

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: Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project (SNC 1254)

Project Location - Specific:

The approximately 964-acre project area is located on private land between Hoyt's and Purdon Crossings in the South Yuba River Canyon, and adjacent to the South Yuba River State Park. The project extends two miles along the South Yuba River downstream of Purdon crossing, approximately two miles northwest of Nevada City and four miles north of Grass Valley. It is in the South Yuba River watershed, upstream of Englebright Reservoir.

Project Location - City: 2 miles NW of Nevada City, 4 miles N of Grass Valley Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$99,990 to American Rivers to complete CEQA surveys and documents, vegetation survey and geospatial modeling, develop a fuels reduction and burn plan, and to coordinate communication and outreach events. This planning and environmental compliance would support future implementation of the Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project, with the goal to reduce fuel loading and reintroduce fire across 964 acres of mixed conifer forest in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) lands within 6 miles of 6 high fire-risk communities and adjacent to the South Yuba River. The overall goal is to implement a fuel treatment project that will result in multiple watershed, ecological, community and capacity benefits and will increase the pace of ecologically sound forest management in the long term.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American Rivers

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 the preparation of environmental analysis documents; it does not involve physical alterations to the environment. Specific actions include resource surveys, project planning, public outreach, and preparation of a CEQA document that evaluates 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

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: MAR 10 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 10 2020