

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: El Dorado County Recorder - Clerk
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667I

Project Title: Eldorado Community Defense Project 2025 (SNC1813)

Project Location – Specific: There are two general treatment locations, both on Eldorado National Forest lands. 1) Georgetown Ranger District, Darling Ridge area, near the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, and Volcanoville. Approximately 4.5 miles SE of Georgetown, 5.8 miles NE of Garden Valley. Treatment center at approximately -120.760, 38.874 degrees. 2) Placerville Ranger District by the community of Pollock Pines. Approximately 0.7 miles west of Jenkinson Reservoir and 2.8 miles south of Pollock Pines, along the north side of Sly Park Road. Treatment center at approximately -120.593, 38.717 degrees.

Project Location - City: 1) Near
Georgetown, Garden Valley. 2) Near
Pollock Pines.

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) to complete between 350 to 400 acres of vegetation management treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and protect communities and critical infrastructure from wildfire in El Dorado County. Existing conditions consist of high tree density and heavy surface fuel loads, where fire modeling predicts high-intensity, fast-spreading wildfire in the event of an ignition. Planned treatment types for both units include a mix of mastication to reduce brush and small diameter timber, up to 12" DBH and hand-cut and chip to reduce fuel loads and alter fire behavior. This will reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire and result in the protection of communities, vital ingress/egress routes, and emergency-response assets. Treatments in the Darling Ridge Unit will create a nearly 3.5-mile-long fuel break along a landscape feature that is critical for community protection, wildfire suppression, and evacuation planning. Treatments in the Sly Park Unit will protect communities, an outdoor education center, ENF hotshot base and fire station, and El Dorado Irrigation District water facilities and infrastructure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road Placerville, CA 95667
Jacobie Waters, Forest Fire Management Officer
(530) 414-3470
Jacobie.waters@usda.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 ENF to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on National Forest lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the Eldorado National Forest in the *Chiquita Prescribed Burn Project Categorical Exclusion Decision Memo* signed on September 7, 2018; the *Tobacco Gulch Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact* signed on June 5, 2017; and the *Environmental Assessment for Marshall Mines Fuels Reduction Project with Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Notice* signed on June 24, 2008 with a *Confirmation Of NEPA Adequacy* signed on December 19, 2025.

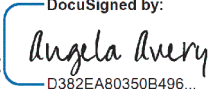
Lead Agency

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: 
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Executive Officer

Title: _____

Date: 3/5/2026 _____

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.