

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 Clerk
2220 Tulare St, 1st Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Project Title: (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Program – Big Sandy Rancheria
(SNC1741-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: The perimeter of Big Sandy Rancheria. Rancheria headquarters at 37387 Auberry Mission Road. Treatment center at approximately -119.467, 37.085 degrees.

Project Location - City: Big Sandy
Rancheria, near Auberry

Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would award grant agreement #1741-RFFCP (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Program – Big Sandy Rancheria to Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians to partner with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to maintain existing fuel breaks around Big Sandy Rancheria. Utilizing tribal crews, hand, and mechanical treatments, the Proposed Project would reduce hazardous fuels on 70-80 acres of previous established shaded fuel breaks. Potential specific treatment activities to maintain the fuel break would include thinning of ladder fuels and overgrown vegetation, removal of dead and downed woody debris, hand thinning, mechanical thinning, lop & scatter, mastication, and chipping, and maintenance of defensible space around homes and structures. The fuel breaks were originally established between 2022 and 2024, and this project is maintenance activities within the existing fuel break footprints.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians
Rebecca Riley, Assistant Tribal Administrator
Big Sandy Rancheria
37387 Auberry Mission Rd.
Auberry, CA 93602
(559) 374-0046, rriley@bsrnation.com

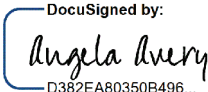
Exempt Status:**Statutory Exemption:** Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)**Categorical Exemption :** Cal. Code Regs. Title 14 § 15301 Existing Facilities and Cal. Code Regs. Title 14 § 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

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 National Environmental Policy Act (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 Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians to work in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct fuel-reduction treatments on Big Sandy Rancheria Federal Trust Lands. The project was reviewed in its entirety under NEPA by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the *TR-4314 P5 J51 Big Sandy Fire Grant* decision signed on May 6, 2026. Additionally, as the project consist of vegetation maintenance activities on existing fuel breaks with no expansion of existing use and no significant impact on resources, it qualifies for the categorical exemption under Cal. Code Regs. Title 14 § 15301 Existing Facilities. Additionally, as the project consists of minor vegetation alterations through forestry treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and maintain an existing fuel break with no significant impacts on resources, it qualifies for the categorical exemption under Cal. Code Regs. Title 14 § 15304 Minor Alterations to Land.

Lead Agency**Contact Person:** Wendy Johnson**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...

Title: Executive Officer**Date:** 07/24/26**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.