

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 Nevada950 Maidu Ave. Ste 210Nevada City, CA 95959**Project Title:** 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project—Phase Two (SNC 1222)**Project****Applicant:** Yuba Watershed Institute**Project Location – Specific:**

Project sites are located on the San Juan Ridge, in Nevada County, near the communities of North San Juan and Nevada City.

Project Location - City: 4 mi North of Nevada City**Project Location - County:** Nevada**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$1,000,000 in funding to the Yuba Watershed Institute for forest thinning and fuel reduction treatments on 314 acres of federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The treatments would improve landscape-level forest resiliency to wildfire, drought, and bark beetles and improve safety for residents and fire personnel in the event of a wildfire. This project would treat 314 acres of the 1,200 acres of Inimim Forest Landscape identified as priorities for forest health treatments.

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: _____ 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 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 funding for fuel reduction on 314 acres of federal land. The proposed activities were reviewed in their entirety under NEPA in the Inimim Forest Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The final Decision Notice for the EA/FONSI was signed by the Bureau of Land Management on January 1, 2020.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jamie SammutArea 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: 3/6/2020Title: Deputy Executive Officer

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

 Signed by Applicant Signed by Lead Agency:

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

MAR 10 2020**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

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