

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

Project Title: Manton WUI Protection Project (SNC1838)

Project Location – Specific: Roadways around the perimeter of the community of Manton, approximately 35 miles east of Red Bluff and three miles south of Shingletown. Project area includes portions of the following roadways: Battle Creek Bottom Rd., Wilson Hill Rd., Battle View Dr., Rock Creek Rd., Manton Rd., South Powerhouse Rd., Forward Rd., Manton School Rd., Ponderosa Way, Hazen Rd., and Sunnyview Dr. Treatment center at approximately -121.896, 40.434 degrees.

Project Location - City: Manton

Project Location - County: Tehama,
Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCBTC) to create strategic roadside fuel breaks to provide a 630-acre defensible perimeter around the Manton community. The project is located on county-owned and one private parcel and will mitigate the rural communities’ susceptibility to high-intensity wildfire and improve safety along ingress/egress routes. The project area has dense mixed conifer forest, heavy brush and ladder fuels, frequent summer drought, and steep terrain that accelerates fire spread and is classified as a “Very High Wildfire Risk” zone. Fuels-reduction efforts will be achieved through a mix of treatments. Hand-thinning and chipping on 310 acres across six strategic roadways will reduce ladder fuels and create canopy spacing to decrease risk of crown fire. Mastication of 120 acres on the south side of Hazen Road will establish a network of connected fuel breaks and create defensible lines up to 200’ in width that strategically protect the southern part of the wildland urban interface (WUI). Targeted herbicide spot or stump treatment across 200 acres of essential ingress/egress routes will aid in preventing resprouts and resurgent growth to leverage prior projects in the area and ensure their efficacy.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County
202 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080
Drew Barnhart, Project Manager

530-727-1294
dbarnhart@tehamacountyrcd.org

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of roadside fuel-reduction treatments to protect a community from the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Treatments will be in already-disturbed roadside areas, will retain existing land uses and will not change the underlying landform, drainage, or topography. Herbicide application will be conducted by licensed applicators in compliance with California Department of Pesticide Regulation and County Agricultural Commissioner requirements, including completion of all applicable pesticide use reporting. The RCDTC completed resource database searches, have omitted known sensitive locations from the treatment area, and have built standard protective measures, such as pre-implementation surveys, flagging and avoidance, and inadvertent archeological discovery procedures with appropriate tribal consultation and/or monitoring as needed. The SNC reviewed the project and concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to resources. The project has been independently reviewed and the SNC has determined that none of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 would apply.

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: 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.