

**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) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians (#1737-RFFCP).

**Project Location – Specific:** General communication, outreach, and planning activities in Tuolumne County.

**Project Location - City:** No city, general outreach and planning activities only.

**Project Location - County:** Tuolumne

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

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians (Grantee) to participate in the Tribal Capacity Building Program project (Project). The Tribal Capacity Building Program is a part of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program focusing on capacity building efforts to improve forest health and fire resiliency. The Grantee would collaborate with SNC and tribal organizations on developing skills to assist in identifying, prioritizing, planning, raising funds for, and executing forest health and fire resiliency projects; no projects have yet been identified. The Project's proposed activities would include attending regional conferences and skill building workshops, participating in mentoring opportunities, and completing assignments and independent project development work. The Grantee would also document financial and project management systems, develop funding strategies and apply for funding/grant opportunities. The activities could assist the Grantee in becoming a leader in ecosystem restoration and community resilience work. These activities do not involve any ground or resource disturbance. Further no specific future implementation project or projects have yet been identified.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians,  
Darla Merlin, Grants Coordinator  
P.O. Box 699  
Tuolumne, CA 95379  
209-928-9568.

**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, attendance at regional conferences and workshops, participating in mentoring opportunities, completing independent project development work, along with developing funding strategies and applying for grants. 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 Public Resources Code, section 21102 and 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 12/17/2024

**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.