

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

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

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

**To:** Amador County Clerk  
810 Court Street  
Jackson, CA 95642

**Project Title:** Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B Amendment (SNC 1636.1) (SCH 2024030335)

**Project Location – Specific:** Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District. Along both sides of State Highway 88, between the Dufrene Rd intersection and the Tragedy Springs Rd intersection.

**Project Location - City:** Approximately 6 miles southwest of Kirkwood.

**Project Location - County:** Amador

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is amending grant agreement #1636 with the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority for the Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B project, to authorize the use of grant funds on an additional approximately 1,456 acres of fuel reduction treatments along State Highway 88 in Amador County. Treatments include but are not limited to mastication and hand treatments, including some work around Aspen stands. The project is part of the larger landscape-scale 25,671-acre ENF Forest Projects Plan Phase One project, a timber stand and wildlife-habitat improvement and protection project designed to help prevent high-intensity, larger scale wildfires, improve forest conditions, and protect important wildlife habitat and other resources. Phase One consists of non-commercial actions to reduce forest ladder fuels and implement other forest-management activities on the Amador Ranger District. The amendment activities have been analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All work would be implemented under a partnership between the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority and Eldorado National Forest, consistent with NEPA documents governing the activities.

In March of 2024 the SNC awarded a grant to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority to implement project #1636, Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B. The project involved fuels reduction activities which had been analyzed under NEPA, and SNC filed a Notices of Exemption pursuant to Public Resources Code 4799.05(d)(1) under SCH 2024030335.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority  
Karen Quidachay, Program Director  
2864 Ray Lawyer Drive, Suite 205, Placerville, California 95667  
530-903-0116

**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 NEPA if the primary role of a state or local agency is providing funding or staffing for those projects. The SNC is providing funding to the UMRWA to conduct fuels reduction and forest-health treatments in the ENF. The Project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA in the ENF Projects Plan Phase One Decision Notice signed on November 23, 2022.

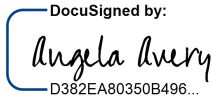
**Lead Agency**

**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:**  D382EA80350B496...

Executive Officer

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 7/29/2025

**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.