

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

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Plumas

520 Main Street, Room 102

Quincy, CA 95971

Lassen

220 S Lassen St #5th

Susanville, CA 96130

Project Title: Advancing Community-Scale Wood Energy in Plumas County

Project Applicant: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Project Location – Specific:

Quincy Junior Senior High School in Quincy, CA; and Crescent Mills approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Greenville, CA

Project Location - City: Quincy and Crescent Mills, CA

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$937,075 in funding for the purchase and installation of equipment to support the utilization of wood chips for generating heat at the Quincy Junior Senior High School. Specific activities would include the replacement of an existing oil-fired boiler at the Quincy Junior Senior High School with a new biomass heating system rated at 1,365 MBH, which would utilize approximately 240 tons of wood chips per year. The new biomass heating system would be located at the same site as the existing oil-fired boiler and it would serve the same purpose and provide approximately the same heating capacity as the existing boiler. The project would also involve the purchase and installation of permanent covered storage sheds to store wood chips at the existing Crescent Mills Wood Utilization Campus, which is owned by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment and zoned for heavy industrial use. These sheds would be accessory to existing uses at campus and would be a total of approximately 50 feet by 200 feet in size. It also involves the purchase of a small portable wood chip truck dumper for use at the existing Crescent Mills Wood Utilization Campus and other appropriate locations. The wood chip truck dumper would also be accessory to the existing uses and would be portable such that it would not require permanent installation at the site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

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: Sections 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction) and 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____


Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction, and Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. The replacement of the oil-fired boiler with a biomass heating system qualifies for the Section 15302 exemption because it involves the replacement of an existing utility system with a new system that would be located on the same site and have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing system. The installation of covered wood chip storage sheds at the Crescent Mills Wood Utilization Campus and the purchase of the small portable wood chip truck dumper qualifies for the Section 15303 exemption because it involves the installation or placement of a limited number of small accessory structures that are appurtenant to the existing structures and uses at the site. None of the exceptions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to these activities. The biomass heating system, storage sheds, and portable wood chip truck dumper would be placed on existing developed sites that do not contain sensitive or historical resources. No significant environmental or cumulative effects would occur as the result of the project.

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 Applicant ☒ Signed by Lead Agency:

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 10 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE