

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program

SNC ID Number: 1096

Applicant: Amador Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Tiger Creek Fuel Break and Watershed Protection

Project Category: Two

SNC Subregion: South Central

County(ies): Amador

Funding Amount Requested: \$100,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

Final Score: 80.00

PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION

The Tiger Creek Fuel Break and Watershed Protection Project (Project) is a Category Two Planning Project located within Amador County near the community of Pioneer and along Tiger Creek Reservoir. The Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) will be completing NEPA and CEQA analysis on 1195 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to later perform a landscape-level fuels reduction project with neighboring parcels.

The Project ranges in elevation from 2000' – 4000' and encompasses steep terrain from the banks of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River and Tiger Creek Reservoir to the ridgetop. Current conditions are thick overgrown Sierra mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forests. The Project will complete resource surveys and complete draft NEPA and CEQA documents which will be presented to BLM and a state lead agency respectively. This compliance will be necessary for future hand and mechanical thinning and prescribed fire use on the federally-owned 1195-acre parcel. This Project has been identified by the local Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a priority project and was developed by the Amador County Fuels Reduction Collaborative (ACFRC). Once implemented, this project will provide wildfire protection to multiple communities in eastern Amador County as well as increase forest resiliency and provide protection to municipal water supplies.

The Project ties into a larger fuels reduction strategy developed by the ACFRC. This Project is a piece of an approximately 3000-acre fuels reduction strategy involving neighboring parcels owned by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), and the Eldorado National Forest (ENF). Additionally, the Project is within proximity of the South Fork Mokelumne and Lily Gap Restoration Projects; both Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) funded fuels reduction projects on BLM property across the Mokelumne River in Calaveras County.

The Amador Fire Safe Council is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to “protect the people of Amador County and their property from the catastrophic effects of wildfire through education and outreach, innovation and action.” The AFSC has been a participating member of the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) since its inception and has been instrumental in organizing the Amador Fuels Reduction Collaborative. The AFSC and its members have worked with the SNC on many fuels reduction projects in the subregion. The BLM is a public land-management agency under the Department of the Interior and manages approximately 14,500 acres of scattered, low-elevation parcels in the Mokelumne watershed.

The Project is part of a larger fuels reduction strategy and involves many partners. The Project was developed by the ACFRC which includes CAL FIRE, BLM, USFS, SPI and other stakeholders involved with fuels management in the region and is part of a 3000-acre fuels reduction and prescribed fire project. PG&E, SPI, and the ENF, who own and manage the neighboring parcels included within this effort, have submitted letters describing their dedication to the Project and that they fully intend to treat their parcels in coordination with each other to create a larger and more effective Project footprint.

This Project supports 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
Coordinate with BLM and draft RFP's	April – July 2019
Resource Surveys	July 2019 – June 2020
Draft NEPA and CEQA Documents	June – December 2020
SNC Final Report	December 2020
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 2020

PROJECT COSTS

BUDGET CATEGORIES	SNC FUNDING
Project Costs:	
Project Management	\$10,000
Archaeological/Botany/Wildlife/ Hydrology/Soils Surveys	\$62,260
Forester/ Silvicultural Report	\$6,640
CEQA/NEPA Preparation	\$21,100
Administrative:	
Administrative Costs	\$0
TOTAL:	\$100,000

PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION

SUPPORT:

- Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group
- Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field Office
- Amador County Board of Supervisors
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Amador Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest

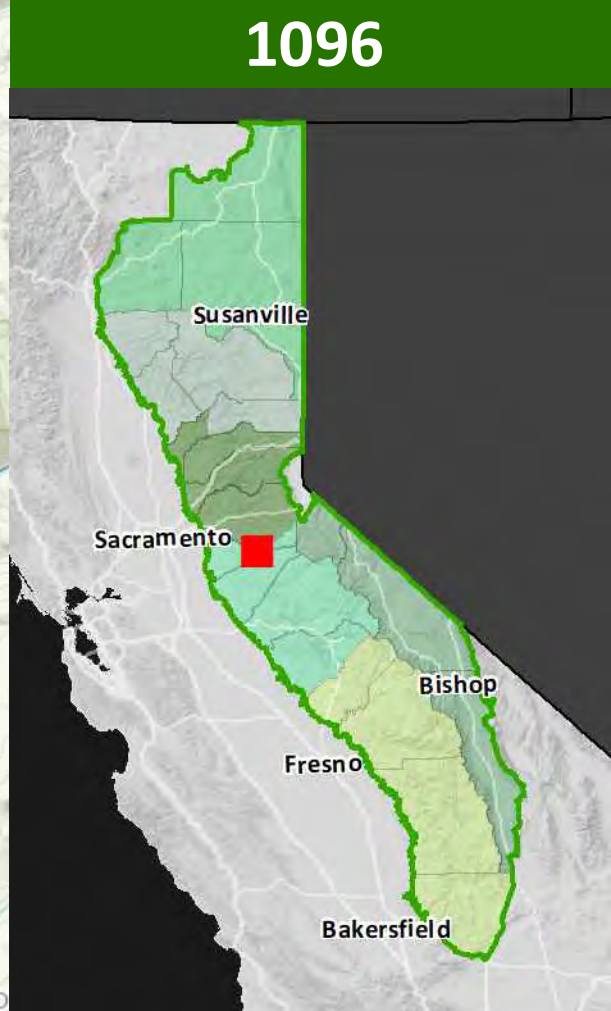
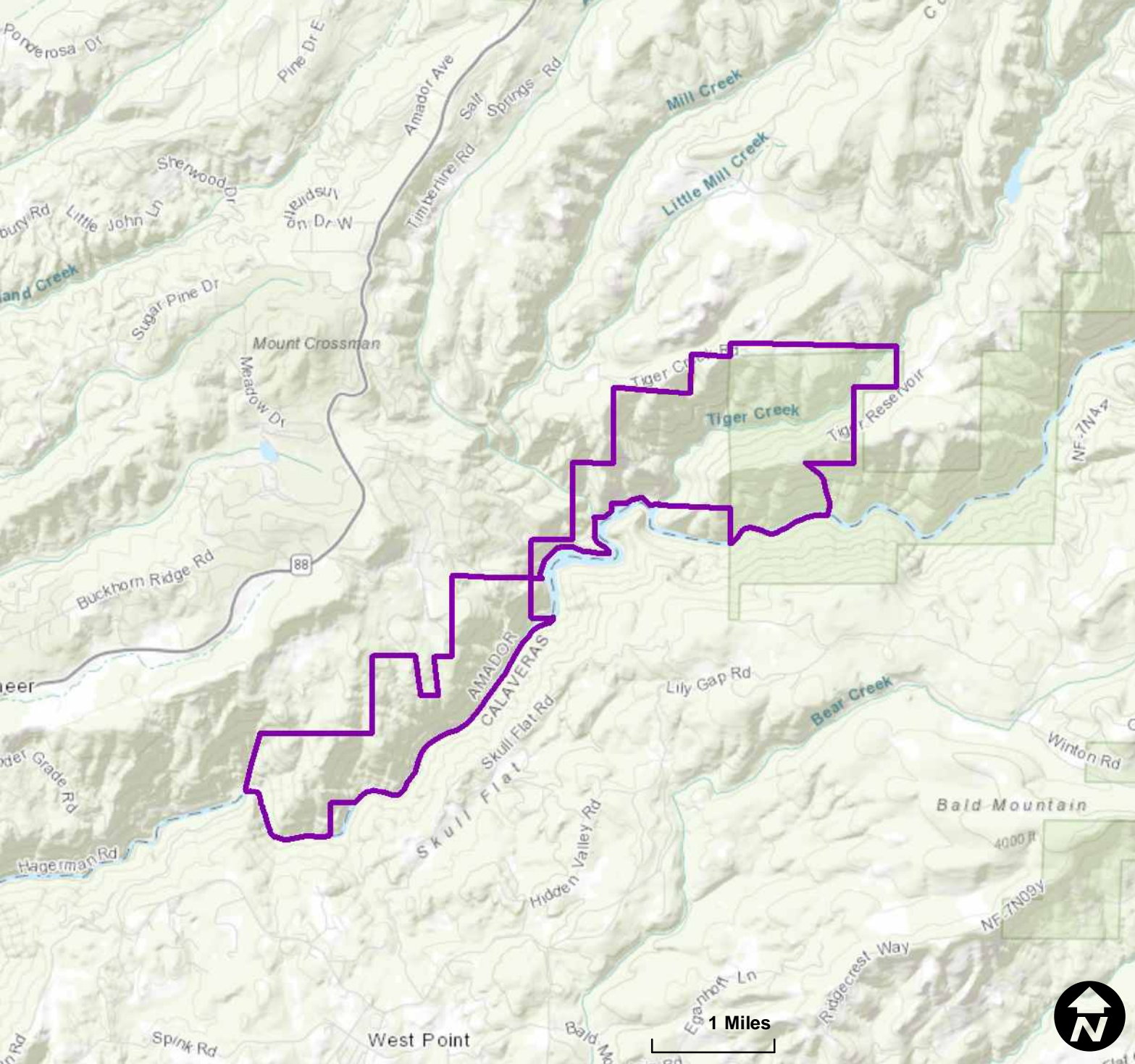
OPPOSITION:

