

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: Kern River Valley Community Park and River Recreation Planning Project
(SNC1942-RT)

Project Location – Specific: The project is located at the former Kernville Golf Course at 9472 Burlando Road and adjacent lands in Kernville, CA. Coordinates: 35°44'20.18"N, 118°25'30.16"W

Project Location - City: 1 mile south of
the community of Kernville

Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to the Kernville Chamber of Commerce to conduct community engagement, design, and environmental studies for the Kern River Valley Community Park and River Recreation Planning Project. The project consists of (1) planning and design activities needed to bring upland features of the park to shovel-ready status for future implementation and (2) a site-specific feasibility study, early agency consultation, and draft aquatic permitting for riverside and in-stream recreation features. The planning effort would evaluate the potential retrofit and revitalization of the former Kernville Golf Course and adjacent lands, which are operated under a special-use permit through the Sequoia National Forest. The project would evaluate conceptual design elements for a future public park that may include disc golf, walking paths, hard-surface recreation courts, gathering areas, and in-stream modifications for river recreation. The studies would also evaluate opportunities for habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, floodplain conveyance, and fuel reduction. The project is intended to support recreation planning and economic development in the Kern River Valley, which would benefit nearby communities, including those identified as disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. No construction or ground-disturbing activities would be authorized under this action.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Kernville Chamber of Commerce
Gary Ananian
11447 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238
818-984-8505
gary@kernriverconservancy.org

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15262 (California Code of Regulations, Title 14) and Pub. Resources Code, Section 21102.

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, which applies to feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. The project would grant funding for the community engagement, design, and environmental studies for the Kern River Valley Community Park and River Recreation Planning Project. These planning activities would not approve, fund, or commit SNC or any other agency to implementation of any physical improvements. Any future actions that may result in physical environmental effects, including construction or implementation of park features, would be subject to separate environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act and/or CEQA prior to approval. The SNC reviewed the project and concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Andy Fristensky

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-823-4670

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...

Title: Executive Officer

Date: 6/4/2026

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.