

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
1521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) Phase 1 (SNC1374)

Project Location – Specific: Unincorporated Tuolumne County, 3 miles north of Twain Harte, 3 miles east of Douglas Flat, centered around GPS 38.113201°, -120.305570°.

Project Location - City: Cedar Ridge, Jupiter, Mount Knight, Twain Harte, and unincorporated areas

Project Location - County: Tuolumne County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will provide funding to Tuolumne County to implement fuel treatment across approximately 800 acres of private lands within 250 feet of roadways to create a 500-foot wide shaded fuel break. The fuel break will consist of a 150-foot inner core, where treatment is more intensive, and a 100-foot outer core that will contain more elements of the pre-treatment stand. Treatment activities will include mastication of shrubs, brush and trees, up to 10" DBH, as well as hand cutting and piling or cutting and lop and scatter on areas that are inaccessible to equipment. All activities will occur after surveys for sensitive resources have been completed and no activities will occur in the vicinity of sensitive biological or cultural resources. The project is designed to complement the adjacent Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project, which involves work along the same roadways on adjacent US Forest Service lands to achieve landscape-level forest health and resilience.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Tuolumne County, Quincy Yaley, Environmental Coordinator, (209) 533-5561

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4). Class 4 is applicable to projects that consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project involve the removal of brush and trees near roadways on approximately 800 acres of private land.

Although tree removal would occur, it would be limited to trees up to 10 inches in diameter at breast height to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health, consistent with the criteria of qualifying projects under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4). SNC has independently evaluated the project and determined that the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 do not apply to the project.

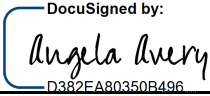
Lead Agency

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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Title: Executive officer _____

Date: 8/1/2024 _____

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.