

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1091

Applicant: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Project Title: Black Springs Restoration Project

Project Category: One

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): Calaveras

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,725,000

Final Score: 89.00

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The Black Springs Restoration Project (Project) is a 1,825-acre Category One project located in eastern Calaveras County between the communities of Arnold and Bear Valley and within the Stanislaus National Forest (SNF). The Project will be implemented by the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) in coordination with the SNF. Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) funds will support restoration on a minimum of 900 acres while Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) funds will be used to treat the remaining acres of the 1,825-acre project.

The Project ranges in elevation from 5400' – 7200' and encompasses multiple forest types including Sierran Mixed Conifer, red fir, and pine plantations. Developed collaboratively by the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group, the Project will use a combination of hand thinning and mechanical mastication to remove ladder fuels and reduce forest densities resulting in more resilient, fire safe stands that will sequester carbon and provide higher quantities of drinking water to downstream beneficiaries. Slash will be lopped and scattered or piled for future burning with USFS crews.

The Project is part of a larger, 14,065-acre Hemlock Landscape Restoration Project (HLRP), which in turn is a component of the even larger, 390,904-acre Cornerstone Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. The ACCG has been working with the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests to develop projects and implement the CFLR funds within the Cornerstone boundaries. The SNC has funded the first two phases of the HLRP with the Pumpkin Hollow and Cabbage Patch Restoration Projects

funded in 2016 and 2017 respectively through UMRWA. Those projects combined are approximately 2,200 acres of forest restoration work implemented on adjacent management units to the Black Springs Project. Additionally, there are multiple active and completed projects in the vicinity, including the Big Tree Creek Restoration Project, and the Beaver Creek Restoration Project funded by SNC in 2015 and 2016.

UMWRA is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of six local water agencies and the counties of Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras. UMRWA’s mission is to enhance water supply and protect water quality and the environment, to perform water resource planning for the region, and to seek and secure grant and other funding for local agency implementation activities. In 2016, UMRWA signed a Master Stewardship Agreement with the SNF and acts as the fiscal agent to secure and administer grant funding to complete the CFLR match requirements.

The Project is partnering with the Stanislaus National Forest to collectively treat 1,825 acres of forestland. The SNF will be using \$700,000 of CFLR funds and \$25,000 of UMRWA funds to treat any remaining project acres utilizing a combination of timber and service contracts. Additionally, SNF crews will return to SNC-funded acres to burn remaining slash piles.

The Project supports many of the goals of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program and Propositions 1 and 68. These restoration activities in the Mokelumne River watershed increase forest resiliency to drought, wildfire, and disease. The Project will result in greater water yields for downstream beneficiaries that include local water agencies and East Bay Municipal Utility District that provides water to millions of San Francisco Bay Area residents.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
Site Preparation and Quality Control	May – November 2019 May – November 2020 May – November 2021
Hand Thinning	May – October 2019 May – October 2020 May – October 2021
Mechanical Thinning	May – October 2019 May – October 2020 May – October 2021
SNC Final Report	December 2021
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 2021

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Project Management, Reporting	\$50,000
Project Implementation	\$818,000
Project Materials and Supplies	\$3,800
Publications, Printing, Public Relations	\$2,300
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$125,900
TOTAL:	\$1,000,000

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Alpine County Board of Supervisors
- Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group
- Amador County Board of Supervisors
- Amador Water Agency
- Calaveras Amador Forestry Team
- Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County Supervisor
- Calaveras County Water Agency
- Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council
- East Bay Municipal Utilities District
- Jackson Valley Irrigation District
- Rick Hopson, District Ranger, Amador Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest
- Ray Cablayan, Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest

