

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: Whiskey Flat Trail Improvement Project (SNC1945-RT)

Project Location – Specific: Southern terminus of the 14.5-mile Whiskey Flat Trail within Sequoia National Forest, Kern River Ranger District. Coordinates: 35°46'33.99"N, 118°26'42.82"W

Project Location - City: Kernville

Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide funding to Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council to prepare a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document, complete associated technical studies, and develop preliminary engineering (30 percent design) for the Whiskey Flat Trail Improvement Project. The project focuses on environmental review and preliminary design for potential future improvements to the Whiskey Flat Trail within Sequoia National Forest, which is managed by the United States Forest Service. The planning effort evaluates relocation of the existing trailhead parking area onto National Forest System lands to improve long-term access and avoid continued reliance on constrained private easements. It also evaluates the replacement of an informal creek crossing at Bull Run Creek with a more resilient pedestrian bridge located outside of the 100-year floodplain. The project is intended to address existing safety concerns, erosion, recreation access, restricted aquatic passage, and damage from high-flow events. The project would protect sensitive riverine ecosystems and benefit residents and visitors who rely on the trail for recreational use. 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:

Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council
Erin Capuchino
40108 Hwy 49, Ste C #298
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559-308-1767
ecapuchino@ysrcandd.org

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: 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 to prepare a joint NEPA and CEQA document, complete associated technical studies, and develop preliminary engineering (30 percent design) for the Whiskey Flat Trail Improvement 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 trail improvements, would be subject to separate environmental review under NEPA and CEQA prior to approval. The SNC reviewed the project and concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to resources.

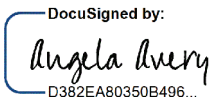
Lead Agency

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...

Executive Officer

Title:

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.