

**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:** Fresno County Recorder  
1250 Van Ness Ave  
Fresno, CA 93721

**Project Title:** Fresno County Wildfire Defense Accelerator: Operational Fuel Break Project (SNC1839)

**Project Location – Specific:** Five existing fuel breaks within Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District. 1) Mushroom Rock fuel break spanning between Mushroom Rock and Black Point Road, approximately 0.6 miles directly west of Huntington Lake, south of Black Point Peak. Center at approximately -119.256, 37.231 degrees. 2)Tamarack fuel break, approximately two miles south of Huntington Lake and three miles northeast of Shaver Lake in the vicinity of Tollhouse Road. Center at approximately -119.211, 37.167 degrees. 3) Swanson fuel break along Pine Ridge, approximately 0.8 miles south of Shaver Lake and 0.75 miles east of Old Bretz Mill, south of Swanson Meadow in the vicinity of Dinky Creek and Swanee roads. Center at approximately -119.271, 37.077 degrees. 4) Exchequer fuel break, approximately seven miles southeast of Shaver Lake and eight miles west of Courtright Reservoir, immediately west of Cabin Meadow, bounded on the north by Exchequer Meadow Road and on the west and south by McKinley Grove Road. Center at approximately -119.135, 37.062 degrees. 5) Vincent fuel break, approximately 3.6 miles east of Tollhouse, bounded on the west by North Fork Sycamore Creek in the vicinity of Peterson Road in the north and Cripe Road and Vincent Fire Road in the south. Center at approximately -119.326, 37.032 degrees.

**Project Location - City:** Near Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake, Tollhouse.

**Project Location - County:** Fresno

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to Sierra Resource Conservation District to partner with Sierra National Forest to complete construction on strategic fuel breaks through pile burning and prescribed fire on a minimum of 1,000 acres, and a maximum of 5,000 acres. The project is located entirely on the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District. There are five critical fuel breaks on which vegetation treatments have occurred to construct the fuel breaks, but there are now fuel piles left to be burned – the last activity needed to complete the fuel breaks. Sierra National Forest Fuels and Fire Management staff, as well as the Sierra Resource Conservation District Alignment Strategies Group Fire Crew, will conduct burn activities consistent with all National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements and state and local regulations. The project will start working in the highest priority fuel breaks of Vincent and Swanson, and

then proceed into the second priority fuel breaks as conditions allow. The communities that will directly benefit from the project's pile burning and prescribed fire accomplishments include Shaver Lake and the greater area subdivisions, Cressman's, Peterson Road, Huntington Lake, Tamarack Ridge, Big Creek, Camp Sierra, Dinkey and 13 Firewise Communities of Shaver West, Shaver East, Ockenden, Sierra Cedars, Quartz Mountain, Bretz Mill, Peterson Road/Shaver Springs, Pineridge, Bald Mountain, Dinkey Creek, Courtright, Huntington Lake, and Camp Sierra.

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

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

Sierra Resource Conservation District  
P.O. Box 693 Auberry, CA 93602  
Kelly Kucharski, District Manager  
(559) 855-5840  
kkucharski@sierrarcd.com

**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 has authorized/approved the use of the funding for the Sierra Resource Conservation District to partner with Sierra National Forest to conduct fuels-reduction treatments on National Forest lands. The project includes final treatments on five existing fuel breaks. Activities on each fuel break were reviewed in their entirety as documented in Sierra National Forest NEPA documents specific to each fuel break: the *Exchequer Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the Exchequer Restoration Project* signed on March 4, 2019; the *Decision Memo for the Huntington Recovery Project* signed on May 4, 2022; the *Creek Fire Ecological Restoration Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and Creek Fire Ecological Restoration Project Decision Notice* signed on June 23, 2023; the *High Sierra Fuelbreak Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for High Sierra Fuelbreak Maintenance Project* signed on September 9, 2011; and the *Bald Mountain Project Environmental Assessment with Decision Notice for the Bald Mountain Project* signed on October 8, 2014.

**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:  
D382EA80350B496...

**Title:** Executive Officer

**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.