest health and fire resiliency projects, along with creating a project monitoring plan that could potentially improve 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:**

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority  
Richard Sykes  
15083 Camanche Parkway South Valley Springs, CA 95252  
(209)772-8340

### **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 including engaging and partnering with local tribes, participating in training, developing a future funding strategy, coordination of meetings 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

Executive Officer

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

6/24/2024

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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.