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Total, All Projects $5,155,865.00
## LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY PROJECT TYPE

**March 7, 2013**

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March 7, 2013

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Agenda Item IX

Exhibit A and CEQA Documents for all Recommended Projects

March 7, 2013
**State of California**  
**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program**  
*Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)*

<table>
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<th>Applicant</th>
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**Project Scope**

The Upper Pete’s Creek Restoration Project will increase management efficiency of cattle and water resources on the Pete’s Valley Ranch while improving watershed health and providing benefits to wildlife in an upper reach of the Susan River Watershed in Lassen County, California. The project includes restoration of 1.3 miles of Pete’s Creek and approximately 50-acres of wetlands and wet meadows. Specifically, 10 check dams will be resurfaced and regarded, and Pete’s Creek will be restored to a historic channel. Ranch access roads will be stabilized, fencing will be installed to protect restored areas, and livestock watering improvements will be developed.

Connection of the stream to its floodplain will restore hydrologic function to its historic condition. The desired result will be a self maintaining stream where energy from peak flows is dissipated across a broad, well vegetated wetland surface.

Direct outcomes of the project include restored groundwater hydrology; improved forage for livestock production; and public benefits through enhanced wet meadow and wetlands habitat for greater sage grouse, migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and a variety of other wildlife species.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

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<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<td>Water Developments</td>
<td>July 30, 2013</td>
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<td>Road Maintenance</td>
<td>April 30 – July 30-2013</td>
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<td>Earthwork</td>
<td>July- October 30, 2013</td>
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<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 30, 2013</td>
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<td>Revegetation</td>
<td>July - December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post- Monitoring</td>
<td>October 30 – June 30, 2015</td>
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<td>April 2014, October 2014</td>
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<td>Final Report</td>
<td>December 31, 2014</td>
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PROJECT COSTS

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* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.
** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - Intermountain West Joint Venture
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Upper Pete’s Creek Habitat Restoration Project (SNC 720)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located approximately nine miles north of the County Road A27/Belfast Road intersection, approximately 13 miles northeast of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville
Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, is requesting $198,225 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for improving water quality and protecting water resources while efficiently managing livestock (cattle) on the Pete’s Valley Ranch. The project would result in the restoration of approximately 1.3 miles of Pete’s Creek and 50-acres of wetlands/wet meadows. Project activities would include installing approximately two miles of fence, resurfacing and re-grading 10 existing check dams, returning Pete’s Creek to historic channel, reconnecting the stream to its floodplain to allow peak flows to be dissipated, thereby reducing overall maintenance requirements, and enhancing habitat value for a variety of wildlife species (e.g. Greater sage grouse, migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer). The project would require that documentation from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) be provided to the district engineer to demonstrate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The landowner and USFWS have an existing landowner agreement through 2022 that includes a written commitment to provide access for completing project work and necessary follow-up through the term of the agreement. The purpose of the project is to return the stream to a natural state in order to minimize long-term maintenance and increase ecological integrity within the watershed. The project would restore groundwater hydrology, improve water quality, and enhance wet meadow and wetlands habitat for wildlife species.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Service

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301, “Existing Facilities;” Section 15303, “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;” and Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Upper Pete’s Creek Habitat Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, which permits the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination; Section 15303, Class 3, which permits...
construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (infrastructure improvements and installation of fencing) to allow for restoration of Pete’s Creek and improved grazing management activities that will protect wetland/wet meadow habitat and water resources for the long-term. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: ____________ Revised 2005
Applicant: Feather River Land Trust

Project Title: Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: $ 97,750.00

Total Project Cost: $222,750.00

Application Number: 724

Final Score: 90.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) will purchase a conservation easement over the 142-acre Chadwick Ranch, located immediately adjacent to Loyalton Elementary and High Schools in Sierra County. The landowner currently leases the property for cattle grazing and haying and will continue to do so under the easement.

The conservation easement will protect a working ranch, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space, as well as guarantee permanent educational access to this land. The property contains 142-acres of irrigated pasture, wetlands, and exceptional cottonwood-willow riparian habitat. It includes three branches of Smithneck Creek, a major tributary to the Middle Fork Feather River.

The Chadwick Ranch is centered in Sierra Valley, which is designated by the National Audubon Society as a Nationally-Important Bird Area and an important stopover in the Pacific Flyway. After acquisition of the conservation easement, FRLT’s school-based K-12 Learning Landscapes education program plans on highlighting agriculture and local food production, as well as, stream restoration and ecology on the Chadwick Ranch.

Using funds donated by FRLT partners, teachers and students will be trained and supported to plan and implement hands-on stewardship and restoration projects on the property including invasive weeds management, restoration of native plants, wildlife viewing and habitat enhancement. The Northern Sierra Partnership has committed $65,000 in capital toward the purchase of the easement, as well as, $30,000 toward staff, legal, baseline, and other pre-acquisition costs needed to complete the easement. The owner, Anne Chadwick, will also donate $30,000 towards long-term management of the easement and protection of the land.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

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PROJECT COSTS

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</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPosition

- Support
  - Northern Sierra Partnership
  - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Types of Jobs Created.
- Number of Acres Conserved.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Number of significant sites protected or preserved.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement Project (SNC 724)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is bounded by Highway 49 (Main Street) on the south, County Road A24/Beckwith Road on the east, and Poole Lane on the north, in Loyalton, Sierra County, California.

Project Location – City: Loyalton
Project Location – County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Feather River Land Trust is requesting $97,750 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for a conservation easement over the 142-acre Chadwick Ranch, which is currently under Williamson Act contract. This project consists of purchasing a conservation easement over the Chadwick Ranch, which will ensure continued agricultural use of the ranch and provide opportunities for education in agriculture for the students at the adjacent Loyalton Elementary and Loyalton High Schools. The purpose of the conservation easement is to protect productive agricultural land (Chadwick Ranch), wildlife habitat, and open space in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15317, “Open Space Contracts or Easements,” and 15325, “Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: ____________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15317, Class 17, which permits the establishment of agricultural preserves, the making and renewing of open space contracts under Williamson Act, or the acceptance of easements or fee interests in order to maintain the open space character of the area; and Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat and natural conditions, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing a conservation easement to protect the working ranch and habitat in perpetuity and guarantee permanent educational access to the working ranch. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _______________

Revised 2005
Applicant: Feather River Land Trust
Project Title: Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement
Subregion: North Central
County: Plumas
SNC Funding: $350,000.00
Total Project Cost: $475,000.00
Application Number: 726
Final Score: 88.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) will purchase a 262-acre conservation easement to protect a portion of the Rogers Key Brand Angus Ranch in Plumas County.

The Key Brand Ranch is located in Indian Valley, just 4 miles east of the small town of Greenville. At over 25,000-acres, Indian Valley is one of the Northern Sierra's most important valleys for both wildlife habitat and local agricultural production. The 627-acre Key Brand Ranch contains 365-acres of wetland, montane riparian and wet meadow habitat types with an additional 262-acres of upland meadow and improved irrigated pasture used primarily for agricultural production. The landowner has received funding approval for a permanent “Wetland Reserve Program” (WRP) easement, which will be held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and will be completed in 2013. This WRP easement will prohibit development and subdivision while restricting grazing in nearly 365-acres of the property's prime wetlands. The easement with FRLT would protect the remaining property's 262 productive acres that are located adjacent to the current WRP easement area.

The ranch directly contributes to the local agricultural economy by producing both hay and high quality angus beef. The Key Brand Ranch provides valuable habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife and plant species. In addition to abundant wildlife, the property contains evidence of use by the Mountain Maidu, including tools and artifacts from an abandoned Maidu Village. Remnants of a stone foundation on the ranch are the likely site of a general store owned by Peter Lassen. The landowner has agreed to allow educational and recreational public use of the property within the easement for events organized, sponsored, and insured by FRLT or its partners, including the Plumas
Unified School District. The proposed easement acquisition is funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and a generous bargain sale donation from the landowner.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close of Escrow- Transfer of CE</td>
<td>July 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>December 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>January 31, 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$320,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$350,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPosiTion

- **Support**
  - Plumas County Supervisor Robert Meacham
  - Northern Sierra Partnership
  - Jim Wilcox, Plumas Corporation
  - California Department of Fish and Game (2)
  - Plumas Audubon
  - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
  - Feather River RCD
  - Environmental Director, Greenville Rancheria
  - Sierra Farmstead
  - Defenders of Wildlife, California Program Director
  - Save Our Sandhill Cranes, President
  - California Cattlemen’s Association

- **Oppose**
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Number of Acres Conserved.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement Project (SNC 726)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located in Indian Valley, approximately four miles east of Greenville and five miles north of Taylorsville, along North Valley Road, in Plumas County, California.

Project Location – City: Greenville and Taylorsville
Project Location – County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Feather River Land Trust is requesting $350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to purchase a conservation easement over 262-acres of the 627-acre Key Brand Ranch, which is currently under Williamson Act contract. Protection for the remaining 365-acres is being sought through a program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This project consists of purchasing a conservation easement over the 262-acres of the ranch to protect upland meadow and farmland. The conservation easement would prohibit subdivision of the parcels; however the land owner would be allowed to build one (1) residential structure in the future, along with allowing for the maintenance and limited construction of common agricultural related buildings and infrastructure necessary for the operations of the ranch. The conservation easement would protect productive agricultural land in sustained agricultural use, and also protect wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325, “Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing a conservation easement to protect the working ranch and habitat in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________ Title: ___________ Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:  

Revised 2005
Applicant: Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Project Title: Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement

Subregion: East

County: Mono County

SNC Funding: $350,000.00

Total Project Cost: $1,167,400.00

Application Number: 703

Final Score: 87.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The purpose of this project is to seek a permanent agricultural conservation easement for the 1,240-acre Sinnamon Meadows located near the popular recreation destinations of Virginia Lakes and Bridgeport in Mono County. This site is an important recreational, historic, natural, agricultural, and scenic resource for the area. This project will aid in the protection of threatened working agricultural landscapes as the land will be available for continued grazing. The agricultural conservation easement will restrict the future uses of the property to agricultural activities and open space. The property has been identified as a high priority for preservation by a planning effort for the conservation of the Bi-State population of greater sage grouse.

The completion of this project provides numerous public benefits including the protection of crucial habitat for multiple special status wildlife species and the protection of water resources that flow across and originate on the property. The long-term management of the property will be focused on the continued use and maintenance of the land as seasonal pasture grazed by livestock.

