

2019038343

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 Prescribed Fire Project (SNC #1130)

Project Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Project Location - Specific:

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

Project Location - City: Foresthill, CA

Project Location - County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$995,995 in funding to improve forest and ecosystem health and reduce the risk of high-severity wildfires on 700 acres in the Tahoe National Forest through the introduction of controlled fire within the project area. Prescribed fire would directly benefit water quality in the French Meadows Reservoir, which is located immediately downstream of the project. Project activities would involve pre-fire site preparation (including pre-fire hand thinning and establishing fire containment lines), prescribed fire burning, and post-fire monitoring.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tahoe National Forest in partnership with The Nature Conservancy

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 prescribed burning activities on 700 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: [Signature] Date: 3/14/19 Title: A.E.O.

- 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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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE