

## 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 - Nevada County (SNC172-RFFCP)

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

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

**Project Location - County:** Nevada

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

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to collaborate with local communities, regional partners, local tribes, private landowners and stakeholders to develop a priority plan to improve forest health and fire resiliency within the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services area. The proposed activities will increase capacity to prioritize, plan, develop, and to identify potential future projects focusing on Nevada County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan areas, although not exclusively. Tasks conducted under these activities would include hiring of a full-time Registered Professional Forester, collaborating on the update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), develop a CWPP Implementation Plan, developing a project tracking system and dashboard, facilitating Forest Management Workshops, applying for funding opportunities, participating in training sessions, attending regional conferences, working to develop monitoring and evaluation plans, communicating and engaging with stakeholders, conducting meetings and the gathering of pertinent data and information for plan development. The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services 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 potential future priority forest health projects and create a plan for evaluating and 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:**

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services,  
Alex Keeble-Toll,  
950 Maidu Avenue Suite 130, Nevada City, CA 95959,  
(530)470-2521.

### **Exempt Status:**

Common Sense Exemption – CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061, subd. (b)(3) and

**Statutory Exemption:** 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 only support capacity building activities and project pipeline development tasks such as hiring personnel, training, facilitating workshops, coordination of meetings, developing internal systems, and engaging the community 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:** 9/20/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.