- 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.

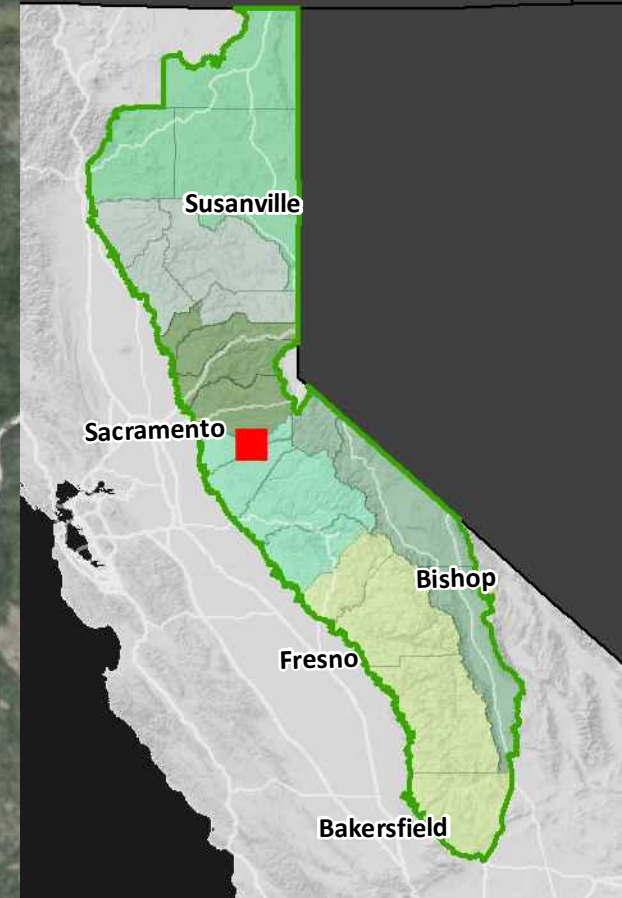
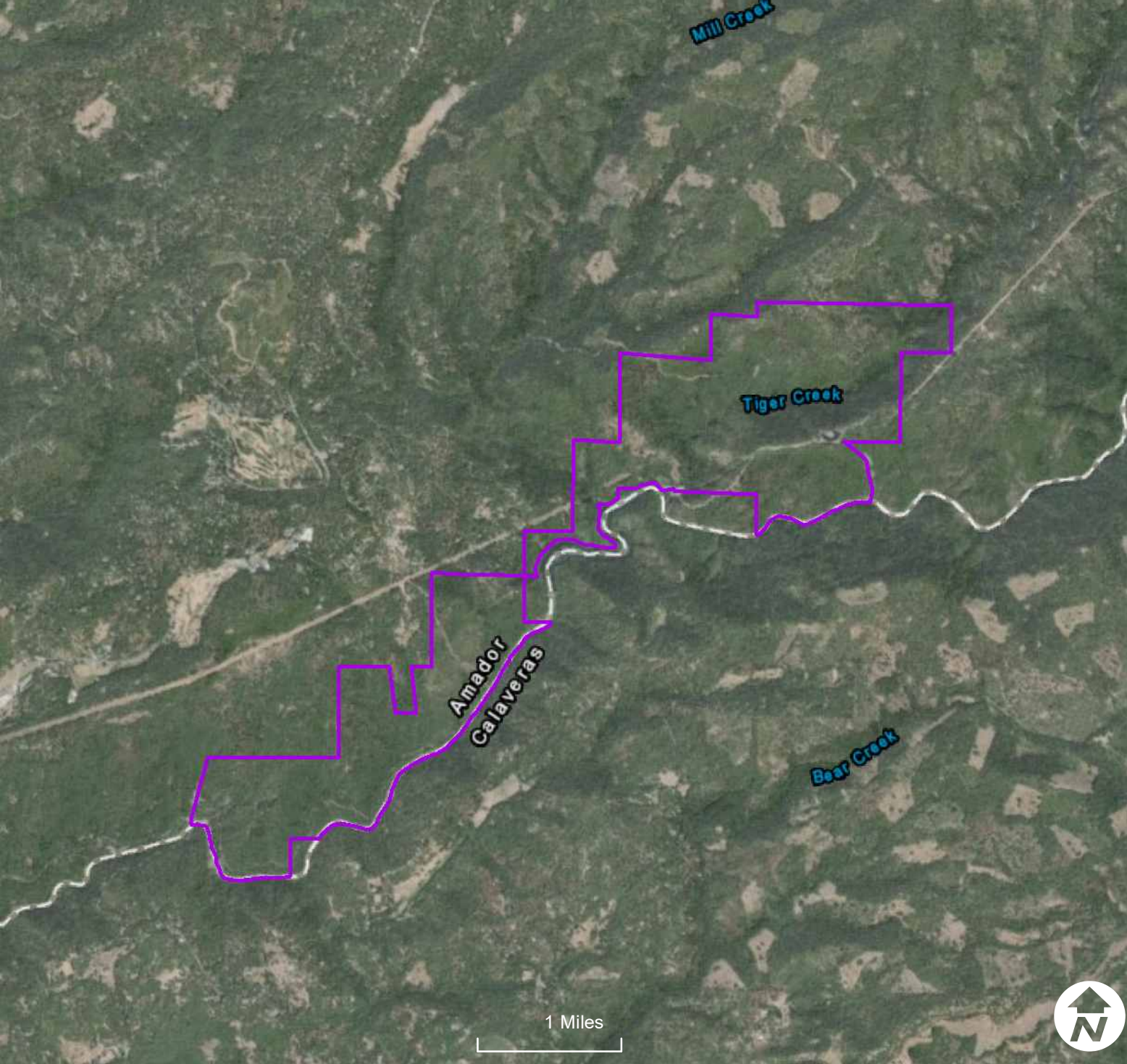
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation











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

Tiger Creek Fuel Break Watershed Protection

Amador Fire Safe Council



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

CEQA Documentation

SNC #: 1096

Project Title: Tiger Creek Fuel Break Watershed Protection

Applicant: Amador Fire Safe Council

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 Amador
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

(Address)

Project Title: Tiger Creek Fuel Break and Watershed Protection (SNC #1096)

Project Location - Specific:

The approximately 1,195-acre project is generally located in the center of Amador County, adjacent to Tiger Creek Reservoir. The project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcels that are located between State Route 26 and just east of the reservoir. The parcels are located in portions of Sections 13, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 33, and 34 of T7N, R13E and portions of Sections 7, 18 and 19 of T7N, R14E.

Project Location - City: east of Pioneer Project Location - County: Amador

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$100,000 to the Amador Fire Safe Council to develop the necessary CEQA and NEPA planning documents that are required prior to implementation of fuels reduction treatments on 1,195 acres of BLM land. Resource surveys and reports that will be prepared to support CEQA/NEPA compliance documents include archaeological, botanical, biological, silvicultural, hydrological, and soil surveys and reports. The purpose of the Tiger Creek project is to protect watershed health by reducing the risk of wildfire to forestlands and to protect habitable structures. This project in combination with other fuel reduction activities with adjacent landowners (PG&E, U.S. Forest Service, and Sierra Pacific Industries) will result in a fuel break from State Route 26 to Doaks Ridge, near Ham's Station.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Amador Fire Safe Council

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 resource surveys and reports and preparation of NEPA and CEQA documents that evaluate future fuel reduction treatments. Future fuel reduction treatments 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