Mono County is about 95% publically owned land. The development pressure in the remote areas of the county is for 40-acre summer homes. This property is a pocket of privately owned property and highly desirable for 40-acre parcels.
The project supports Proposition 84 goals through the protection of the meadow and the streams that originate on the property. It also aligns with the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant program by preserving and protecting the lands for ongoing and future agricultural uses. This project leverages SNC funds as matching funds of more than 70% of the total project cost are being secured from additional sources including Wildlife Conservation Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Federal Farm and Ranch Land protection Program (FRPP).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final legal review of easement document</td>
<td>July 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline Conditions Report completed</td>
<td>July 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive management plan completed with NRCS and DFW assistance</td>
<td>July 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escrow and easement completed and recorded</td>
<td>August 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six month progress report submitted</td>
<td>November 15, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final report and performance measures submitted</td>
<td>December 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td>December 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: A significant amount of work towards completing this high priority conservation project has already been completed at the time of this award. ESLT is confident the completion of the project will be possible within six months of grant awards.

PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$348,364.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$436.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$350,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - Mr. Tim Hansen, District 4 Supervisor, Mono County
  - State of Nevada Department of Wildlife
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

• Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
• Acres of Land Conserved
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Title: Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement Project (SNC 703)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is bisected by Dunderberg Meadow Road and is located adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, 1.5 miles east of Hoover Wilderness, approximately 9 miles southwest of Bridgeport and approximately 6 miles northwest of Mono City, in Mono County, California. The project is within Sections 16, 19, 20, 21, and 28 of Township 3 North, Range 25 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Location – City: Bridgeport and Mono City
Project Location – County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Eastern Sierra Land Trust is requesting $350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to purchase a conservation easement over 1,240-acres of privately owned ranch containing mountain meadow pastures, rangeland, and forest. No ground disturbing activities would occur as a part of this proposed project. The easement would restrict the future uses of the property to agricultural activities and open space, thus protecting the wildlife habitat, as well as, scenic and agricultural resources.

The project area has been specifically identified as a high priority property for habitat preservation by a planning process that involves land and wildlife management agencies as well as local stakeholder groups and members of the agricultural community. The project would provide a conservation easement for habitat that supports the bi-state population of greater sage-grouse, which has been determined to warrant listing by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); a final USFWS listing determination is expected within a year. The project area is also adjacent to USFWS identified critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. In addition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has determined that the project area provides suitable habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Pacific fisher, California wolverine, and Sierra Nevada red fox, all of which are species of concern. The purpose of the conservation easement is to protect agricultural land (high elevation irrigated meadow pasture), wildlife habitat (aspen groves, sagebrush scrub, and conifer forest), including critical habitat, and open space in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15325, “Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________________
Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing an agricultural conservation easement to protect the high elevation irrigated meadow pasture, aspen groves, sagebrush scrub, and conifer forest habitats in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature:__________________________ Date:______________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: Revised 2005
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency
Project Title: Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement
Subregion: Central
County: Placer County
SNC Funding: $185,000.00
Total Project Cost: $340,000.00
Application Number: 674
Final Score: 87

PROJECT SCOPE

The Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement Project is the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on an organic mandarin and citrus orchard. The 47-acre farm is located on Pleasant Hill Road near Lincoln in Placer County.

Side Hill Citrus' organic farming practices protect and enrich the soil, avoid putting harmful chemicals into the ground, and protect the Coon Creek Watershed. Protecting the Side Hill Citrus property will maintain open space, retain natural systems and processes, contribute to maintaining the local agricultural economic base, maintain local specialty crops, and conserve energy. The owner will run interpretive programs at the site as part of an organic farming/education program.

In conjunction with addressing Proposition 84 objectives and many SNC program goals, the Side Hill Citrus conservation easement meets multiple objectives for Placer County’s Placer Legacy program. The Placer Legacy program was developed in accordance with the Placer County General Plan as a critical step toward protection, preservation, and restoration of the integrity, productivity, and biodiversity of the County’s natural resources.

Other funds leveraged include $75,000 from Placer County for project administration and pre-project due diligence, $10,000 from Placer Land Trust, $50,000 from the Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust, and $20,000 from the landowner.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 month progress report</td>
<td>September 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE Acquisition</td>
<td>January 31, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>March 30, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copies of recorded conservation easement documents</td>
<td>March 30, 2013</td>
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PROJECT COSTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Direct</td>
<td>$185,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>**Indirect</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***Administrative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td><strong>$185,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Placer Land Trust
  - Nevada Irrigation District
  - UC Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - Placer County Agricultural Commission
  - The Natural Trading Company
  - Placer County Farm Bureau
  - Placer Grown
  - Joanne Neft, Agriculture Advocate and Founder of Mountain Mandarin Festival

- Oppose
  - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Conserved.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement Project (SNC 674)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located at 4065 Mt. Pleasant Hill Road, in Lincoln, California, approximately 3.3 miles northwest of Auburn, in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Lincoln
Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Placer County Community Development Resource Agency is requesting $185,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for the purchase of a conservation easement on the 47-acre Side Hill Citrus Farm. Other funding sources for the purchase of the conservation easement include Placer Land Trust, and Placer County Open Space Trust Fund and General Fund, and Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust. This project includes purchasing a conservation easement, which will allow for sustained agricultural operations. The conservation easement would prohibit any subdivision of the parcels and would allow for only one (1) residential structure to be built in the future, if desired, along with allowing for the maintenance and limited construction of common agricultural related buildings and infrastructure necessary for the operations of the farm. The purpose of the project is to purchase a conservation easement that will protect productive agricultural land, oak woodland, riparian corridor, wildlife habitat, and open space in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325, “Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing a conservation easement to protect the working farm as an organic mandarin and citrus orchard in perpetuity, along with implementation of an onsite interpretive organic farming/education program. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________ Title: __Executive Officer____
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: ____________  
*Revised 2005*
Applicant: Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas, Sierra

SNC Funding: $316,820.00

Total Project Cost: $357,982.00

Application Number: 699

Final Score: 87.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project provides multiple natural resource benefits that are important to Californians and the Upper Feather River Watershed. Six separate project components on agricultural land and various outreach tasks within the Sierra Valley and the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) will enhance water quality, improve wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion and leverage earlier enhancement investments on up to 2000-acres of land in the Sierra Valley.

Project tasks include installation of three miles of riparian fencing to enhance conservation management on 1150-acres of riparian/wetland areas; development of new off-stream livestock watering systems to protect sensitive riparian areas; upgrading a deteriorated wooden irrigation diversion structure to increase water conservation, and implementation of weed control management techniques on up to 2000-acres within the district. Through this project, the SVRCD will offer public education components to help improve local conservation techniques and understanding by providing tours, resource materials, signage, and agri-tourism opportunities.

This project contributes to agricultural viability and the local economy with regained productive pasture, increased water management efficiency, grazing management, and financial incentives using local contractors and vendors. In kind and financial partnership assistance for this project comes from multiple sources, including Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), landowners, FRCWG, RAC Funding for Plumas and Sierra Counties, UC Extension, SVRCD and Plumas-Sierra Farm Bureau.
# PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award Notification &amp; Signed SNC Contract</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procure Program Manager &amp; Project Coordinator; begin SNC invoicing.</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed treatment contractor selection and contract(s); completed landowner weed agreements</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner meeting: meet the weed treatment contractor, review the project plan, provide weed identification and management information; assess learning via pre &amp; post presentation poll. (meeting materials; attendance sheet)</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project design &amp; layout and timelines; pre-project photo points/documentation; completed well &amp; weed permits</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailgate Tour of project sites for landowners &amp; stakeholders; (materials, attendance sheet).</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach sign development and installation (2 ea); Development and distribution of “weeds” education materials; Development and publication of SVRCD website page with weed and other conservation information and resources</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual sites: project implementation and oversight: photo and note documentation; project documents and requests for payment collected by SVRCD.</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website posting and announcement</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed treatment(s)</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate Site #1 water system and plan/install needed components to enhance water efficiency and delivery.</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public outreach: develop SVRCD project content for the website (i.e. landowner stories); support Plumas Sierra Weeds Management Group tour</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project performance monitoring</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed treatment &amp; Project performance monitoring</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weed treatment &amp; Project performance monitoring</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Reports</td>
<td>October 2013, April 2014, October 2014, April 2015, October 2015, April 2016, October 2016,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit Final Report</td>
<td>March 1, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 1, 2017</strong></td>
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PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$253,941.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$41,324.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$316,820.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*  Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS of SUPPORT

- Support
  - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
  - Sierra County Board of Supervisors
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Office
  - Upper Feather River Watershed Group
  - Feather River Land Trust
  - Plumas Sierra Department of Agriculture
  - Feather River Resource Conservation District

- Opposition
  - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number and Diversity of People Reached.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected.
- Acres of Land Improved.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Title: Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project (SNC 699)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located in Sierra Valley on six sites near Sattley, Calpine, Loyalton, and Vinton, in Plumas and Sierra Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Sattley, Calpine, Loyalton, and Vinton
Project Location – County: Plumas and Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) is requesting $316,820 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to implement projects on private agricultural lands at six sites in order to enhance water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce soil erosion on private and public lands within Sierra Valley. Project activities are as follows: Site 1, installation of 5,300 feet of fencing and two off-stream watering facilities for livestock (served by one new agricultural well and solar pump in two pastures); Site 2, installation of 1.5 miles of riparian fencing; Site 3, weed management on approximately 400-acres (chemical, hand pulling, and goat grazing); Site 4, irrigation diversion structure replacement with an upgraded, concrete structure; Site 5, installation of 0.5 mile exclusion fencing; and Site 6, weed treatment areas (up to 2,000-acres for treatment, non-restricted herbicides, hand pulling, and biological control with goat grazing). Management strategies and other information would be made available on the SVRCD website to enhance the public’s understanding of watershed health and conservation and their role in weed containment.

The purpose of the project is to provide natural resources benefits to the Upper Feather River Watershed. The project would improve water quality; reduce potential sources of erosion; improve water conservation and water use efficiency; restore healthy vegetation biodiversity through noxious weed containment and control; enhance riparian and habitat areas along waterways and natural springs within the project sites; and, provide educational components to improve conservation understanding and stimulate additional conservation activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15302, “Replacement or Reconstruction”; Section 15303, “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures”; and Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________
Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2, which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and, Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project involves minor alternations to private ranch and agricultural land and vegetation through installation of permanent fencing within riparian corridors and habitat areas for purposes of grazing management; application of herbicide treatments on noxious weed populations; and construction of an off-stream watering facility for animal stock. The proposed improvements would not result in significant adverse effects and would require limited ground disturbance. The proposed weed control activities would not be ground-disturbing and would not adversely impact any cultural resources. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________ Title: ____________
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: ____________ Revised 2005
PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete restoration activities, exclusionary livestock fencing, and hydrologic monitoring on 667-acres of degraded native grassland/rangeland on the Ash Valley Ranch, a cattle operation in Adin, CA. This work will complement 1,100-acres of similar work already completed on the 5,500-acre ranch. The project area includes both private land and public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Overly dense Western juniper and Eastside pine stands will be removed from montane wet meadows and sagebrush-steppe ecosystems to reduce the risk for high-intensity wildfire, and restore hydrologic function to native plant communities that support livestock and wildlife. Following removal, most of the material will be chipped and hauled to an electrical power producing facility to be used as fuel.

The project will also construct up to 40,000 linear feet of “wildlife friendly” livestock fencing enclosures to protect wet meadow and restored areas.

The project will also assist in continuation of established vegetation and hydrologic monitoring on the ranch to measure effectiveness of restoration efforts.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete project layout and prepare bid solicitations</td>
<td>April – May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set up photo monitoring points (pre-treatment)</td>
<td>May – July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select contractor</td>
<td>June - July 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Restoration treatments  July 2013 – August 2014
Fence construction  July – September 2013
6 month progress report  October 31, 2013
Hydrologic monitoring  April 2013
  July 2013
  October 2013
  March 2014
  June 2014
  September 2014
Vegetation Monitoring  July 2013
  June 2014
6 month progress report  March 31, 2014
Post-project photo monitoring  April – October 2014
Prepare completed GIS files for project  September 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST  October 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$330,396.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$6,604.00</td>
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<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>$350,000.00</td>
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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Field Office
  - Greenleaf Power
  - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
  - Modoc National Forest, Big Valley Ranger District
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Pit Resource Conservation District
- Oppose
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research  From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration Project (SNC 725)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Adin and 16 miles northwest of Ravendale, between Ash Valley to the north, the Madeline Plains to the east, State Route 139 to the west and Grasshopper Valley to the south, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Adin and Ravendale
Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) is requesting $350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for the restoration of 780-acres of wet meadow and native rangeland on Ash Valley Ranch, which includes both private and public lands, the implementation of a fencing plan, and the continuation of vegetative and hydrological monitoring that has been conducted on the Ash Valley Ranch for the past three years. Project activities include removal of invasive western juniper via shear and chainsaw; skid trails would be minimized to reduce potential effects on the landscape. The plant material removed would be chipped and hauled to offsite electrical power-producing facilities to be utilized as fuel. Following mechanical treatments, hand crews would remove smaller junipers or other junipers that are not able to be cut mechanically. Approximately one brush pile per every one to five acres may also be required to help reduce the removal of wildlife cover. Additionally, approximately 8.5 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing would be installed for the purposes of grazing management to enhance and sustain the native grassland restoration efforts. Pre-construction surveys for special status species would be completed, specifically for northern goshawk and Sandhill crane, and if nesting species are found, a buffer zone will be established around the nest. Any cultural resources identified during pre-construction surveys will be flagged and avoided. The purpose of the Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration Project is to allow for the restoration of native grassland to improve habitat and hydrologic function by returning native grasslands in Ash Valley to pre-settlement conditions characterized by productive wet meadows, sagebrush steppe communities, and functioning watersheds, combined with grazing management (livestock fencing). Implementation of the project would support the long-term ecological values and the health of the watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen County Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15303, “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;” and Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: ________________________________
Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of land management activities and minor land alterations (installation of fencing and juniper removal) that in turn would provide for the restoration and enhancement of native plant species and hydrologic function, as well as the effective management of grazing lands. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources would occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: __________________________ Date:_____________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:______________ Revised 2005
Applicant: American Rivers

Project Title: Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow

Subregion: East

County: Alpine County

SNC Funding: $75,000

Total Project Cost: $150,000

Application Number: 684

Final Score: 86.0

PROJECT SCOPE

Hope Valley Meadow is located at the intersection of Highways 88 and 89, thoroughfares between Gold Country and Lake Tahoe and is one of the largest meadows in the Sierra Nevada. The overall Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Project has three main goals: 1) to restore the hydrologic function and full range of ecosystem services that will include natural water storage, flood attenuation, increased forage, aquatic and riparian habitat and recreational values; 2) assist the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in determining whether well-managed grazing could be compatible with post-restoration management objectives and identify questions and solutions associated with re-introducing grazing at this site; and 3) validate a forage model with on-the-ground data that predicts increased forage as a result of meadow restoration.

The project has been designed to proceed in four phases, with Phase 1 (assessment and conceptual restoration designs) already completed and Phase 2 (technical restoration designs) being completed by December 2013. This request is for Phase 3 of the project which will include pre-restoration forage monitoring; review, discussion and synthesis of best management practices around grazing on the restored site; data collection sufficient for the USFS to begin developing a site-specific management plan; and permitting including completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review so that the site is “shovel-ready.” Phase 4 will be implementation of meadow restoration and adaptive management.

This project aligns with the stated focus of the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant cycle as it is a Category Two project that will lead to meadow restoration which will improve habitat and hydrologic function. The completion of this project will
also address questions regarding how, when and where grazing could be introduced to meadow sites after restoration is complete – creating a framework that may be used on other meadow restoration sites where the re-introduction of grazing as a management tool is under consideration. This project aligns with Proposition 84 goals including contributing to the protection of rivers and streams, their watersheds and associated land and other natural resources through the implementation of meadow restoration.

American Rivers has leveraged SNC funding by securing an additional $75,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bella Vista Foundation as a match for this request.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finalized work plan and budget</td>
<td>June 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed subcontracts/grants with project partners</td>
<td>June 30, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of final monitoring plan for gathering necessary data</td>
<td>June 30, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biannual finance and performance reports</td>
<td>November 15, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of monitoring equipment</td>
<td>November 15, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final CEQA document</td>
<td>May 15, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biannual finance and performance reports</td>
<td>May 15, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compilation and analysis of best management practices</td>
<td>July 15, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biannual finance and performance reports</td>
<td>November 15, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401 and 404 Permits (including Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan-SWPPP)</td>
<td>December 15, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-restoration data collected and analyzed</td>
<td>September 15, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final monitoring report</td>
<td>November 15, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final NEPA document</td>
<td>December 15, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Report</td>
<td>April 15, 2016</td>
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<td>Final Report</td>
<td>May 15, 2016</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 15, 2016</strong></td>
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PROJECT COSTS

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
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*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
  - Friends of Hope Valley
- Oppose – N/A

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of people reached
- Dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- Number and type of jobs created
- Number of new, improved or preserved economic activities
- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Integrated Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow (SNC 684)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located in the Hope Valley, at the intersection of State Route (SR) 88 and SR-89, approximately 5.5 miles west of Alpine Village, approximately 9.5 miles northwest of Markleeville, approximately 10 miles southeast of South Lake Tahoe, and approximately 10 miles northeast of Kirkwood Mountain Resort, in Alpine County, California.

Project Location – City: Alpine Village and Markleeville
Project Location – County: Alpine

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
American Rivers is requesting $75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for funding to conduct pre-restoration forage monitoring, identify best management practices (BMP) for grazing, collect data to support the U.S. Forest Service’s (USFS) development of a site-specific management plan, and prepare environmental documentation and permitting on USFS managed land in Alpine County. The proposed project would collect pre-restoration forage data to calibrate a meadow restoration forage model, prepare a monitoring report, and identify BMPs centered around grazing on the restored site resulting in a site-specific grazing management plan to be implemented by USFS. It will also include the preparation of appropriate documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act as well as obtain appropriate permits. The purpose of the project is to ascertain the full range of ecosystem services at the meadow, provide the USFS a grazing management plan for implementation, and to validate a forage model. The benefits of the project include a better understanding of the ecological health/grazing balance, increased habitat and forage, and increased water quality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American Rivers

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of conducting pre-restoration forage monitoring, identifying BMPs for grazing, collecting data for a site-specific management plan, and preparing environmental documentation and permitting. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: Revised 2005
Applicant: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council

Project Title: Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvements Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: $18,607.00

Total Project Cost: $50,072.90

Application Number: 705

Final Score: 86.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The Long Ridge Allotment is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotment used annually for spring forage from March through June by Sierra Nevada foothill ranchers who operate a 125 cow/calf pair ranching operation and a 300 cow/calf pair ranching operation.

The project goal is to improve livestock distribution through providing off-site livestock water developments which would also improve use and condition of upland forage and reduce localized impacts, improve riparian condition and integrity by protecting springs and seeps from cattle impacts and facilitate livestock handling through construction of needed handling facilities. The improvements include: Horseshoe Bend Trail Spring Exclosure and Livestock Water Development, Coyote Spring Livestock Water Development, Smalley Cove Livestock Handling Facility and Livestock Water Development, and Powerhouse #4 Livestock Handling Facilities.

The work would be a collaborative effort between the USFS and the Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council (YSRCDC). The YSRCDC will act as fiscal agent and the USFS will implement the projects along with the permittees (associated ranchers) whom not only support this project, but would assist with the construction and implementation of these proposed rangeland improvements.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheduling Year 1 Work</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procure and Deliver (P&amp;D) Materials for HBT* Riparian Exclosure and OSLWD**</td>
<td>October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin HBT Riparian Exclosure and OSLWD</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNC 6 Month Report</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;D Materials for Powerhouse #4 Corral and Holding Field</td>
<td>January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct Powerhouse #4 Corral and Holding Field</td>
<td>February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNC 12 month progress report</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheduling Year 2</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;D Materials for Coyote Spring OSLWD</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Coyote Spring OSLWD</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheduling Year 3 Work</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;D Materials for Smalley Cove (SC) Corral and OSLWD</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct SC Corral and OSLWD</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report to SNC</td>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</td>
<td>December 31, 2015</td>
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<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>$18,607.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPosition

- Support
  - Chowchilla-Redtop RCD
  - North Fork Rancheria
  - Coursegold RCD
  - Central Sierra Watershed Committee
  - Foundation for Resource Conservation
  - North Fork Community Development Council

- Oppose
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Stream Bank Protected and Restored.
- Acres of Land Improved and Restored.
- Number and Value of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvements Project (SNC 705)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located in the Sierra National Forest, north and east of Kerckhoff Lake on the San Joaquin River, approximately 5 miles south of North Fork, in Madera County, California.

