

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

County Clerk
County of

(Address)

Project Title: Blacksmith Ecological Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific:

The project area is situated on National Forest System lands in the Georgetown Ranger District northeast of the town of Georgetown in El Dorado County, in the vicinity of Ralston Ridge and Nevada Point Ridge, between the Middle Fork of the American River and the Rubicon River.

Project Location - City: Northeast of Georgetown Project Location - County: El Dorado County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide California Climate Investments (CCI) funding in the amount of \$594,350 to Eldorado National Forest to remove 500 acres of biomass yarded to landings during commercial and non-commercial mechanical thinning treatments and to a biomass facility. Tractor piling of surface fuels or mastication is planned for all mechanical thinning areas. The funding will cover 500 acres of piling and an additional 142 acres of mastication of small shrubs and small trees. In addition, funding will cover mastication in 145 acres of younger plantations with follow-up shrub control on 26 acres using foliar herbicide application to reduce shrub competition with these trees and maintain lower flame lengths in the event of a wildfire.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado 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 the federal 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 CCI funding to conduct fuel reduction activities on federal lands within the Eldorado National Forest. The full project, including the project activities receiving CCI funding, have been analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service pursuant to NEPA, including surveys and analysis of biological resources and cultural and archaeological resources. Those evaluations found that the project would not result in a significant adverse effect. A NEPA Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision was prepared for the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Andrea N. Williams, PMP Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4682

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: June 13, 2019 Title: Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: JUN 17 2019