

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

(Address)

County Clerk
County of Nevada

950 Maidu Ave Ste 210

Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Project (SNC 1221)

Project Location - Specific:

The approximately 260-acre project area is located in the Little Deer Creek Watershed, about 0.5 miles southeast of Nevada City. Land ownership is split between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (200 acres) and a mix of private lands held under conservation easement or fee titled by the Bear Yuba Land Trust (60 acres).

Project Location – City: 0.5 miles southeast of Nevada City

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$75,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute to complete pre-implementation surveys, create a forest management plan, and prepare a proposed action and purpose and need document to support future NEPA and CEQA compliance. This planning and environmental compliance would support future implementation of the Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Project, with the goal of achieving healthy and resilient landscapes, and minimizing the threat of natural disturbances such as fire around their local communities and protecting water resources.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yuba Watershed Institute

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 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262, "Feasibility and Planning Studies"

Reasons why project is exempt:

This is a planning project involving biological surveys and the preparation of environmental analysis documents; it does not involve physical alterations to the environment. Specific actions include biological surveys and partial preparation of NEPA and CEQA documents that evaluate future possible actions. However, those actions have not been approved, and the completion of these environmental documents will not have a legally binding effect on future activities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jamie Sammut Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4688

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:  Date: 3/6/2020 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 10 2020

Revised 2005