

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk
County of: Trinity
11 Court Street
Weaverville, CA 96093

Project Title: Upper Trinity River Watershed Fire Resilience Planning and Prioritization Project – SNC1381

Project Location – Specific: 474,213 acres encompassing the Upper Trinity River Watershed in northern Trinity County

Project Location - City: Nearby communities include Trinity Center, Coffee Creek, Covington Mill, Minersville, Weaverville, and Lewiston

Project Location - County: Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding for third-party NEPA planning for the Bowerman Cooperative Fuelbreak project as well as broader landscape treatment prioritization and planning across the entire Upper Trinity River Watershed including Lidar data processing and geospatial analysis, development and deployment of the Vibrant Planet Land Tender software, and drone photogrammetry collection of high-priority post fire management areas of the 2021 River Complex. The outcome of this planning project would yield a combination of shovel-ready treatments, data for NEPA/CEQA compliance, and a decade of prioritized projects to rapidly move to implementation in support of fire recovery and long-term strategic risk reduction.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Watershed Research and Training Center

Exempt Status: Statutory Exemption, Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies of the CEQA Guidelines. This project involves only the planning studies for possible future actions, which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded. The planning project will not have a physical effect on the environment. The project is also categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15306, Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-906-7345

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

DocuSigned by:

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Signature: _____

Date: 6/3/2022

Date: _____

Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.