Project Location – City: North Fork
Project Location – County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council is requesting $18,607 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for minor improvements to rangelands to protect riparian areas from livestock impacts, while improving livestock distribution within the Long Range Allotment to limit livestock impacts, located in the Sierra National Forest (SNF). The Long Ridge Allotment is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotment used annually for spring forage from March through June by two ranchers. Project activities would provide improvements to an estimated 1,541-acres; project activities include constructing a 100 foot by 100 foot barbed wire fence enclosure around the perimeter of the springs and seep area adjacent to the Horseshoe Bend system trail, developing an off-site livestock water trough away from sensitive riparian areas, constructing a spring box at Coyote Springs, replacing the existing wooden corral at the Smalley Cove Pasture and placing a spring box in the spring to the north of the corral, and constructing a 0.5-acre barbed wire fence holding field with a pipe corral and holding pens at the junction of Southern California Edison Powerhouse #4 and Madera County Road 235. The purpose of the project is to reduce localized impacts and improve livestock distribution to limit livestock impacts by providing offsite livestock water developments; and improve riparian conditions and integrity by protecting springs and seeps from livestock impacts.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council/National Forest Service

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15303, “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;” and Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation
that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor improvements (offsite water developments, fencing, corral improvements) to allow for improvements to forage, vegetation and soil conditions on an estimated 1,541-acres and improvements of 0.02 mile (1,156 linear feet) of riparian habitat which will allow for increased habitat protection and improved watershed health for the long-term. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____________ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:  
Revised 2005
Applicant:   Plumas Corporation

Project Title:   Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project

Subregion:   North Central

County:   Plumas

SNC Funding:   $341,000.00

Total Project Cost:  $565,460.00

Application Number:  694

Final Score:    85.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project addresses channel erosion, fish passage barriers, and loss of agricultural productivity along Greenhorn Creek in American Valley near the town of Quincy in Plumas County. Land use along the channel is primarily agricultural. The project seeks to improve water quality and trout productivity by stabilizing actively eroding areas of stream bank and streambed, and restoring fish passage at two agricultural diversion dams. These actions will also stem the on-going loss of agricultural land to bank erosion, and protect the two diversion dams from failure.

The Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project is comprised of six (6) treatment areas along Greenhorn Creek in American Valley – four (4) to be funded under this grant. One of the six treatment areas was constructed in October 2011. The SNC funding will treat 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,720 feet of channel. Two of the treatments specifically address bank stabilization, while the other two address fish passage and irrigation dam stabilization. The two bank stabilization treatment areas (Farnworth & Hansen/Shea/Labbe) will involve laying back 6-8 feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks and installing boulder vanes. The 2.8-acre Farnworth treatment area will treat 220 feet of bank and install 30 cubic yards of boulders in two vanes. The Hansen/Shea/Labbe treatment area will stabilize 900 to 1,800 feet of channel and install 220 to 435 cubic yards of boulders in 10 to 20 vanes. [Uncertainty with treatment at this location is due to the recent occupation of one of the eroding banks by bank swallows, a California threatened species. Pre-construction surveys and close coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game will determine the final degree of treatment in this area.]
The two fish passage treatments are located at agricultural irrigation dams, both of which are in danger of collapse. Bed erosion below both of these dams has created impassable fish barriers, and is undermining the bed on which the dams are built. Loss of these dams would be catastrophic for both Greenhorn Creek and the irrigators. The irrigators would lose substantial productivity from their irrigated pastures, and the channel would be subject to severe head-cutting, which would also lead to drying of the meadow (and subsequent loss of irrigation efficiency). On-going bed erosion has created an abrupt drop of eight feet at these dams to date. Treatment will consist of rock channel and floodplain structures that will stabilize the bed, allow upstream fish migration, and protect the dams. The structures will be constructed at a 5% grade. The structures are designed to require no maintenance, allow fish passage, and dissipate the energy of falling water. They are built with a series of riffles and pools in the constructed channel, and a rocked floodplain that will carry over-banking flood flows. The Reid Dam structure will require 4,000 cubic yards of rock, and the Shea Dam will require 2,800 cubic yards. Transporting these large volumes of rock would render the project prohibitively expensive without a nearby source. Some rock and transportation were donated to the project in 2010 by CC Meyers, Inc., and is now stockpiled five miles from the project site.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock size engineering review</td>
<td>July 1-14, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-project monitoring data collection</td>
<td>July – September 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction contract advertised and awarded</td>
<td>July – August 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>County grading permit received</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stormwater Construction General Permit (CGP) documents registered</td>
<td>September 1, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shea/Hansen/Labbe Reach construction</td>
<td>September 15 – October 9, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shea Ranch fish passage construction</td>
<td>October 9-31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First six month progress report to SNC</td>
<td>December 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second six month progress report to SNC</td>
<td>June 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGP documents registered</td>
<td>August 15, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farnworth reach construction</td>
<td>September 1-9, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reid dam fish passage construction</td>
<td>September 10-30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third six month progress report to SNC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revegetation where needed</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth six month progress report to SNC</td>
<td>June 30, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-project monitoring data collection</td>
<td>July – September 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report to SNC</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td>March 1, 2016</td>
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PROJECT COSTS

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<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND</strong></td>
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</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.
** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
  - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group Executive Committee
- Opposition
  - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear feet of stream bank protected or restored.
- Acres of land protected or restored.
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Subject: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Project Title: Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2011062025

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21.

County: Plumas County

Project Description: The Plumas Corporation has requested $341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel at four sites along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. The proposed project would construct bank stabilization treatments in two of the treatment areas; this would involve laying back six to eight feet higher eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. Two fish passage treatments are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams; treatment at these two locations would involve placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows.

As [☐] Lead Agency [☒] a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on March 7, 2013, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [☐] will [☒] will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A [☐] Negative Declaration [☒] Mitigated Negative Declaration [☐] Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☐] were [☐] were not made a condition of project approval.
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 Mitigated Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
## RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

### PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:**
   Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694)

2. **Responsible Agency Name and Address:**
   Sierra Nevada Conservancy
   11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
   Auburn, CA 95603

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
   Matthew Daley, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4698

4. **Project Location:**
   The project is located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21.

5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
   Plumas Corporation
   550 Crescent Street
   Quincy, CA 95971

6. **General Plan Designation:**
   Floodplain, Special Plan-Scenic Area, Special Plan – Scenic Road, Secondary Suburban, Important Agriculture

7. **Zoning:**
   AP (Agricultural Preserve), GA (General Agriculture), S-3 (Secondary Suburban), FP (Floodplain), SP-ScA (Special Plan – Scenic Area), SP-ScR (Special Plan (Scenic Road), MH (Mobile Home Combining Zone)

8. **Description of Project:**
   The Plumas Corporation has requested $341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel in four discrete units along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. Of the four treatment areas, two sites would provide treatments for bank stabilization and two sites would provide treatments to improve fish passage.

   The two bank stabilization treatment areas (Farnworth and Hansen/Shea/Labbe) would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. The boulder vanes are a line of boulders set at floodplain elevation and angled upstream to maintain flow vectors in the center of the channel, which help to induce deposition along the bank and maintain depth in pools through scouring action. The 2.8-acre Farnsworth treatment area would treat 220 feet of bank and would install 30 cubic yards of boulders in two vanes. The Hansen/Shea/Labbe
reach would treat between 900 and 1,800 feet of bank and would install between 220 and 435 cubic yards of boulders in 10 to 20 vanes.

Two fish passage treatment areas are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams. Treatment would consist of placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and building a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows. The Reid Dam structure would require 4,000 cubic yards of rock and the Shea Dam would require 2,800 cubic yards of rock.

Construction work would entail the use of an excavator, a track loader, transportation of rock, and a water truck, as well as, follow-up re-vegetation and noxious weed removal during the first two years of project completion. Each treatment area would require a temporary flow bypass channel and coffer dams to de-water the construction area and protect water quality and aquatic life during construction. In the fish passage treatment areas, irrigation ditches would be used to bypass the flow; a temporary channel would be excavated (and re-contoured after construction) in the other two treatment areas.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:
Land uses at and surrounding the project area includes suburban residential, secondary suburban residential, rural residential, agriculture, and agriculture preserve, timber resources, roadway/highway, railroad, and federal land. The project area is located within a flood zone.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District**
California Regional Water Quality Control Board*
California Department of Fish and Game (now California Department of Fish and Wildlife)*
Plumas County Building and Planning Department***
*Issued Permit
**Approved the Finding of No Significant Impact
***Approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project ultimately includes six treatment areas along Greenhorn Creek, totaling 21-acres and 3,633 feet of stream channel. The proposed project has been under development since 2007, beginning with a request for assistance with erosion problems by several agricultural landowners. Topographic surveys and design work were completed with a planning grant from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and funding from the Shea Ranch. The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee funded completion of environmental review for the entire project and construction of the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels, which was completed in October 2011. A second treatment area, the Chandler Road East Bridge, addresses bed stabilization by using boulder vanes and a floodplain culvert and would be constructed using landowner funds, thus it is not a part of the proposed project. The remaining four treatment areas are thus a part of this proposed project.
The Plumas County Planning Department acted as Lead Agency under CEQA in May 2011 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in July 2011. The USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District prepared an Environmental Assessment and adopted a Finding of No Significant Impact in August 2011 for the site at the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels (completed in 2011).

The proposed project would stabilize the eroding stream banks and restore fish passages by removing barriers, thus improving water quality and trout productivity. In addition, the proposed project would help to maintain the agricultural productivity in the area. These actions would stem the on-going loss of agricultural land to bank erosion and protect the two diversion dams from failure.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Negative Declaration

Reid/PNF Treatment Unit of the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to protect and improve water quality, improve trout productivity, and maintain agricultural productivity along Greenhorn Creek in Plumas County by reducing bank erosion and improving fish passage. The purpose of the proposed project is to: 1) reduce on-going erosion of stream bank on Greenhorn Creek; 2) improve water quality through the reduction of sediment loads; 3) restore fish passage through the area thus improving fish productivity; 4) maintain productivity on the existing agricultural lands surrounding Greenhorn Creek; and 5) improve irrigation dam stability.

The Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) includes environmental impact analysis of a total of six treatment sites along Greenhorn Creek. Erosion control and bank stabilization treatment was completed at the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels in October 2011. Bed stabilization at the Chandler Road East Bridge site, analyzed under the IS/MND, would involve boulder vanes and a floodplain culvert along 540 feet of channel. The Chandler Road East Bridge is under separate funding and is not part of this proposed project.

The Plumas Corporation would treat 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel at four sites along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. Of the four treatment areas, the treatment at two sites involve bank stabilization and the treatment at the remaining two sites involve bank stabilization and improving fish passage.

The two bank stabilization treatment areas (Farnworth and Hansen/Shea/Labbe) would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. The boulder vanes are a line of boulders set at floodplain elevation.
and angled upstream to maintain flow vectors in the center of the channel, which help to induce deposition along the bank and maintain depth in pools through scouring action. The 2.8-acre Farnworth treatment area would treat 220 feet of bank and install 30 cubic yards of boulders in two vanes. The Hansen/Shea/Labbe reach would treat between 900 and 1,800 feet of bank and install between 220 and 435 cubic yards of boulders in 10 to 20 vanes.

Two fish passage treatments are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams. Treatment would consist of placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows. The Reid Dam structure would require 4,000 cubic yards of rock and the Shea Dam would require 2,800 cubic yards of rock.

Construction work would entail the use of an excavator, a track loader, transportation of rock, and a water truck, as well as follow-up re-vegetation and noxious weed removal during the first two years of project completion. Each treatment area would require a temporary flow bypass channel and coffer dams to de-water the construction area and protect water quality and aquatic life during construction. In the fish passage treatment areas, irrigation ditches would be used to bypass the flow; a temporary channel would be excavated (and re-contoured after construction) in the other two treatment areas.

Permits for the proposed project have been issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Nationwide Permit 27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement Area) in July 2012, California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region (Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit) in July 2011, and California Department of Fish and Game (currently known as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement) in October 2011.

**Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request**

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing $341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel in four discrete units along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. Of the four treatment areas, two sites would provide treatments for bank stabilization and two sites would provide treatments to improve fish passage. The Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project IS/MND identifies potential resource impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and transportation and traffic. Specifically, the proposed project may result in increased emissions from diesel equipment; the disturbance of streams; temporary habitat disruption; temporary disturbance of special-status plant and animal species; the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities; soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or release of hazardous materials into the environment; violation of water quality standards; degradation of water quality; and truck traffic and turning movements at area intersections. Based on the IS/MND, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project IS/MND. The project proponent would implement measures identified in the IS/MND, and described below, to lessen potential impacts to air quality, biological and cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and transportation and traffic.
### ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact.”

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<th>Factor</th>
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### DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)
On the basis of this evaluation:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The Plumas County Building and Planning Services, as the lead agency, also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Jim Branham

Printed Name

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency
Project Title: Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694)

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH# 2011062025

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21.

Description of Project: The Plumas Corporation has requested $341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel at four sites along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. The proposed project would construct bank stabilization treatments in two of the treatment areas; this would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. Two fish passage treatment areas are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams; treatment at these two locations would involve placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA): Plumas County Building and Planning Services, Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. SCH# 2011062025. July 2011.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the potential impacts of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. Air Quality

During construction, there would be the potential for increased emissions from diesel equipment. Trucks hauling materials to the Shea Dam and Reid Dam sites may increase dust on the roads. There would also be short-term soil disturbances within the project sites which could result in increased dust (particulate matter). Operation of diesel equipment could also temporarily impact air quality. Construction impacts are considered potentially significant without mitigation. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers air quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.
Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures: The grading activity will be conducted in a manner in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Appropriate measures for this type of project include the preparation of a dust control plan. The dust control plan shall contain the following mitigation measures:

**MM-1** All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded shall be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering may occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage, if necessary.

**MM-2** All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emission.

**MM-3** All on-site vehicle traffic shall be limited to a speed of 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads.

**MM-4** All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavating activities on a project site shall be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 miles per hour.

**MM-5** All inactive portions of the site shall be covered, seeded, or watered until a suitable cover is established. Alternatively, the applicant shall be responsible for applying County-approved non-toxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer’s specification) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance.

**MM-6** All material transported off-site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle.

**MM-7** Paved streets adjacent to the project shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud which may have resulted from activities at the project site.

**MM-8** The project proponent shall re-establish ground cover on the site through seeding and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance.

2. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is expected to enhance Plumas County designated deer winter range and waterfowl nesting habitats by improving riparian habitat and vegetation along the stream channel. The proposed project may cause direct impacts to streams, plants, and habitat; the proposed project may cause indirect impacts to habitat, wildlife, and plants. Key impacts on
habitat include: temporary re-routing of channel flows from the existing channel into a bypass channel during construction; increasing the percentage of pool (versus riffle) habitat; increasing bank angle (from vertical to 2:1 slope) so that vegetation can become established; removing riparian vegetation from the gravel bar and planting it on the banks; increasing riparian vegetation on the newly sloped banks; decreasing pasture habitat to improve bank angle on vertical banks; increasing riparian habitat by planting stream banks that currently do not support vegetation; temporarily increasing sedimentation during construction; and improving water quality of riverine habitat in the long term by decreasing sedimentation from eroding banks. The proposed project may cause temporary impacts on special-status animal and plant species as follows: reptile species (Pacific pond turtle), avian species (willow flycatcher, Sandhill cranes, yellow warbler), bat species (western red bat, Pallid bat, and Townsend’s big-eared bat), fish species (rainbow trout and brown trout). No sensitive plant species were identified during the project-level field survey. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**MM-9** Flag and avoid any sensitive plants that may be found during construction. Flag and avoid noxious weed areas, cleaning equipment, using weed free material and mulch, remove plants and/or seed heads prior to construction, and remove noxious weed plants for three years after construction.

**MM-10** The following shall be implemented:

a. Pacific pond turtles – Re-survey the project area prior to construction to avoid directly crushing individuals with heavy equipment.

b. Willow flycatcher – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities OR construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest.

c. Sandhill cranes – Either construct the project outside of the limited operating period (LOP), which is after August 1, or survey for cranes within a half-mile of the project area to determine presence and location prior to any disturbance.

d. Yellow warbler – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities OR construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest.

**MM-11** Trout – capturing (via electroshocking) and moving trout out of each immediate work area.
3. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Although no known archaeological or paleontological resources occur on-site, ground disturbance has the potential to disturb previously unknown cultural resources or human remains. The field survey identified one potentially historic structure, the Reid irrigation dam; however, the consulting archaeologist recommends that the site is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is not a historic property as defined in 36 CFR 800.4. By decreasing the hydraulic drop of the dam, the fish passage structure proposed downstream is expected to protect the dam from damage due to further erosion of bed and banks. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

MM-12 If project ground disturbance should expose a cultural deposit, it is recommended that the disturbance stop until an archaeologist can evaluate the material. In the event human remains are discovered during project activity, existing law requires that project managers contact the county coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, both Native American Commission and any identified descendants shall be notified.

4. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project may result in substantial soil erosion and loss of topsoil during construction. There is potential for heavy equipment to directly impact soil porosity by increasing compaction. Organic matter and soil nutrients may be temporarily decreased during construction; however, project activities would be controlled by Best Management Practices (BMPs) and soil disturbance outside of the sloped bank and gravel bar would be minimal. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers geological and soils impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.
Mitigation Measures:

**MM-13** Divert water around the work areas as discussed in the Water Diversion Plan.

**MM-14** Vegetate, seed, and mulch the newly sloped banks, fish passage structures, and other disturbed areas.

**MM-15** Construction shall occur during the low flow period, and coincide with the most favorable moisture conditions on the meadow (i.e., a dry meadow surface).

**MM-16** Topsoil and any organic material in the area of excavation would be removed and stockpiled adjacent to the bank. When the bank has been sloped, the stockpiled topsoil with associated organics and native seed bank would be spread on the bank.

**MM-17** All desirable plant material that would be impacted would be removed and transplanted. Locations of transplants are prioritized according to need for maximum soil protection in areas of potentially high stress such as: 1) the bottom half of the newly sloped bank, 2) the top half of the newly sloped bank, 3) outcurves, 4) fish passage bank and floodplain areas.

**MM-18** All equipment travel and haul routes would be restricted to the smallest area possible, and via existing access roads. Equipment travel on these roads would be limited to moving equipment in to start and out when finished. Any additional compaction to these roads would be scarified perpendicular to expected surface water flow and dressed with scattered organic material if necessary.

**MM-19** Staging areas and temporary haul routes used during the project would be subsoiled to the full depth of compaction to restore soil porosity, perpendicular to surface flow directions. Areas with residual meadow sod would only be lightly scarified to preserve sod integrity. The emphasis is on the least soil disruption while loosening the soil. Extensive mixing or plowing can have a negative effect on soil microorganisms. This technique has been successful in loosening the soil, restoring soil porosity, providing a high infiltration capacity, and thereby reducing cumulative watershed effects.

5. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Although not anticipated, the transport of fuel and lubricants may occur during project implementation and there is the potential for a spill to occur if equipment overturns or during equipment fueling and maintenance operations; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers hazards and hazardous materials impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.
Mitigation Measures:

   MM-20  Equipment would be re-fueled and serviced outside of the riparian area.

6. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

During construction, there would be short-term soil disturbances within the project sites which could result in the violation of water quality standards and otherwise substantially degrade water quality; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers hydrology and water quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures: In addition to the implementation of MM-13 through MM-19, the following mitigation measures are required:

   MM-21  Pump any water that subsurfaces into the work areas onto vegetated floodplain so that it can filter through vegetation before re-entering the stream channel.

   MM-22  Deploy sedimats® below the work areas in the channel to capture settleable solids that may enter the stream channel.

   MM-23  Service and re-fuel equipment outside of riparian areas to prevent harmful materials from being washed into the water.

   MM-24  Control Construction in Streamside Management Zones by keeping an effective vegetative filter for sediment generated by erosion from road fills, dust drift and oil traces; maintain existing shade, riparian habitat and channel stabilizing vegetation as much as possible. Maintain as much of the floodplain surface as possible in a resistant, undisturbed condition to limit erosion by flood flows.

   MM-25  Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment production as much as possible.

   MM-26  Collect water quality samples and document water quality data.

7. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

During construction, there would be a short-term increase in truck traffic, with an estimated 406 trips. Right and left turn movements would occur off of State Route 89, which could temporarily slow traffic at the Chandler and Quincy Junction roads. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers transportation and traffic impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.
Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

MM-27 Plumas Corporation shall obtain an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for State Route 89 traffic and from Plumas County for county road traffic prior to beginning construction.

MM-28 Warning signs shall be placed in both directions on all roads with truck traffic associated with the project in compliance with the encroachment permits.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature ________________________________ Date ______________________

Name __Jim Branham______________________ Title __Executive Officer_____
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project (SNC 694) (State Clearinghouse No. 2011062025), located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project. It is intended to be used by Plumas County Building and Planning Services staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project ultimately includes six treatment areas along Greenhorn Creek, totaling 21 acres and 3,633 feet of stream channel. The proposed project has been underway since 2007, beginning with a request for assistance with erosion problems by several agricultural landowners. Topographic surveys and design work were completed with a planning grant from the Plumas County...
Board of Supervisors and funding from the Shea Ranch. The Plumas County Resource
Advisory Committee funded completion of environmental review for the entire project,
and construction on the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels in October 2011.
A second treatment area, the Chandler Road East Bridge, addresses bed stabilization
by using boulder vanes and a floodplain culvert and would be constructed using
landowner funds, thus it is not a part of the proposed project. The remaining four
treatment areas are thus a part of the proposed project.

