

To: Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

To: Calaveras County Clerk Recorder
891 Mountain Ranch Rd, Building D
San Andreas, CA 95249

Project Title: McKays Strategic Fuelbreak Amendment (SNC1514.1) (SCH2023030180)

Project Location – Specific: In the wildland urban interface on the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest, directly adjacent to the west of the communities of Avery and Hathaway Pines, along Highway 4. Project center at approximately -120.380, 39.199 degrees.

Project Location - City: Avery

Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is amending grant agreement 1514 with the County of Calaveras to authorize the use of grant funds towards fuels reduction activities on the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest, in the wildland urban interface near the communities of Avery and Hathaway Pines. The County of Calaveras, in partnership with Stanislaus National Forest, will implement fuels reduction treatments on 230, up to 347, acres. Treatments include mastication to thin small trees and decadent brush (1-10" dbh) to increase the spacing between conifer trees, shred competing vegetation, and maintain tree diversity. Overstocked areas would be thinned to approximately 16' - 22' spacing, leaving the most dominant and vigorously growing conifers and oak trees. Healthy sugar pine, Douglas-fir, oaks, and incense Cedar would not be removed, they would be left where their growth could be protected. Trees greater than 10" DBH will be mechanically thinned or thinned by hand to approximately 16' to 22' spacing, retaining the best dominant trees. Thinned trees may be chipped for biomass fuel for electric cogeneration plants, removed as sawlogs, or decked and left on site for future burning or public firewood cutting. The project is one treatment area within the Stanislaus National Forest's larger Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration project, reviewed and authorized in 2018 per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All Management Requirements identified in the 2018 *Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Decision Memo* will be followed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Applicant / Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
County of Calaveras

Jamie Andriola
891 Mountain Ranch Rd, Building A, San Andreas, CA
(209) 754-6823
jandriola@calaverascounty.gov

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

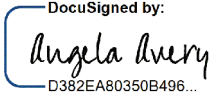
Reasons why project is exempt: Public Resources Code, section 4799.05 statutorily exempts from CEQA projects for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel-reduction projects, or to related activities included in the project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the County of Calaveras to work in partnership with the Stanislaus National Forest to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on national forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the Stanislaus National Forest and authorized in the *Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Decision Memo* signed on October 1, 2018.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Andy Fristensky **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (530) 823-4670

If filed by applicant: N/A

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:  D382EA80350B496...

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 4/27/2026

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.