

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1065

Applicant: Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Project Title: Diamond Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration Project

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: North

County(ies): Lassen

Funding Amount Requested: \$882,087

Funding Amount Recommended: \$882,087

Total Project Cost: \$6,247,898

Final Score: 87.50

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The Diamond Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration Project is a Category One project located approximately six miles south of Susanville in Lassen County. It is adjacent to the unincorporated communities of Gold Run, Archery/Children's neighborhood, Baxter Creek, Elysian Valley, and Janesville. The Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) will work with Lassen National Forest to accomplish a suite of treatments on 1,056 acres of public land within the wildland urban interface.

The project will continue landscape-scale watershed restoration efforts in the Diamond Mountain watershed by implementing treatments within a 1,056-acre project area on USFS land. Treatments on overstocked mixed conifer plantation forests with high hazardous fuel loads include mastication on 89 acres, hand thinning on 78 acres, mechanical thinning and biomass removal on 89 acres, prescribed burning on 800 acres, and installing 8,448 feet of exclusion fencing around at-risk aspen communities. The Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan identified the Diamond Mountain project as one of its highest priorities for hazardous fuels/watershed restoration.

Significant work on adjacent industrial timberland and private lands downslope of the USFS lands has occurred in recent years, including two current Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grants funding work by the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District and LCFSC. SNC also funded a planning grant to accomplish the NEPA on this project in addition to several past projects in the Diamond Mountains.

LCFSC was recently awarded CALFIRE California Climate Investments (CCI) and Forest Health grants to leverage this work.

LCFSC has successfully completed 10 SNC-funded projects and currently has one active project with SNC. They facilitate the Diamond Mountain Initiative (DMI) and have partnered with Lassen National Forest through a stewardship agreement to conduct restoration treatments on federal land.

The project was developed by the DMI, a collaborative group consisting of LCFSC, USFS, CALFIRE, BLM, SNC, Lassen County, Honey Lake Power, Susan River Fire Protection District, Honey Lake Valley RCD, industrial timberland owners, and local residents. Recently awarded CALFIRE CCI and Forest Health grants will treat an additional 4,511 acres, providing a match of \$5,365,811.

The forested areas of the Diamond Mountains are the headwaters to the Susan River which provide water for irrigating farms and ranches as well as household use dependent on groundwater. Multiple watercourses begin in the project area including: Gold Run Creek, Hills Creek, Lassen Creek, Baxter Creek, and Elysian Creek. Additionally, Emerson Ditch diverts water from Hills Creek and carries it to Emerson Lake, a reservoir created for irrigation purposes. The goals of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program are supported by the project’s restoration treatments to reduce the risk of stand-replacing fires, reduce GHG emissions from future fires, and improve resilience of local communities to climate change. Additionally, the project will protect watersheds important to communities in the Susan River Valley and increase quantity of water available for recharging surface and ground waters.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Prepare bid documents, advertise, bid tour, award	May – July 30, 2019
Pre-treatment monitoring transects	July 1, 2019
Treatments/Implementation	June 2019 – December 2022
Post-treatment monitoring transects	November 1, 2022
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
SNC Final Report	January 2023
Estimated Project Completion Date	January 1, 2023

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Project Management, Fiscal Management & Travel	\$66,100
Prescribed Fire Treatment	\$320,000
Plantation Hand Thinning	\$234,000
Plantation Mechanical Thinning/Biomass Removal, Mastication	\$106,800
Aspen Exclusion Fencing	\$84,480
Monitoring, Reporting	\$13,000
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$57,707
TOTAL:	\$882,087

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Lassen National Forest Supervisor's Office
- Lassen County Farm Bureau
- Susanville Indian Rancheria

