

Notice of Exemption

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 Nevada
950 Maidu Ave Ste 210
Nevada City, CA 95959

(Address)

Project Title: Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project (SNC 1220)

Project Location - Specific:

The approximately 1,230-acre project area is located in Nevada County, about three miles north of Nevada City, in the Deer Creek and South Yuba River watersheds. The project work will take place on federal lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (1,070 acres) and contiguous private lands held under conservation easement of the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) (160 acres).

Project Location - City: North 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 \$100,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute to perform pre-implementation surveys for rare plants, noxious weeds, sensitive wildlife species (California Red-legged frogs, California Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, and others as needed), and cultural resources; produce a Biological Resources Report; prepare a management plan for treatment areas, and prepare a draft joint NEPA/CEQA analysis. This planning and environmental compliance would support future implementation of the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project, with the goal of creating a forest management plan, a healthy and resilient landscape, increasing safety of ingress/egress for residents and fire personnel during a wildfire, minimizing the threat of natural disturbances such as fire around their local communities and cultural sites, and protecting and improving watershed health.

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 data collection and the preparation of environmental analysis documents; it does not involve physical alterations to the environment. Specific actions include biological surveys and 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: [Signature] Date: 3/6/2020 Title: Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Signed by Applicant

MAR 11 2020