The Plumas County Planning Department acted as Lead Agency under the CEQA in
May 2011 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in
July 2011. The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation
measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. The mitigation measures
identified in the IS/MND would apply to the proposed Greenhorn Creek Integrated
Restoration Project and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following
pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the
Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project. These mitigation measures are
reproduced from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the
Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project, and conditions of approval for the
project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the
IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in
the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the
mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the
mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the Plumas County Building and
Planning Services department or any other public agency with which coordination is
required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual
designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.
1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the Plumas County Building and Planning Services in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The Plumas County Building and Planning Services shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the Plumas County Building and Planning Services shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mitigation Measure</th>
<th>Implementation Phase</th>
<th>Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party</th>
<th>Verification of Compliance</th>
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<td><strong>Air Quality</strong></td>
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<td>MM-1</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>MM-2</td>
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<td>MM-3</td>
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<td>MM-4</td>
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<td>MM-5</td>
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<td>MM-6</td>
<td>During construction</td>
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<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>MM-7</td>
<td>During construction</td>
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<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>MM-8</td>
<td>During construction</td>
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<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>Mitigation Measure</td>
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<td>MM-9</td>
<td>Flag and avoid any sensitive plants that may be found during construction. Flag and avoid noxious weed areas, cleaning equipment, using weed free material and mulch, remove plants and/or seed heads prior to construction, and remove noxious weed plants for three years after construction.</td>
<td>Prior to Project implementation</td>
<td>Pre-Construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| MM-10              | The following shall be implemented:  
  a. Pacific pond turtles – Re-survey the project area prior to construction to avoid directly crushing individuals with heavy equipment.  
  b. Willow flycatcher – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities OR construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest.  
  c. Sandhill cranes – Either construct the project outside of the limited operating period (LOP), which is after August 1, or survey for cranes within a half-mile of the project area to determine presence and location prior to any disturbance.  
  d. Yellow warbler – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities OR construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest. | Prior to Project implementation | Pre-construction | Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Project Manager |
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<tr>
<td>MM-11</td>
<td>Trout – capturing (via electroshocking) and moving trout out of each immediate work area.</td>
<td>Prior to Project implementation</td>
<td>Pre-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>CULTURAL RESOURCES</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM-12</td>
<td>If project ground disturbance should expose a cultural deposit, it is recommended that the disturbance stop until an archaeologist can evaluate the material. In the event human remains are discovered during project activity, existing law requires that project managers contact the county coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, both Native American Commission and any identified descendants shall be notified.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, Plumas County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>GEOLOGY/SOILS</td>
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<td>MM-13</td>
<td>Divert water around the work areas as discussed in the Water Diversion Plan.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM-14</td>
<td>Vegetate, seed, and mulch the newly sloped banks, fish passage structures, and other disturbed areas.</td>
<td>During construction / Upon Project completion</td>
<td>During construction / Post-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM-15</td>
<td>Construction shall occur during the low flow period, and coincide with the most favorable moisture conditions on the meadow (i.e., a dry meadow surface).</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM-16</td>
<td>Topsoil and any organic material in the area of excavation would be removed and stockpiled adjacent to the bank. When the bank has been sloped, the stockpiled topsoil with associated organics and native seed bank would be spread on the bank.</td>
<td>During construction / Upon Project completion</td>
<td>During construction / Post-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>MM-17</td>
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<td>All desirable plant material that would be impacted, would be removed and transplanted. Locations of transplants are prioritized according to need for maximum soil protection in areas of potentially high stress such as: 1) the bottom half of the newly sloped bank, 2) the top half of the newly sloped bank, 3) outcurves, 4) fish passage bank and floodplain areas.</td>
<td>During construction / Upon Project completion</td>
<td>During construction / Post-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>MM-18</td>
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<td>All equipment travel and haul routes would be restricted to the smallest area possible and via existing access roads. Equipment travel on these roads would be limited to moving equipment in to start and out when finished. Any additional compaction to these roads would be scarified perpendicular to expected surface water flow and dressed with scattered organic material if necessary.</td>
<td>During construction / Upon Project completion</td>
<td>During construction / Post-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<td>MM-19</td>
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<td>Staging areas and temporary haul routes used during the project would be subsoiled to the full depth of compaction to restore soil porosity, perpendicular to surface flow directions. Areas with residual meadow sod would only be lightly scarified to preserve sod integrity. The emphasis is on the least soil disruption while loosening the soil. Extensive mixing or plowing can have a negative effect on soil microorganisms. This technique has been successful in loosening the soil, restoring soil porosity, providing a high infiltration capacity, and thereby reducing cumulative watershed effects.</td>
<td>During construction / Upon Project completion</td>
<td>During construction / Post-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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| HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS |    |    |                                     |                           |
| MM-20                          |    |    |                                     |                           |
| Equipment would be re-fueled and serviced outside of the riparian area. | During construction | During construction | Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager |                           |

<p>| HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY |    |    |                                     |                           |
| MM-21                         |    |    |                                     |                           |
| Pump any water that subsurfaces into the work areas onto vegetated floodplain so that it can filter through vegetation before re-entering the stream channel. | During construction | During construction | Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager |                           |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MM-22</td>
<td>Deploy sediments® below the work areas in the channel to capture settleable solids that may enter the stream channel.</td>
<td>Prior to Project implementation / During construction</td>
<td>Pre-construction / During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM-23</td>
<td>Service and re-fuel equipment outside of riparian areas to prevent harmful materials from being washed into the water.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM-24</td>
<td>Control Construction in Streamside Management Zones by keeping an effective vegetative filter for sediment generated by erosion from road fills, dust drift and oil traces; maintain existing shade, riparian habitat and channel stabilizing vegetation as much as possible. Maintain as much of the floodplain surface as possible in a resistant, undisturbed condition to limit erosion by flood flows.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM-25</td>
<td>Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment production as much as possible.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>MM-26</td>
<td>Collect water quality samples and document water quality data.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager</td>
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**TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM-27</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation shall obtain an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for State Route 89 traffic and from Plumas County for county road traffic prior to beginning construction.</td>
<td>Prior to Project implementation</td>
<td>Pre-construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, Plumas County Public Works, Caltrans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM-28</td>
<td>Warning signs shall be placed in both directions on all roads with truck traffic associated with the project in compliance with the encroachment permits.</td>
<td>Prior to Project implementation / During construction</td>
<td>Pre-construction / During construction</td>
<td>Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, Plumas County Public Works, Caltrans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROJECT SCOPE

The Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements Project will complete the most critical infrastructure improvements needed to support long term ranching, habitat protection and public access at Hidden Falls Regional Park (Hidden Falls) - A 1,200-acre open space preserve and passive park owned by Placer County and located between the communities of Auburn and Lincoln. The following improvements will be completed:

- Repair of the existing stock pond and irrigation canal to correct uncontrolled seepage and capacity loss from sediment;
- Treatment of one mile of eroding ranch roads;
- Repair of perimeter fencing; and,
- Construction of watering troughs to deter grazing animals (including public equestrians using the trail system) from stream courses.

Placer County and its grant funding partners, including Sierra Nevada Conservancy, have invested $10 million into the purchase and development of Hidden Falls Regional Park in order to protect its natural resources and support public access and enjoyment. The Agricultural and Public Access Improvements Project will complete the most critical upgrades needed on the Hidden Falls property in order to support long term ranching, aid in wildfire risk reduction through vegetation grazing, and reduce sediment into the Coon Creek Watershed.
## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranch Road Abandonment</td>
<td>June 3, 2013 – December 27, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 11, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perimeter Fence Replacement</td>
<td>January 2, 2014 – December 17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Progress Report</td>
<td>May 12, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Progress Report</td>
<td>November 11, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of stock pond</td>
<td>January 1, 2014 – September 9, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Progress Report</td>
<td>May 12, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Month Progress Report</td>
<td>August 11, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td>March 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$320,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$325,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

## PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- **Support**
  - Placer County Resource Conservation District
  - Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition
  - REI, Inc.
  - Sun City Lincoln Hills Hiking Club
- **Oppose**
  - None

---

PAGE 2 OF 3
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

• Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements Project (SNC 670)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located along Mears Road and Mears Place, approximately six miles northwest of Auburn and approximately eight miles northeast of Lincoln, in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Auburn and Lincoln
Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Placer County is requesting $325,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for ranch management to continue ranching and grazing for the purpose of vegetation management, habitat health and agricultural preservation; habitat protection; and public access at the 1,200-acre Hidden Falls Regional Park. This project includes infrastructure improvements which include repairing the 0.6-acre existing stock pond by dredging and lining with an impermeable membrane such as clay; repairing the 1,200 foot spur of the Whiskey Diggins irrigation canal by encasing the canal in piping with outlets for controlled flow; re-contouring (grading) abandoned sections of a ranch road to allow sheet flows over the area without concentrating in the existing ruts and channels and installing a layer of all-weather base-rock to the existing ranch roads to control erosion and dust; constructing three watering troughs located inside the paddocks and deterring grazing animals (including public equestrians using the trail system) from Coon Creek; and repairing and replacing up to eight miles of perimeter fencing. The purpose of the project is to repair and improve critical infrastructure needed to support ranch management, protect habitat, and provide continued public access to the park.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301, “Existing Facilities”; Section 15303, “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures”; Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, which permits the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination; Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor
modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (existing infrastructure improvements) that in turn provide land management activities that will protect habitat and water resources, thus resulting in the continued use of the parkland for existing ranching and recreational uses. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ________________________ Date: ____________ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:  
Revised 2005
Applicant: Shasta Land Trust

Project Title: Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning

Subregion: North

County: Shasta

SNC Funding: $39,600.00

Total Project Cost: $39,600.00

Application Number: 751

Final Score: 84.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The grant provides pre-project planning activities necessary to implement important restoration projects on the Hathaway Ranch, which is currently protected by a Shasta Land Trust (SLT) conservation easement. SLT will create specific project designs for future restoration work in the riparian areas of Oak Run Creek, develop project designs for installing riparian area exclusion fencing with associated off-stream livestock watering facilities, develop a management plan to manage grazing to the benefit of native species composition and improved livestock forage, complete baseline reports for the site, and acquire all applicable permits for these projects.

The Hathaway Ranch is a 6,600-acre cattle ranch in central Shasta County. SLT acquired a conservation easement that permanently protects the Hathaway Ranch in 2006. The ranch is losing several acres of valuable ranchland every year due to large erosion events along Oak Run Creek and stretches overgrown with Himalayan blackberry.

Deliverables of this grant include creation of at least four site-specific restoration plans, a baseline report, and a grazing management plan. The completion of these important plans will enable SLT to initiate targeted and beneficial restoration and enhancement projects that will measurably improve watershed health, agricultural viability, habitat, and water quality of Oak Run Creek.
**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIS mapping and plant species assessment</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazing management plan completion</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permitting and CEQA compliance</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST**

|                                                       | December 31, 2014 |

**PROJECT COSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
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<td>Indirect**</td>
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<td>Administrative***</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,600</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION**

- Support
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Shasta College Biology Department
  - Shasta College GIS Program

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments.
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency)

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning Project (SNC 751)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located on the Hathaway Ranch. Oak Run Creek and Oak Run Road traverse the southern portion of the project site, approximately two miles south of State Route 299, approximately seven miles northeast of Palo Cedro and approximately 12 miles east of Redding, in Shasta County, California.