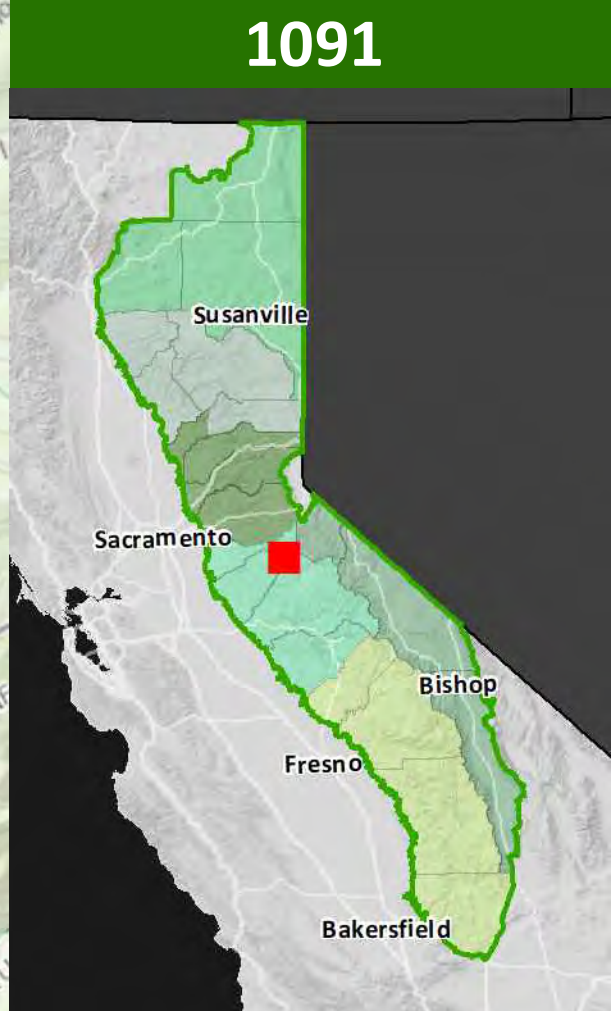
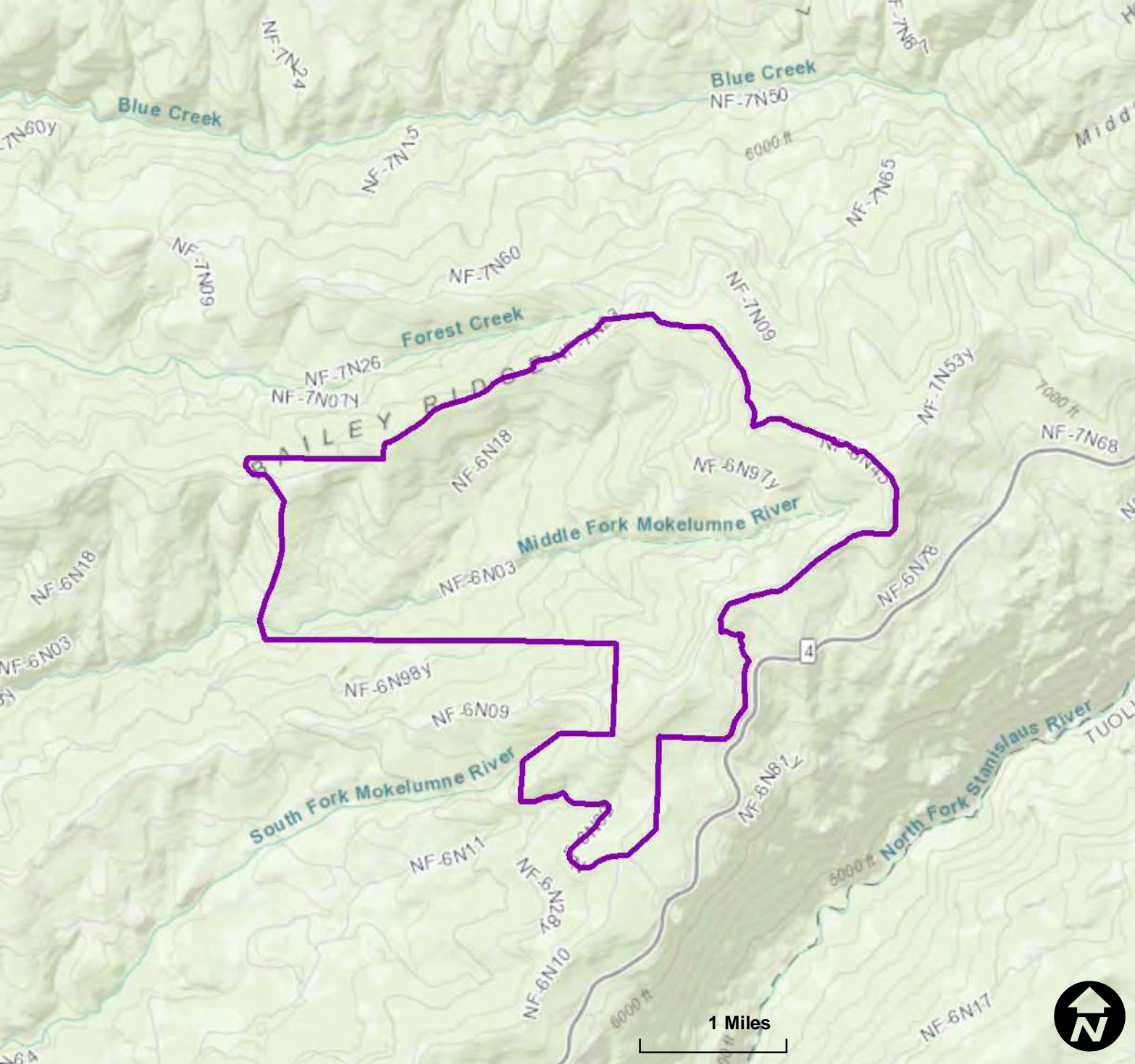
OPPOSITION:









