

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 - Kern Fire Safe Council (1720-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities across parts of Kern County.

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

Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Kern Fire Safe Council 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 hiring for new staff positions, 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 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 a creating a project monitoring plan that will 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:

Kern Fire Safe Council,
Trudie Mahoney, Board Chair,
PO Box 6572, Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222,
(209) 743-1555.

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 hiring for new staff positions, training of personnel, updating of documents, 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: _____

8/26/2024

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.