

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research
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Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
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**Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination
in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public
Resource Code**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019012052

Project Title: Alder Creek Sequoia Resilience and Post-Fire Restoration Project (1368)

Project Location: Alder Creek property located immediately east of the community of Sequoia Crest, 3 miles north of Camp Nelson in Tulare County

Project Description: Save the Redwoods League (League) proposes to implement vegetation treatments, road repair, and road decommissioning on up to 530 acres of land on the Alder Creek property. The proposed treatment types are fuel break and ecological restoration, and the proposed treatment activities would include prescribed burning, manual and mechanical treatments, and herbicide application. Ongoing maintenance of initial treatments would involve the same vegetation treatment types and activities used in the initial treatment. The League has applied to Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for a Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience grant. SNC and the League have prepared a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum to the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) to evaluate if the proposed project is within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR and provide environmental information to SNC and the League in compliance with CEQA. The Alder Creek Sequoia Resilience and Post-Fire Restoration Project PSA/Addendum was prepared to evaluate the project as a later activity covered by the CalVTP PEIR.

SNC is the CEQA lead agency, using this PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP EIR for the portions of the proposed project that would be implemented using funding from the grant; these portions are referred to in the PSA/Addendum as those for which the League is "seeking SNC funding." The portions of the proposed project for which the League is seeking SNC funding include treatment activities implemented within the portion of the project area that was not burned at high severity during the 2020 Castle Fire—one of two fires in the Sequoia Complex Fire (SQF Complex) that burned in the Sequoia National Forest, Giant Sequoia National Monument, and adjacent areas. The portions of the proposed project seeking SNC grant funding also include all fuel break treatments, road repair, and road decommissioning throughout the project area.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the SNC Board (Lead Agency) approved the above-described project on March 2, 2023 (date) and has made the following determinations:

For a PSA/Addendum to an EIR:

1. The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Alder Creek Sequoia Resilience and Post-Fire Restoration Project PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR (SCH# 2019012052) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. The CalVTP PEIR sufficiently analyzes and addresses potential environmental impacts from the project, and the project will not trigger any of the criteria requiring additional CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. The project will not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of the significant environmental impacts identified in the CalVTP PEIR.
 - a. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in project areas within the CalVTP treatable landscape are within the scope of the CalVTP PEIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2), as documented in the PSA.
 - b. The elements of the proposed project that would be implemented in areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape would not result in the occurrence of any of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR; therefore, an Addendum has been adopted to address the project areas outside the geographic extent presented in the PEIR.
4. Mitigation measures and standard project requirements from the CalVTP PEIR were made a condition of the approval of the project; no new project-specific mitigation measures are required.
5. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program was adopted by SNC governing board for this project.
6. A statement of overriding considerations was adopted by SNC governing board for this project, which reaffirmed the previous statement of overriding considerations in the CalVTP PEIR.
7. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

This is to certify that the Alder Creek Sequoia Resilience and Post-Fire Restoration Project PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP PEIR and record of project approval is available to the general public at the SNC website <https://sierranevada.ca.gov/>.

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer
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 Date: 3/2/2023 _____

Dated Received for filing at OPR: _____
 Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087,
 Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections
 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.