- None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

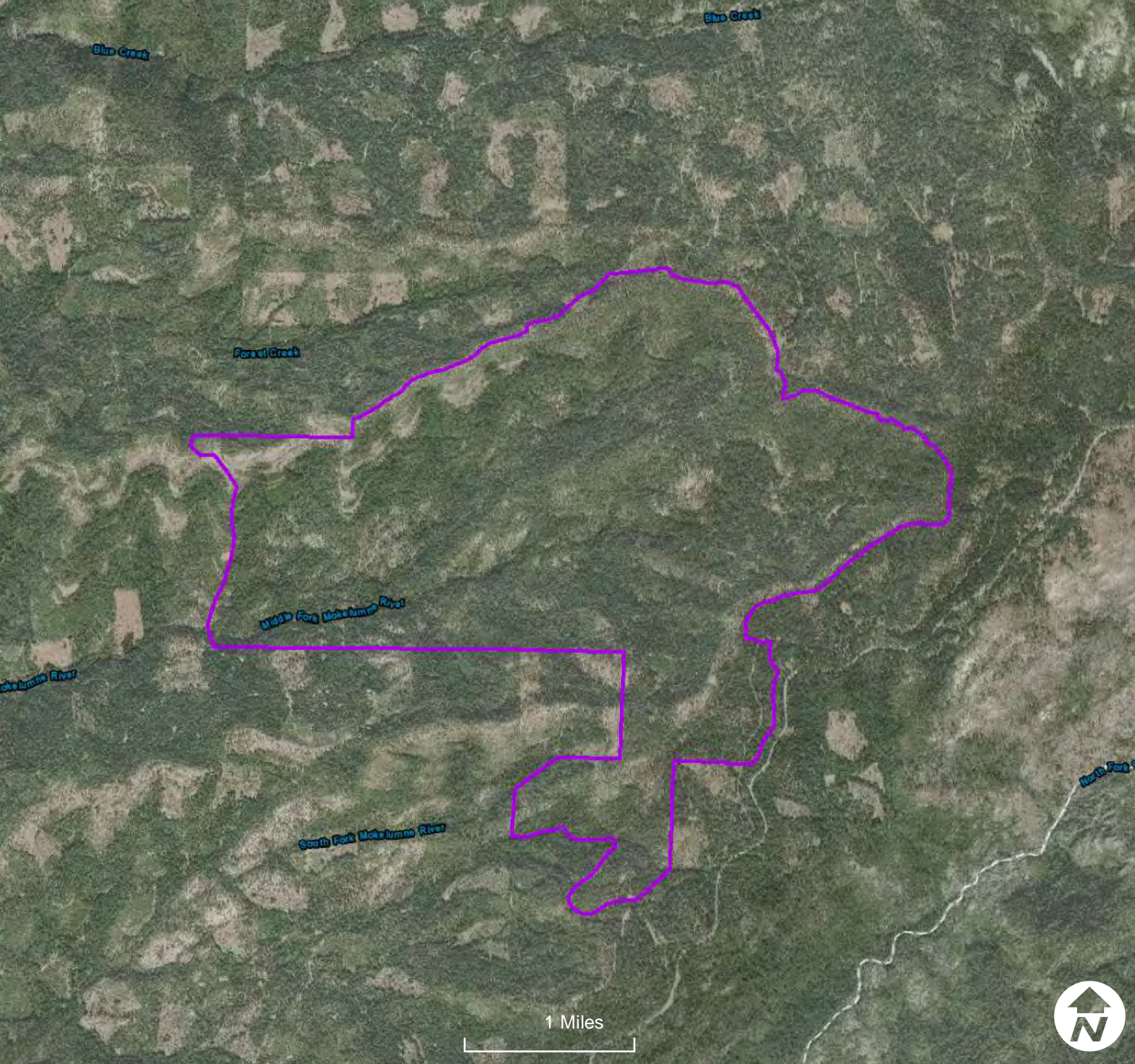
There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement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









- Acres of Land Improved or Restored



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

Black Springs Restoration Project
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority



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

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1091

Project Title: Black Springs Restoration Project

Applicant: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

CEQA:

The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority is Lead Agency on an Initial Study and Negative Declaration. The SNC may file a Notice of Determination on the IS/ND as a Responsible Agency.

- **Notice of Determination:** See Below
- **Initial Study and 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: Calaveras
 Address: 891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

From:

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

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
 Address: 5883 East Camanche Parkway
Valley Springs, CA 95252
 Contact: Rob Alcott
 Phone: (707) 888-1701

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): N/A

Project Title: Black Springs Restoration Project (SNC #1091)

Project Applicant: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Project Location (include county): Approx 12 mi. NE of Arnold, CA, Calaveras County, Stanislaus National Forest

Project Description:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide \$1,000,000 in funding to implement forest fuels reduction treatments to reduce fire intensity, severity, and risk on 825 acres of land in the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. The project is a part of the larger 14,075-acre Hemlock Landscape Restoration Project. The 825 acres proposed for treatment are situated in tributary drainages to the Middle and South Forks of the Mokelumne River, and would provide ecological benefits, including improved forest health and fire resiliency to this watershed. Treatments would include hand thinning, piling and/or lopping, plantation, and mastication of small trees and brush.

This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above
 (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on _____ and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

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

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, 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: _____