

**Notice of Exemption****Appendix E**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Nevada

950 Maidu Ave, Suite 210

Nevada City, CA 95959

**From:** (Public Agency): Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

(Address)

Project Title: Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4 - Updated acres (SCH 2019038332)

Project Applicant: Nevada Irrigation District

Project Location - Specific:

Treatments will be completed on the North and East shores of Scotts Flat Reservoir, centered at approximately 39°16'39.47N and 120°54'57.49"W



Project Location - City: Nevada City, CA Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Please see attached.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nevada Irrigation District

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Please see attached.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Julie Alvis Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-823-4667

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

DocuSigned by:  
Signature: Julie Alvis Date: 7/20/2020 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

7BE7439E69B3413...

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Notice of Exemption  
July 2020

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4  
SCH 2019038332

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

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$981,000 in funding for forest fuel reduction treatments on a minimum of 300 acres, up to 660 acres in the Potential Operating Area on the North and East shores of the Scotts Flat Reservoir. The project objectives are to improve forest health, ecosystem resiliency and reduce the risk and severity of wildfire. Fuel treatments would benefit the health of the Scotts Flat Reservoir, which provides water to communities in Nevada, Placer, and Yuba counties. Treatment activities would include mastication and hand-thinning. Treatments will remove understory brush and small trees up to 10" diameter to open up the forest and reduce canopy cover. In addition to protection of water resources, this project will also help protect residential areas around the reservoir in partnership with Cascade Shores and Banner Mountain Firewise Communities, as well as NID camping and recreational facilities around the lake. This grant will also fund a public outreach and education component. The Nevada Irrigation District is completing the work under exemptions from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(j).

### Reasons why project is exempt:

This Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project involve mechanical and hand treatments of ladder fuels and mechanical removal of small diameter trees. The project applicant has received exemptions from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(j) and will continue to in order to complete the project. All required environmentally protective measures are incorporated into the project. The proposed activities would improve the health and fire-resiliency of the site without materially changing the appearance, use, or environmental conditions of the project area.