

2019038338

Notice of Exemption

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

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

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Placer

2954 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: French Meadows Forest Restoration - Biomass Project (SNC #1089)

Project Applicant: Placer County

Project Location - Specific:

Treatments centered at approximately 39° 7'20.46"N and 120°25'1.94"W

Project Location - City: Iowa Hill/Foresthill, CA

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$1,000,000 in funding to remove tree limbs and brush from 3,622 acres of land on a portion of the American River headwaters near and adjacent to the French Meadows Reservoir within the Tahoe National Forest. Specific treatments would include both mechanical and hand thinning, and onsite mastication and removal. The project area is untreated forest that has accumulated dense biomass that is susceptible to high intensity wildfire. Through the removal of biomass facilitated by the project, ecological conditions would be restored that would support a more natural fire cycle and protect the area's water supply, wildlife habitat, and soil resources.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County in partnership with the Tahoe National Forest

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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 4799.05(d)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to conduct fuel reduction activities on 3,622 acres of federal lands within the Tahoe National Forest. The actions to be undertaken by this project were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA through an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Decision Notice and FONSI for the project was signed by the Tahoe National Forest on December 10, 2018.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

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

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 3/14/19

Title: AEO

- Signed by Lead Agency
Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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