

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

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

Project Title: Veater / Ekarnas Hemman Conservation Easement Development Project Amendment (SNC1431.1-LC) [SCH 2023030168]

Project Location – Specific: Six contiguous parcels directly north of the community of Fine Gold, Madera County. APNs 054-271-002, 066-110-014, 050-010-009, 054-271-006, 054-260- 004, 050-010-011.

Project Location - City: Fine Gold

Project Location - County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has amended grant agreement SNC1431 with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to approve use of the remaining grant funds to conduct planning and due-diligence activities for a potential future conservation easement to be placed on approximately 1,063-acres just north of Fine Gold, Madera County. The SNC grant funds will be used to support grantee staff time for due-diligence activities, potentially including such items as a mineral remoteness opinion, a phase one environment site assessment (ESA) or transaction screen, an appraisal, review of the title report and resolution of issues, developing an agreement reflecting the final financial structure of the acquisition, a long-term adaptive management plan, a baseline conditions report, and a draft of the conservation easement terms. The project's location in the greater Coarsegold area is within a network of other privately and publicly protected lands, including two other conservation easements on private ranches, Bureau of Land Management lands, and Sierra National Forest lands. This acquisition will fit into an existing greenbelt adjacent to route CA-41 where development is becoming more common.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Bridget Fithian, Executive Director
209.742.5556
PO Box 691
5065 Highway 140, Suite G
Mariposa, CA 95338

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102 and CEQA Guidelines,

Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Information Collection

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies as the project only involves planning studies for possible future actions, which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board has not approved, adopted, or funded; there is no legally binding effect on later activities. The project is also categorically exempt under Section 15306 Information Collection (Class 6) because it consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a disturbance to environmental resources. The proposed activities are for information gathering purposes and are part of a study leading to an action that a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. This project does not fall within any exceptions to the categorical exemption.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mary Akens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-450-5177

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: _____
DocuSigned by:
Angela Avery
D382EA80350B496...

Title: _____
Executive Officer

Date: _____
12/12/2025

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.