

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 - California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (1723-RFFCP).

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities across all or part of 24 counties within Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s service area.

Project Location - City: None – feasibility planning and technical assistance.

Project Location - County: All or part of 24 counties within Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s service area.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to collaborate with local communities, tribes, regional partners, and stakeholders to provide technical assistance in efforts to improve forest health and fire resiliency. The proposed activities will assist to increase capacity to prioritize, develop, and identify potential future projects, not yet identified. Tasks conducted under these activities would include building new partnerships, strengthening existing relationships, completing needs assessments, hosting workshops and trainings, facilitating meetings, improving an online resources library, attending regional conferences, and communicating and engaging with partners. The purpose is to partner with communities, tribes, and stakeholders to provide the support and assistance necessary to identify and prioritize potential future forest health and fire resiliency projects that will 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:

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts,
Ryan Reger, Forest Program Coordinator,
1007 7th Street, #414, Sacramento, CA 95814,
(530) 208-3635

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 building new partnerships, hosting workshops and trainings, facilitating meetings, improving online resources library, attending regional conferences, and communicating and engaging with stakeholders as well as providing technical assistance for early-stage planning and prioritization of currently unidentified, potential future projects related to forest health and fire resiliency. The activities 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 Governing 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: 10/18/2024

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.