

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: Butte County Clerk
155 Nelson Ave
Orville, CA 95965

Project Title: (RFFCP2022) Tribal Capacity Building Program – Berry Creek Rancheria
(#1742-RFFCP)

Project Location – Specific: There are three separate, non-contiguous project areas. 1) Plumas National Forest, Bald Rock Trailhead. 50 acres on the Brush Creek quadrangle located at 39.645164° N, 121.340242° W; 2) 338 Raccoon Rd Berry Creek CA The 338 Raccoon Road unit comprises 39.5 ac on the Berry Creek quadrangle in T20N, ROSE, section 1; and 3) Berry Creek Cemetery the Berry Creek Cemetery unit comprises 11.24 ac on the Forbestown quadrangle in T20N, ROSE, section 12.

Project Location - City: Unincorporated
Butte County near Oroville (95965) &
Feather Falls (95966)

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will provide funding for the Berry Creek Rancheria of the Maidu Indians of California (Grantee) to conduct vegetation management, hazardous fuel reduction, invasive species removal, ecological restoration, native plant establishment, cultural resource stewardship, prescribed and cultural burning on three locations in Butte County. Those locations are; Bald Rock Trail Head (50 acres in Plumas National Forest), 338 Raccoon Road (39.5 acres of land held in fee title by the Grantee) and the Berry Creek Rancheria Cemetery (11.25 acres of land held in fee title by the Grantee). In addition, the SNC will fund the installation of a small prefabricated native seed storage shed. Specific activities will include: hazard tree removal, manual vegetation thinning, mechanical thinning where appropriate, invasive species removal, construction of control lines where necessary to safely conduct prescribed fire, biomass management through hand piling, machine piling, chipping, mastication, lop and scatter or other appropriate treatment methods, broadcast cultural and prescribed burning and pile burning.

The objective of the Project is to advance indigenous land stewardship to increase ecosystem health and fire resilience while reducing the risk of future catastrophic fire. The Project will increase the Grantee's capacity to conduct indigenous-led prescribed fire and post fire ecosystem recovery while supporting the Tribe in increasing fire resilience and fostering a shift toward a healthy fire-adapted ecosystem on the Berry Creek Tribal Cultural Landscape.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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

Berry Creek Rancheria of the Maidu Indians of California,
Gavin Antone: Berry Creek Restoration Workforce Operations Manager
O: (530) 534-3859 ex.1245
C: (530) 353-1746
gavinantone@bcr-nsn.gov

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d)(1)

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

California Public Resources Code section 21084 requires CEQA guidelines to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. 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 from the provisions of CEQA, provided no exceptions apply. The Project is located in an area that was catastrophically burned in the 2020 North Fire Complex. Sensitive habitats, including watercourses, wetlands, riparian habitat, and other habitat for special-status species would be avoided. The project involves shallow ground disturbance during fuel reduction activities and incorporates adequate cultural resource protection measures. Disturbance to riparian and wetland zones would be minimal and best management practices are incorporated into the Project scope of work. Work will occur outside of bird nesting season, or pre-implementation surveys would be completed. Potential Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones have been identified, and protective measures have been incorporated into the Project scope of work. The Project implementation, as designed, would have less than significant impact in each resource area. 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, on the Racoon Road and Berry Creek Cemetery sites and none of the exceptions to the exemption apply to the project.

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. (Pub. Resources Code, section 4799.05, subd. (d). The Bald Rock project area has been reviewed under the NEPA by the US Forest Service who provided justification for a categorical exclusion which is memorialized in the

Plumas National Forest Decision Memo; Bald Rock Forest Restoration and Resilience Project, Signed April 29 2025, no concerns of issues were identified that would significantly affect the environment.

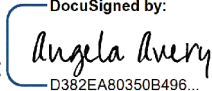
Lead Agency

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: 9/29/2026

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.