Project Location – City: Palo Cedro
Project Location – County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Shasta Land Trust (SLT) is requesting $39,600 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for funding to conduct pre-project planning activities for future riparian restoration projects along Oak Run Creek, within the Hathaway Ranch, located within a conservation easement and subject to a Williamson Act contract. Project activities include creating specific project designs for future restoration work in the riparian areas of Oak Run Creek, developing a grazing management plan, completing baseline studies for the site, and acquiring all applicable permits. Restoration work could include, but is not limited to, implementing weed treatment of Himalayan blackberry stands, placing armor on eroding banks to reduce erosion, installing alternative stock watering improvements, and installing riparian fencing. The goal of the restoration plan is to improve streambank integrity, minimize loss of ranchland during flood events, and create a removal plan of invasive species (specifically Himalayan blackberry). Project site design activities would include design of riparian fencing and off-stream livestock water facilities. The purpose of this project is to complete planning and permitting for future restoration projects that would restore riparian areas, provide best management practices for the existing cattle ranch, and promote ecosystem health.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Shasta Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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: ________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of completing the site analysis and restoration site design, obtaining permits to restore portions of Oak Run Creek, and providing best management practices for the
existing cattle ranch operations. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ______________ Date: __________ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*
Applicant: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Project Title: Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Project

Subregion: Central

County: Nevada

SNC Funding: $ 68,075.00

Total Project Cost: $150,075.00

Application Number: 752

Final Score: 84.00

PROJECT SCOPE

This planning project will complete a Management Plan and a Riparian Restoration Project Design with associated environmental review documentation and permits that will lead to restoration activities on 652-acres of land along the banks of the Bear River in Nevada County. Completion of the plan will help establish a grazing regime and infrastructure that preserves water quality of the Bear River and Little Wolf Creek and benefits the plant and wildlife communities that are an important part of the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the Blue Oak Woodland community.

The Garden Bar Preserve connects to 8,600-acres of protected lands within the Bear River Watershed. Garden Bar has been used for agricultural production for the past 150 years, and is seasonally grazed by a leasee. Runoff from all agricultural lands along the Little Wolf Creek corridor flows through this property before meeting the Bear River. Lack of management has led to many negative impacts - seen in the erosion of sensitive riparian corridors used as water sources by cattle, as well as the establishment of invasive plant communities. These noxious weeds have built up and are creating thick layers of thatch that inhibit other native plant and forage growth and increase fire danger. This project will contribute to sustaining ecosystem functions and services and help to ensure the long-term ecological health of the system and dependent ranch enterprises.

Other project contributions come from the Oak Mitigation Fund, Bear Yuba Land Trust, and community volunteers.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Delineation Report</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations- Contractors:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Cooperative Extension</td>
<td>September 2013 – September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CalFire</td>
<td>August 2013 – July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Plan</td>
<td>August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian Restoration Design</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEQA/permits</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | June 1, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$51,975.00</td>
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<td>$8,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$8,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,075.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

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*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/Opposition

- Support
  - UC Cooperative Extension
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Sierra Streams Institute
  - California Native Plant Society/Redbud Chapter
  - Wolf Creek Community Alliance

- Oppose
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Project Title: Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Project (SNC 752)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located along Little Wolf Creek, approximately 0.5 mile east of the terminus of Austin Ranch Road and approximately 0.75 mile west of the terminus of Garden Bar Road, approximately nine miles west of Lake of the Pines and approximately 10 miles northeast of Lincoln, in Nevada County, California.

Project Location – City: Lake of the Pines and Lincoln
Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Bear Yuba Land Trust is requesting $68,075 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for research and preparation of a Management Plan and Riparian Restoration Project Design on the Garden Bar Preserve, which comprises approximately 652-acres. The Preserve lies within a large connected region of conserved lands (approximately 8,600-acres) within the Bear Valley Watershed. The property is not actively managed, and grazing has led to negative impacts in the form of erosion of on-site waterways and overabundance of invasive plant communities (e.g. Medusahead and Barbed Goat Grass) which inhibit other plant growth and increase fire danger. The project proposes to reassess existing grazing operations on the Garden Bar Preserve, to identify new options for grazing management, and to prepare a Management Plan and a Riparian Restoration Project Design in order to develop a grazing regime that would benefit on-site plant and wildlife communities, as well as, water quality and hydrologic features, and design site restoration/protection in eroded areas to contribute to the greater health of the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the Blue Oak Woodland community on a regional level. The purpose of this project is to gather the necessary information and to prepare guidance documents and plans so that future grazing management decisions would support ecosystem functions on the Garden Bar Preserve and ensure the long-term ecological health of the system and dependent ranchlands in the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.
The project consists of data collection and site surveys, and the preparation of a Management Plan and a Riparian Restoration Project Design for the purposes of onsite grazing management on the Garden Bar Preserve. The project is ultimately aimed at the restoration and long-term protection of wildlife habitat and water quality in support of improving and sustaining ecosystem functions and services for the long-term. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ____________ Title: ____________
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: Revised 2005
Applicant: American Rivers
Project Title: Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow
Subregion: South Central
County: Tuolumne
SNC Funding: $62,000.00
Total Project Cost: $124,000.00
Application Number: 690
Final Score: 83.67

PROJECT SCOPE

High in the Sierra Nevada near Sonora Pass, a tributary to the Middle Fork Stanislaus River flows into three-acre Shell Meadow. The meadow provides important breeding habitat for Yosemite toads and other sensitive species. A recent site visit indicated two headcuts in the stream channel. The main headcut was approximately 5-feet deep and the side headcut was approximately 3-feet deep.

The project will result in completed plans for on-the-ground activities to prevent the advancement of the headcuts. Stabilization of the headcuts will keep the channel from incising, preventing a drop in the water table, restoring floodplain connectivity, and preventing conversion of the meadow plant community to dryland species.

The project has three main goals. The first is to protect Shell Meadow and its associated high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The second is to assist the U.S. Forest Service in determining how grazing could be compatible with post-restoration management at the site by gathering the information necessary for a site-specific management plan. The third is to develop a project model that demonstrates both how to take preventative action to protect a meadow before full-scale degradation occurs and how to develop appropriate questions and solutions for integrating grazing with meadow management.

Conceptual restoration design and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be at the project onset. SNC funding will provide for technical restoration design that integrates grazing and meadow health, in addition to permitting and remaining clearances for follow-up site improvement activities.
Additional funding for this project has been provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bella Vista Foundation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed subcontracts/grants with project partners</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize data collection work plan</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Six-Month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile materials/applications required for permits</td>
<td>February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquire completed permits (401 and 404)</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Six-Month Progress Report</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete design drawings</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize restoration cost-estimate and contractor requirements</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize and distribute request for bids</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring data collected</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Six-Month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile analyzed data and monitoring report</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Final Report</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td>January 31, 2015</td>
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PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$62,000.00</strong></td>
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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Stanislaus National Forest

- Oppose
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of people reached.
- Dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and type of jobs created.
- Number of new, improved or preserved economic activities.
- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments.
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow Project (SNC 690)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located within the Stanislaus National Forest, approximately one mile south of Sonora Pass Highway, approximately two miles west of Dardanelle and 12 miles southeast of Bear Valley, in Tuolumne County, California.

Project Location – City: Dardanelle
Project Location – County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
American Rivers is requesting $62,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for data collection and preparation of a monitoring report which will support the preparation of restoration designs and grazing management techniques for long-term protection of Shell Meadow. Shell Meadow is a high-priority restoration site located in the Stanislaus National Forest that is threatened by two headcuts of the tributary flowing through the meadow. The meadow lies within an active grazing allotment; however, livestock are presently excluded on-site. The project would involve assisting the National Forest Service (NFS) in identifying strategies that would allow grazing to be compatible with post-restoration management on-site through data gathering conducted in support of preparation of a site-specific management plan. The data would be used to calibrate and develop a model which will demonstrate effective preventative actions to avoid further degradation of the meadow, and to develop solutions to manage and integrate future grazing activities with meadow sites supporting sensitive habitat. The project would result in completing final restoration designs, and obtaining permits for future meadow restoration. The purpose of the project is to protect the high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitat of the meadow by allowing for data collection in support of preparation of a monitoring report (with data analysis/restoration design) for long-term maintenance of the hydrologic and ecosystem functioning of Shell Meadow.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American Rivers

Exempt Status: (check one)
☒ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection to support the NFS in preparing a site-specific management plan for grazing compatibility with post-restoration
management at Shell Meadow; coordinating required permitting; and preparing design plans for future restoration of Shell Meadow. The project will allow for development of a project model that identifies appropriate actions to prevent full-scale meadow degradation and that allows for assessment of the integration of grazing with meadow management. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (530) 823-4698

Signature:________________________ Date:______________ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

*Revised 2005*
Applicant: Pit Resource Conservation District
Project Title: Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project
Subregion: North
County: Lassen
SNC Funding: $294,817.00
Total Project Cost: $304,817.00
Application Number: 685
Final Score: 83.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will restore and reconnect meadows and stream channels along 4.3 miles of Butte Creek on 100-acres of privately owned ranch land within the upper Pit River Region in Lassen County. Fencing will then be installed so that future grazing can be managed to protect restored streambanks and riparian areas. Restoration efforts in this watershed contribute to the valuable public benefits derived from increased water quality and regulated flows that feed the Sacramento River, the Delta, and large numbers of California water users.

A portion of the stream channel within the meadow has become entrenched and subsequently reduced the amount of water available to sustain the surrounding meadow. Past management practices initiated a “high line” ditch system and diversion structures, and these resulted in the creation of a gullied channel. Currently, the lower portion of the meadow is entrenched, and headcuts are moving upstream and encroaching on areas (70-acres) that are providing the most productive forage and habitat. The restoration plan will restore the physical processes that historically maintained the Butte Creek Meadow. This includes reconnecting the primary stream channel to its naturally evolved floodplain. The landowner is also committed to changing livestock management grazing within the meadow so that cattle do not affect the stability of restored streambanks.

Desired outcomes from the project include: 1) reducing the cross-sectional area of Butte Creek so that flows overtop at a 1.5 to two-year frequency interval; 2) improve shallow groundwater storage by 40%; 3) create a vegetation community within the meadow that is dominated by species (66% cover) adapted to moist soil conditions (i.e. facultative...
wetland and/or obligate wetland indicator categories); and 4) create several pastures within the restored meadow area for livestock grazing.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-Design/Pre-Construction Review Bid</td>
<td>July 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction</td>
<td>October 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring Post-Project</td>
<td>March 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>April 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>June 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>July 31, 2014</strong></td>
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</table>

**PROJECT COSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$270,467.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$6,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$18,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$294,817.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*   Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.
**  Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
***  Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION**

- Support
  - Pit RCD- Watershed Management Strategy

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Types of Jobs Created.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced.
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Subject: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Project Title: Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 685)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2012092018

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/State Route (SR) 139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14, and 15.

