

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

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

Project Title: (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project Amendment No.1 (#1728.1-RFFCP) [SNC SCH 2024110279, WCB SERP SCH 2023080762]

Project Location – Specific: General communication, outreach, and planning activities in Nevada County, Yuba County, and Sierra County, with vegetation treatments at the Nevada City School of the Arts, 3032 Bitney Springs Rd, Nevada City.

Project Location - City: Nevada City

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has amended and augmented grant #1728-RFFCP with the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) (Grantee) to allow additional grant funds to be used for the planning and purchasing of equipment, and trainings on equipment use. Equipment purchased would consist of a mini excavator with mastication head. Training on equipment use will take place in coordination with the Sierra Streams Institute on the Kocim Pakan (Nevada City School of the Arts) property, to implement vegetation treatments for habitat restoration, as approved under the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects Concurrence No. 21080.56-2023-034-R2. Activities may include thinning, decreasing risk of catastrophic wildfire, and controlling nonnative invasive plant species such as Scotch broom on the Nevada City School of the Arts property which is a part of the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

California Heritage Indigenous Research Project
Ember Amador, Executive Assistant
P.O. Box 2624 Nevada City, CA 95959
530-460-8494

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code Section 21080.56, subdivision (a).

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 21080.56, subd. (a) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP). In June 2023, the Wildlife Conservation Board, as Lead Agency, proposed a determination that the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to SERP. On August 7, 2023, California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Director, Charlton H. Bonham, Certified the Concurrence Determination No. 21080.56-2023-034-R2 (2023 Concurrence Determination) concurring with the Wildlife Conservation Board's determination as Lead Agency that the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. The Concurrence Determination allows other public agencies to rely on this concurrence when it proposes to carry out or approve the Project subsequent to the effective date of the Concurrence Determination, the 2023 Concurrence Determination shall remain in effect and no separate concurrence from CDFW shall be required so long as the other public agency is carrying out or approving the Project as described by the 2023 Concurrence Determination and Wildlife Conservation Board's Request. The SNC determined that training activities approved by this grant agreement Amendment are as described in by the 2023 Concurrence Determination and Wildlife Conservation Board's Request. For these reasons, the Amendment is exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

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: Angela Avery _____

Executive Officer

Title: _____**Date:** 10/16/2025 _____**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.