

2019038340

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 Fresno

2220 Tulare Street, First Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: Blue Rush Forest Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific:

The project is centered at approximately 37°01'5.09"N and 119°12'54.70"W

Project Location - City: Shaver Lake, CA

Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$999,960 in funding to the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council for forest fuel reduction treatments on 450 acres of federal lands within the Sierra National Forest. If funding allows, the project would also include fuels treatments on an additional 200 acres, and associated revegetation, education, and outreach activities. The project would create a shaded fuel break to protect forest resources and promote public safety by reducing the intensity, severity, and risk of future wildfires. Specific activities include hand and machine felling of dead and dying trees, and piling or mastication of downed biomass. The project is located near the communities of Shaver Lake, Ockenden, Pineridge, Cressmans, and Dinkey Creek, which would be at risk in the event of a wildfire in the project area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council

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 the federal 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 activities on up to 650 acres of federal land within the Sierra National Forest. The actions to be undertaken were reviewed in their entirety pursuant to NEPA as documented in a Decision Memo (DM) for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). The final CE/DM was signed by the Sierra National Forest on February 15, 2018.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Clotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

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: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 3/14/19

Title: A.E.O.

Signed by Lead Agency:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR:

MAR 14 2019

Signed by Applicant

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE