

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

*Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program*

**SNC ID Number:** 1068

**Applicant:** Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions

**Project Title:** South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Phase 4

**Project Category:** Two

**SNC Subregion:** South Central

**County(ies):** Calaveras

**Funding Amount Requested:** \$89,125

**Funding Amount Recommended:** \$89,125

**Total Project Cost:** \$109,125

**Final Score:** 81.00

## **PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION**

The South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Phase 4 Project (Project) is a Category Two planning project to deliver CEQA analysis on 468 acres of private lands that border or are surrounded by ongoing restoration efforts on a neighboring BLM Parcel. The Project will be implemented by Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) and is located between the communities of Wilseyville and Railroad Flat in northern Calaveras County.

The Project will complete CEQA analysis on 112 acres of Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) property and 356 acres of private residential property. A future implementation phase will consist of hazardous fuels reduction to create a more resilient and fire safe watershed. The Project will be implemented by hiring various resource professionals including an archaeologist, botanist, wildlife specialist, and a Registered Professional Forester to survey the Project site and generate reports on these respective disciplines. A CEQA contractor will be hired to compile these reports and generate a draft CEQA document to be adopted by a future funding or permitting agency. This region of Calaveras County has been deemed as a high fire risk area by CAL FIRE.

The Project builds on previous SNC investment in the South Fork Mokelumne watershed. The first two phases of the Project involved a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Category Two grant to complete NEPA/CEQA on 912 acres of BLM land and a Category One grant to complete 217 acres of forest restoration. Because of SNC funding, additional BLM funding was able to be utilized to restore more forestland within

their parcels. This suite of projects also connects with fuels-reduction work completed by CCWD and CAL FIRE across neighboring private lands creating a series of strategically placed fuel reduction projects that span across much of the South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed.

Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) is a nonprofit organization in Amador and Calaveras counties. Founded in 2004 with a mission to improve their local economy, CHIPS puts local at-risk youth to work and promotes sustainable forest stewardship. CHIPS, along with the SNC, started the successful forest collaborative, the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), in 2010 and has been an active partner in promoting the SNC’s vision for the Sierra Nevada.

CHIPS is partnering with BLM, CCWD, and the Cal-Am Forestry Team to complete the Project and has support and permission to enter all parcels within the Project boundary. All landowners have been involved with the development of this phase and will continue to provide input as the Project continues. The Project will leverage approximately \$20,000 of in-kind support from the Cal-Am Forestry Team to provide project oversight and continue landowner outreach.

The Project supports the SNC Watershed Improvement Program and Propositions 1 and 68 in multiple ways. The Project will provide NEPA/CEQA clearance for future forest restoration on a region that CAL FIRE has deemed as a high fire hazard. The Project builds on previous restoration efforts and ties into many other projects in the area adding to their overall effectiveness. The Project is within the Mokelumne River Watershed, which feed the Pardee and Comanche reservoirs, owned and operated by East Bay Municipal Utilities District, to service millions of California residents living in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

| <b>PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES</b>      | <b>TIMELINE</b>               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Six-Month Progress Report                | September 2019<br>March 2020  |
| Cultural Resources Survey                | May – October 2019            |
| Botany and Wildlife Surveys              | May – October 2019            |
| Silvicultural Treatment Development      | May – October 2019            |
| Prepare Draft CEQA/NEPA                  | November 2019 – February 2020 |
| Final Report                             | February 2020                 |
| <b>Estimated Project Completion Date</b> | <b>March 2020</b>             |

## PROJECT COSTS

| <b>BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>            | <b>SNC FUNDING</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Project Costs:</b>               |                    |
| Project Management                  | \$6,500            |
| Cultural Resource Survey            | \$40,000           |
| Botany and Wildlife Surveys         | \$9,000            |
| Silvicultural Treatment Development | \$12,000           |
| CEQA/NEPA Report Contractor         | \$10,000           |
| <b>Administrative:</b>              |                    |
| Administrative Costs                | \$11,625           |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                       | <b>\$ 89,125</b>   |

## PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

### **SUPPORT:**

- Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group
- Calaveras County Water District
- Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field Office
- All residents involved in the planning project include:
  - Gregory Michael Wilson
  - Mary Helen Welsh
  - Walter and Edith Quick
  - Terry Ryan
  - Michael Orfelt
  - Dexter O Day
  - Arluther and Dorothy Lane
  - Daniel and Virginia Landreth
  - Jane Hundertmark
  - Walter and Marguerite Hoekstra
  - Julie Gunn
  - Doreen A Gott
  - John and Bonita Grill
  - Kevin John and Dena Renee Forsythe
  - Seyed M Doroud
  - Paula E DeSmit
  - Kelly Brendlan
  - Susan Blondell
  - Mark C Belden
  - Azam Zamil

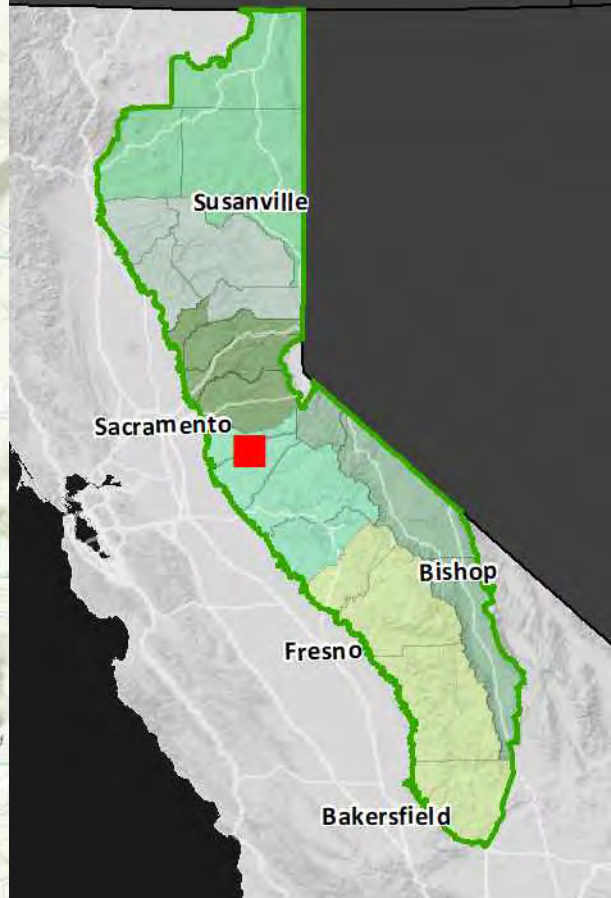
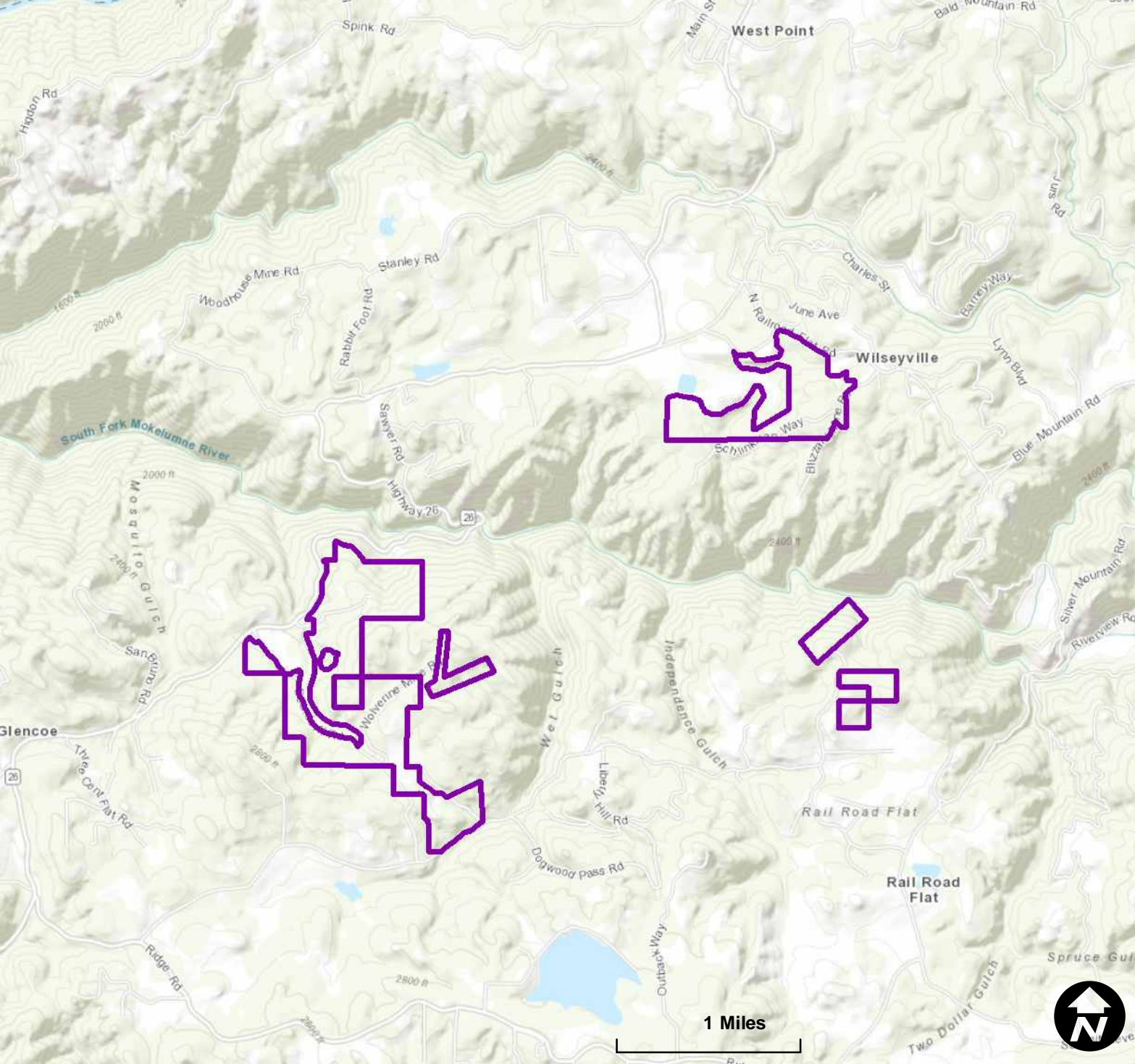
### **OPPOSITION:**









- 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.*

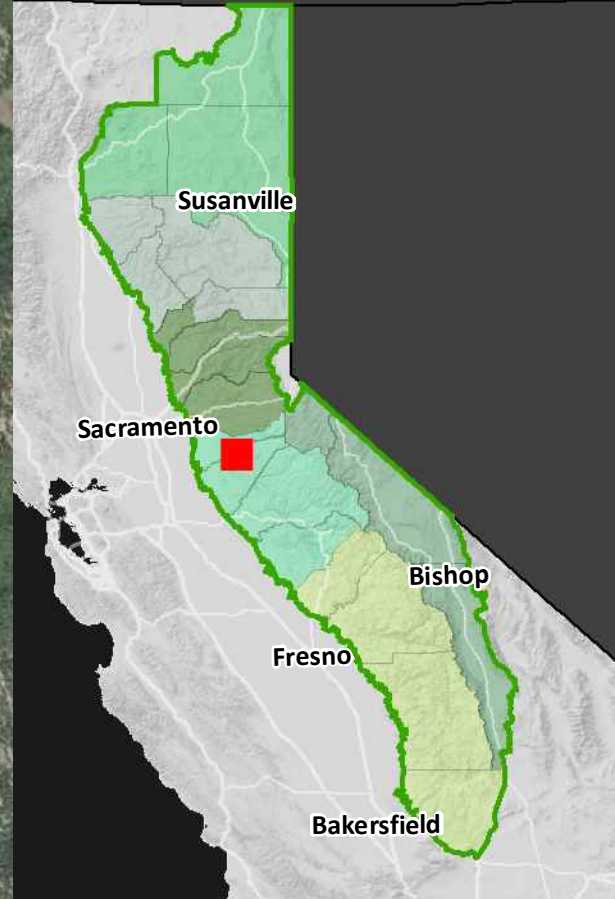
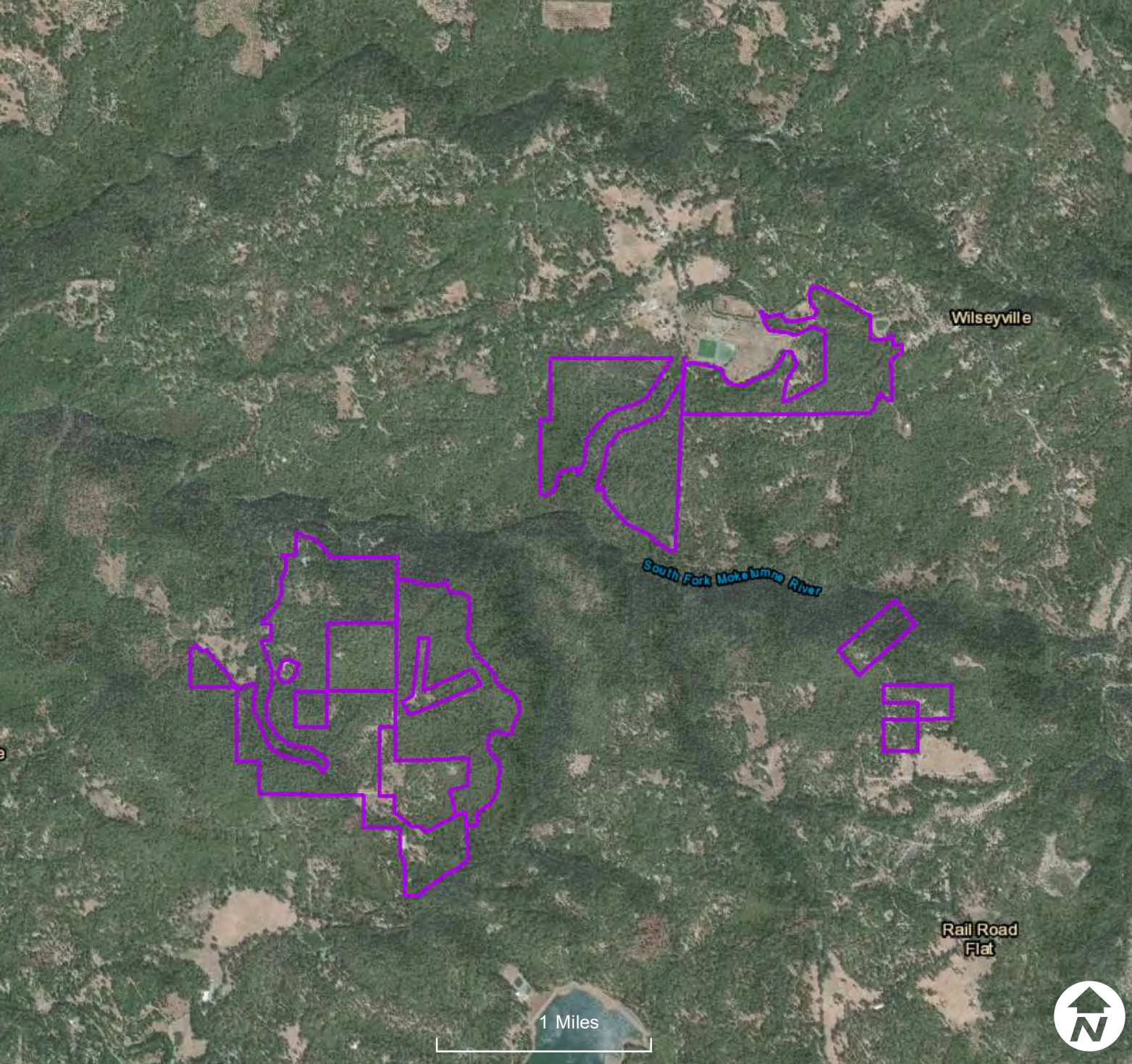
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments











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

**South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Phase 4 Planning  
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)**





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

**South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Phase 4 Planning  
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)**

## **CEQA Documentation**

**SNC #:** 1068

**Project Title:** South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Phase 4 Planning

**Applicant:** Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions

**CEQA:**

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262. Feasibility and Planning Studies and Categorically Exempt under Class 6 Section 15306. Information Collection.

- **Notice of Exemption:** See Below

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

(Address)

Project Title: South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Phase 4 Planning (SNC #1068)

Project Location - Specific:

The 557-acre project site is located on private lands and lands owned by Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) that span the South Fork Mokelumne River and three tributaries: Independence Gulch, Wet Gulch, and Humbug Gulch. The project area is roughly bound by State Route 26 to the north, Independence Road to the south, Deardorff Road to the west, and Cemetery Road and Blizzard Mine Road to the east. The communities of Sandy Gulch, Wilseyville, Independence, Rail Road Flat, Glencoe, and West Point are less than a mile from the project.

Project Location - City: South of Sandy Gulch Project Location - County: Calaveras

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$89,125 to the Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions to complete CEQA analysis for removal of hazardous fuel and thinning of the overstocked fir forest on 557 acres of private lands and CCWD-owned lands adjacent to a 912-acre Bureau of Land Management fuels reduction project. Planning work will include cultural resource, botany, and wildlife surveys. Additionally, a silvicultural survey will be conducted by a Registered Professional Forester who will develop a site plan for the treatment of each parcel included in the project area. All survey data will contribute to preparation of a CEQA document.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262, "Feasibility and Planning Studies"

Reasons why project is exempt:

This is a planning project involving the preparation of environmental compliance documents; it does not involve physical alterations to the environment. Specific actions include cultural resource, botany, wildlife, and silvicultural surveys and preparation of a CEQA document. Future forest management activities have not been approved, and the completion of these environmental documents will not have a legally binding effect on future activities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

If filed by applicant:

- 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: Date: Title:

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR:
Signed by Applicant