

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 – Alpine County and Alpine Watershed Group (SNC 1707-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities in the County of Alpine.

Project Location - City: None – feasibility planning.

Project Location - County: Alpine

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to Alpine County for the Alpine County and Alpine Watershed Group project (Project). The Project is a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program project within Alpine County. Alpine County will engage in the following general tasks and activities: support the continued growth and development of the Forest Health Community Working Group, include expanded agency and tribal involvement; improve community relations through contracted stakeholder analysis and recommendations; strengthen program and project planning and execution capabilities; develop monitoring and evaluation plans and protocols by engaging in SNC Monitoring Workshop Series and other collaborative activities; develop and design potential future projects in Alpine County for wildfire mitigation treatment, followed by pursuit of grant funding for environmental permitting and potential project implementation; and evaluate and prioritize projects in conjunction with the development and submission of a project portfolio for SNC's Regional Priority Plan. Further, the Project will undertake activities which facilitate broad and diverse engagement of communities and stakeholders within Alpine County in a manner which fulfills the requirements of the Grant Guidelines regarding Outreach and Engagement. These activities do not involve any ground or resource disturbance. Further no specific future implementation project or projects have yet been identified and this Project does not bind any party to a definite course of action prior to CEQA compliance for any future implementation project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Alpine County
JT Chevallier - Economic Development Director
P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 721-1339

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 but not limited to, improving community relations through contracted stakeholder analysis and recommendations; developing monitoring and evaluation plans and protocols by engaging in SNC Monitoring Workshop Series and other collaborative activities; develop and design potential future projects in Alpine County for wildfire mitigation treatment. Further, the Project will undertake activities facilitating broad and diverse engagement of communities and stakeholders within Alpine County. These 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: 8/14/2024

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.