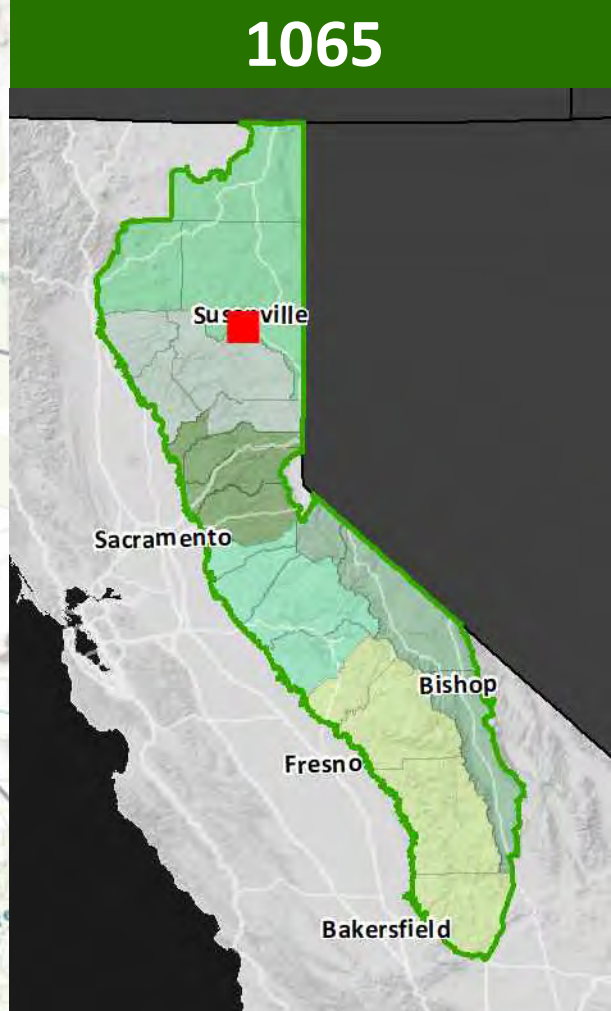
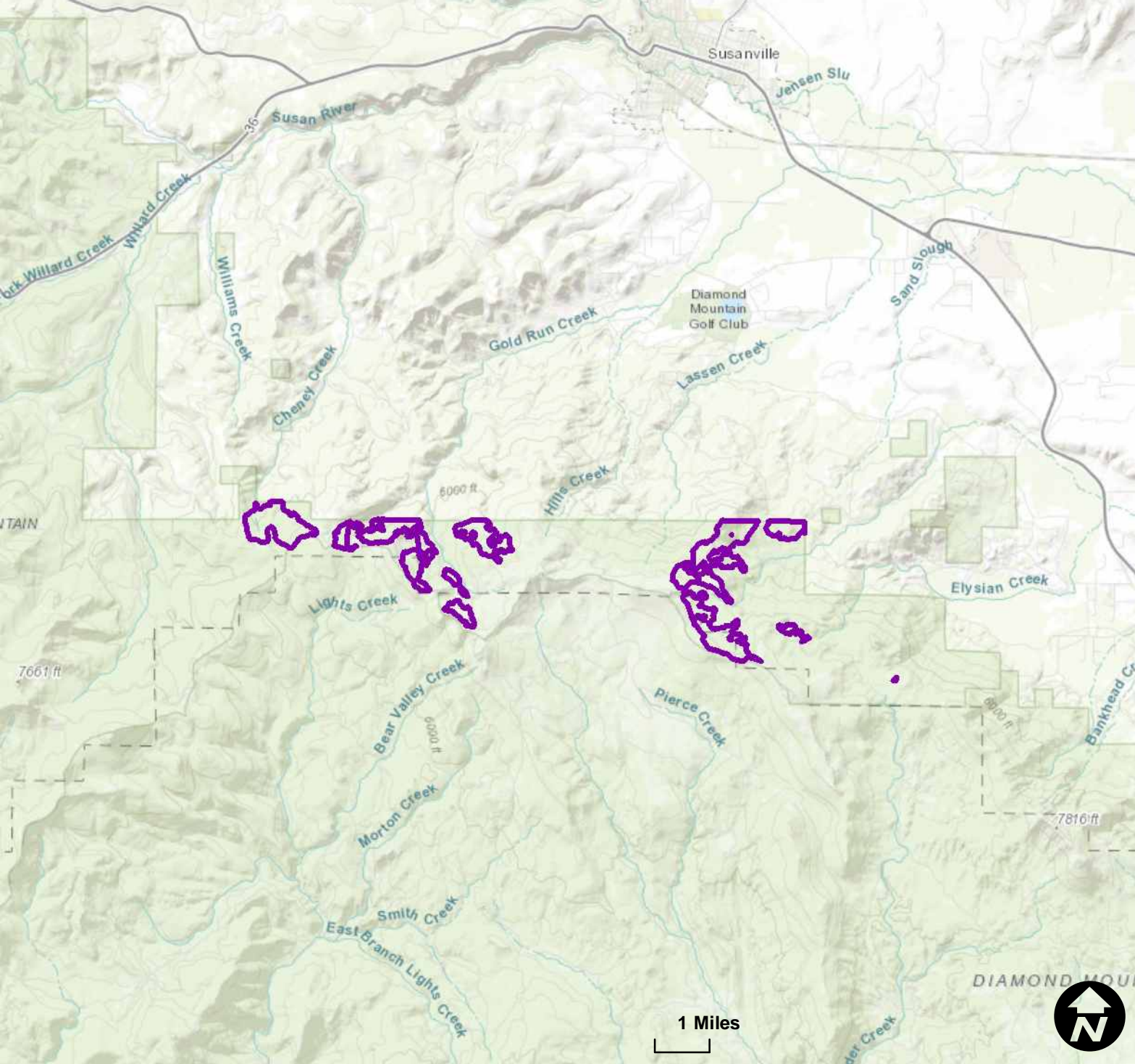
OPPOSITION:









- None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

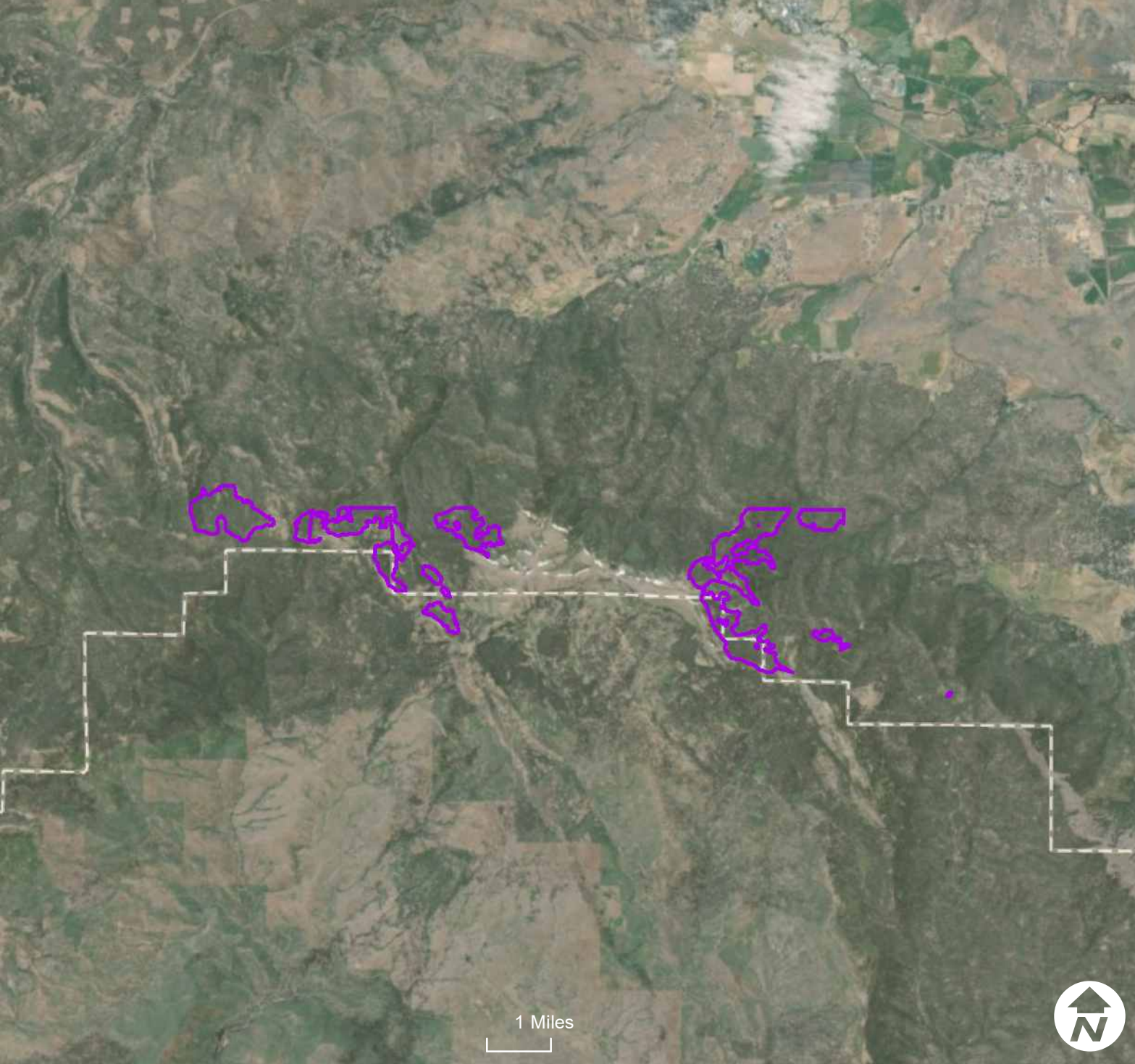
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.









- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created
- Changes in Tree Density and Species Composition (developed by applicant)



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

Diamond Mountain Forest & Watershed Restoration Project
Lassen County Fire Safe Council



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1065

Project Title: Diamond Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration Project

Applicant: Lassen County Fire Safe Council

CEQA:

The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District is Lead Agency on an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. The SNC may file a Notice of Determination on the IS/MND as a Responsible Agency.

- **Notice of Determination:** See Below
- **Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration:** [Click Here](#)

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: _____ Street Address: _____
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: _____
Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: _____
Address: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Contact: Shannon Ciotti
Phone: (530) 823-4689

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____
Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation
District
Address: 170 Russell Ave., Suite C
Susanville, CA 96130
Contact: Ian Sims
Phone: (775) 313-1222

SUBJECT: *Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.*

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2018032001

Project Title: Diamond Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration Project (SNC #1065)

Project Applicant: Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Project Location (include county): The project area is located on lands in the Lassen National Forest (LNF) 6 miles south of Susanville in Lassen County. The project is adjacent to the unincorporated communities of Baxter Creek, Elysian Valley, and Janesville.

Project Description:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide \$882,087 to the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) for the Diamond Mountain Forest and Watershed Restoration Project (project). The project will implement fuel reduction/thinning, prescribed burning, and fencing at-risk aspen communities on 1,056 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land through a stewardship agreement with USFS. Much of the project area is overstocked forest with high hazardous fuel loads. The purpose of the project is to restore watershed function and forest health and to protect adjacent communities from wildfire.

Approximately 107 acres of mixed-conifer plantations (Jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine, and red fir) would be treated using a combination of biomass utilization, mastication, and hand thinning. Prescribed burning is planned for approximately 800 acres. Prescribed fire treatments would include under burning, pile burning, and the preparation work needed prior to prescribed fire ignitions. The project would also install 8,448 feet of aspen stand deer exclusion fence.

The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District evaluated the project in the Diamond Mountain Watershed Restoration and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH# 2018032001). All mitigation measures specified in the IS/MND to minimize impacts related to air quality, agricultural/forest resources, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, geology and soils, and hazards and hazardous materials will be implemented on USFS lands through a stewardship agreement between USFS and LCFSC, and through contractual agreements with USFS crews, CAL FIRE crews, or other contracted crews. SNC has reviewed the IS/MND prepared by Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District and has independently determined that the project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

Continued on next page

This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)
described project on March 7, 2019 and has made the following determinations regarding the
above (date)
described project.

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment
2. A Negative Declaration **was** prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA
3. Mitigation measures **were** a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was** adopted for this project
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: _____

Date: _____ Date Received for filing at OPR: _____