

To: 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: (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays (1731-RFFCP).

Project Location – Specific: Ladies Valley Land Preserve in South Central El Dorado County, near the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and Oak Hill Road, approximately two miles Northwest of the city of Outingdale.

Project Location - City: NW of
Outingdale

Project Location - County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will amend and augment grant agreement #1731-RFFCP (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Subgrant - Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays (Project) with the Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays (Grantee) to allow additional grant funds to be used for capacity building efforts, project development, and completing a Traditional Ecological (TEK) cultural burn 14.9 acres and a 8.2 acre hand-built fuel break. The objective of the Project is the removal of "obnoxious weeds" allowing the rejuvenation of native cultural plants and grasses and establishment of a shaded fuelbreak. The Grantee will utilize Tribal hand crews to minimize ground disturbance to complete the implementation activities. In lieu of destructive mechanical ground disturbance, all work will be done using only hand tools. This "low-impact" approach protects the sensitive soil organics and archaeological integrity of the site. The Tribal hand crews will hand cut a fire line providing minimal soil disturbance. These hand lines will be no more than 4’ft wide and down to organic soils. Tribal stewards will selectively thin understory ladder fuels while maintaining the overstory canopy by hand thinning with chainsaws and felling operations. There is a cooperative Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) agreement (AEU VMP – Ladies Valley RX-North-048-AEU) with CALFIRE for fuels reduction treatments for fuel breaks and prescribed fire application across the property. While the VMP involves standard mechanical treatments and higher-intensity burns, CAL FIRE agreed to work with the tribes under the VMP agreement to support implementing vegetation treatments using the lower-impact TEK approach. All operations will be conducted under the authority of valid local burn permits, strictly adhering to Air Quality Management District (AQMD) smoke protocols and local fire regulations to ensure public safety and ecological integrity. The burn will be done under the guidance of a Cultural Burn Practitioner, in coordination with on-site qualified CAL FIRE personnel. All work will follow protective measures and standards identified in the VMP and under Forest Practice Rules.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays,
Kimberly Petree, Executive Director,
2825 Sleepy Hollow Court Placerville, CA 95667,
(530) 363-4816.

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption: Cal.Code Regs.Tit.14 (CEQA Guidelines), section 15304; Minor Alterations to Land

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, provides that projects that consist 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, are exempt for CEQA environmental documentation requirements, provided no exceptions apply. The Proposed Project will employ Tribal hand crews to remove "obnoxious weeds" through a 14.9 acre TEK cultural burn , allowing the rejuvenation of native cultural plants and grasses, and establish an 8.2 acre shaded fuel break utilizing hand thinning with chainsaws and felling operations, and pile burning. No heavy equipment will be used. All work will be done in partnership with CAL FIRE under the CAL FIRE approved cooperative Vegetation Management Plan agreement (AEU VMP – Ladies Valley RX-North-048-AEU), with qualified personnel, following identified resource protective measures, and under the authority of valid local burn permits, strictly adhering to Air Quality Management District (AQMD) smoke protocols and local fire regulations. The SNC reviewed the project and determined that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, and none of the exceptions to the exemptions apply to the project.

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*

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 3/19/2026

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.