County: Lassen County

Project Description: The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting $294,817 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for wetland restoration along Butte Creek in Big Valley. This project would utilize plug and pond techniques along 1.5 miles of creek channel. The project includes excavating sod and topsoil for re-vegetation, excavating and transporting fill material to the entrenched stream channels, constructing a grade control structure, filling a ditch and replanting salvaged vegetation and replacing topsoil. Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

As ☐ Lead Agency ☒ a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on March 7, 2013, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project ☐ will ☒ will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A ☐ Negative Declaration ☒ Mitigated Negative Declaration ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were ☐ were not made a condition of project approval.
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 Mitigated Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

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

1. Project Title:
   Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 685)

2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
   Sierra Nevada Conservancy
   11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
   Auburn, CA 95603

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
   Matthew Daley, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4698

4. Project Location:
   The proposed project is located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/SR 139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14 and 15.

5. Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:
   Pit Resource Conservation District
   P.O. Box 301
   Bieber, CA 96009

6. General Plan Designation:
   Extensive Agriculture

7. Zoning:
   EA

8. Description of Project:
   The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting $294,817 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for wetland restoration along Butte Creek in Big Valley. This project would utilize plug and pond techniques along 1.5 miles of creek channel.

   The proposed project would construct six to nine ponded water areas and seven to nine plugs (2.1 acres) on the main or finger gullies of Butte Creek. The plug elevations would be the same or slightly higher than other meadow elevations, so flood flows would sheet overland at low velocities (less than one foot per second), with only a few inches in depth. Normal discharges would flow into existing remnant channels. The proposed project would accommodate the design streamflow and sediment contributions of the basins. The ponds would be connected to groundwater sources, with surface water flowing through only one pond on a secondary remnant channel. One grade control structure would incorporate rock into the channel and occur at the downstream portion of the proposed project site.

   The extensive network of gullies along Butte Creek would require approximately 59,000
cubic yards of gully plug material excavated from the ponds or higher elevation areas. Any existing meadow sod and willow in the gully bottoms would be transplanted to completed plugs, pond margins, and to areas of remnant channel that are currently un-vegetated. Topsoil from the borrow ponds would be salvaged, stockpiled, and spread on top of completed plugs. Plugs would be revegetated with locally collected native grass and forb seeds.

Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:
The Big Valley basin is used primarily for agricultural production, consisting primarily of hay, rice, and livestock production. The Modoc National Forest surrounds the greater area and is used for timber production and infrequent dispersed recreation. Ash Creek Wildlife Area is approximately five miles northwest of the proposed project. The project area is located within a flood zone.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly California Department of Fish and Game)
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Pit Resource Conservation District*
*Approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposed project area lies within a large fault-block valley that was once a lake during the Pleistocene era. Several tributaries, including Butte Creek, enter the valley from the east and provide water resources for wildlife, fish, and agriculture. Butte Creek becomes a low gradient stream after draining surrounding mountains in the southeast portion of the valley and joins Ash Creek near the town of Adin. The low gradient portion of the stream has associated meadow habitat for a length of 4.5 miles before joining Ash Creek. The creek channel is severely entrenched and is depositing excessive amounts of sediment into Ash Creek. The entrenchment also results in lower groundwater levels, associated conversion of meadow habitat to grassland habitat, and poor wetland habitat for fish and wildlife.

Within the 100-acre project area (the Higgins Ranch), roughly one-half of the stream and associated meadow is productive; however, head cuts within the primary and secondary channels are moving up into this productive area, and if left untreated, will eventually “drain” the meadow and look similar to the downstream reach. The downstream reach is typical of most severely entrenched streams in the region. Non-native grasses, mostly cheat grass and Madusae head dominate the land and provide little habitat for wildlife and forage for livestock. The base elevation in the degraded reach is approximately six to eight feet lower than historic levels, and the width is approximately seven to ten times wider. The creek continues to widen...
and has developed an inset floodplain. It is still very unstable in most areas, and during high flows, streambanks slough off and contribute high levels of sediment to Butte Creek and other receiving water bodies.

The Higgins Ranch was recently acquired through a lease-own option. Prior to purchase, the Higgins family already manages 720-acres where they produce registered beef, hay, and quarter horses. Haying only occurs in the more intact reach of Butte Creek, and grazing occurs in both the degraded and stable reaches. Some of the higher elevation portions of the meadow are tilled and planted with grain which is also hayed.

The Pit Resource Conservation District acted as Lead Agency under the CEQA in September 2012 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in October 2012.

The proposed project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area. None of the meadow is irrigated, and the restoration plan has been designed to sustain the stream and meadow system in order to be hayed and grazed.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Pit Resource Conservation District, Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. SCH 2012092018. October 2012.

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to restore wetland resources, improve water quality, and improve the productivity of the working ranch, which includes hay, beef and quarter horses. The purpose of the proposed project is to reconnect stream channels to the floodplain and restore the meadow in order to improve water quality, aquatic and terrestrial natural resources, and improve the agricultural productivity of the meadow, while reducing the streambank erosion and improving flow conditions.

The Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) includes environmental impact analysis described in the proposed project's IS/MND includes seven to nine pond areas and seven to nine plug areas along Butte Creek.

The proposed project would construct six to nine ponded water areas and seven to nine plugs (2.1-acres) on the main or finger gullies of Butte Creek. The plug elevations would be the same or slightly higher than other meadow elevations, so flood flows would sheet overland at low velocities (less than one foot per second), with only a few inches in depth. Normal discharges would flow into existing remnant channels. The proposed project would accommodate the design streamflow and sediment contributions of the basins. The ponds would be connected to groundwater sources, with surface water flowing through only one pond on a secondary remnant channel. One grade control structure would incorporate rock into the channel and occur at the downstream portion of the proposed project site.

The extensive network of gullies along Butte Creek would require approximately 59,000 cubic yards of gully plug material excavated from the ponds or higher elevation areas. Any existing meadow sod and willow in the gully bottoms would be transplanted to completed plugs, pond
margins, and to areas of remnant channel that are currently un-vegetated. Topsoil from the
borrow ponds would be salvaged, stockpiled, and spread on top of completed plugs. Plugs
would be revegetated with locally collected native grass and forb seeds.

Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader,
scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels,
create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed
and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-
productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

Permits for the proposed project are currently being obtained and include the U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers (Nationwide Permit 27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and
Enhancement Area), California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region
(Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Lake and
Streambed Alteration Agreement).

**Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request**

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing $294,817 from the Sierra
Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant
Program to fund wetland restoration along 1.5 miles of Butte Creek, totaling 2.1-acres, using
plug and pond techniques. The Butte Creek Restoration Project IS/MND identifies potential
resource impacts related to biological resources and cultural resources. Specifically, the
proposed project may result in the disturbance of streams; temporary habitat disruption;
temporary disturbance of special-status plant and animal species; the potential to inadvertently
disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities.
Based on the IS/MND, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the
environment not previously examined in the Butte Creek Restoration Project IS/MND. The
project proponent would implement measures identified in the IS/MND, and described below, to
lessen potential impacts to biological and cultural resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Hazards / Hazardous Materials
- Mineral Resources
- Public Services
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Agriculture Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Butte Creek Restoration Project
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

4

RBF Consulting
Environmental Determination
DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The Plumas County Building and Planning Services, as the lead agency, also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Branham</td>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Nevada Conservancy</td>
<td>Responsible Agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Project Title: Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 694)

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH# 2012092018

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/SR-139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14, and 15.

Description of Project: The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting $294,817 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for wetland restoration along Butte Creek in Big Valley. This project would utilize plug and pond techniques along 1.5 miles of creek channel. The project includes excavating sod and topsoil for re-vegetation, excavating and transporting fill material to the entrenched stream channels, constructing a grade control structure, filling a ditch and replanting salvaged vegetation and replacing topsoil. Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

Pit Resource Conservation District, Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. SCH 2012092018. October 2012.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is expected to enhance designed to aquatic and terrestrial natural resources by reconnecting Butte Creek with the floodplain. The proposed project may cause direct impacts to streams, plants, and habitat; the proposed project may cause indirect impacts to habitat, wildlife, and plants. No federally or state listed threatened, endangered, candidate or other special-status species would be adversely affected by the proposed project. No special-status plant or fish species were found during surveys or are expected to occur on the project.
The disturbance of stream macro-invertebrates, which complete their life cycle as reproductive terrestrial winged insects, may result in a possible reduction of foraging and prey species availability in the short-term for bird and bat species. Over the long-term, the creation of ponds would provide additional foraging habitat that benefits bird and bat species and their associated prey. Wildlife surveys would be conducted prior to construction activities and limited operating periods would be implemented on a site specific need if special status bird and bat species are identified.

Construction equipment would be steam-cleaned prior to entering the project site to reduce the risk of introducing noxious weeds. All plugs would be seeded with native grasses and forbs. In addition, monitoring would be done post-project for three years for noxious weed invasion and, if found, would be hand removed.

Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Butte Creek Restoration Project covers biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:**

| MM-1 | Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Greater Sandhill Crane and Swainson’s Hawk. Prior to construction activities, a qualified wildlife biologist will conduct surveys for the greater Sandhill crane and Swainson’s hawk if construction activities start prior to August 1st. Surveys will document if the species is nesting within or adjacent to the project site. If the species is found nesting within or directly adjacent (within 150 yards) of the project site, construction activities should be conducted at a time when the adults are not nesting, or when they are no longer nesting and/or when the young have fledged. |

**2. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Prehistoric site patterns identified in the Modoc Plateau have documented an intensive prehistoric annual presence. The private land survey report (conducted for this project) and historic resource records have been sent to, and received by the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System in Chico. All known archaeological resources were flagged for the completion of the proposed project design.

A ditch was built along the east side of the meadow prior to 19451, and has since been abandoned. This ditch has enlarged over time. Although the ditch is more than 72 years old, the archaeological report prepared under the Butte Creek Restoration Project IS/MND recommends that the site is not significant and is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register under any of the relevant evaluation criteria.
The proposed project design avoids all known archaeological and historical resources. In the event that an archaeological or historical resource is uncovered during construction activities, there would be a temporary halt to the activity until a determination is made by a qualified archaeologist. The IS/MND for the Butte Creek Restoration Project covers cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

**Finding:** Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

**Facts in Support of the Finding:** The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project’s environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

**Mitigation Measures:**

**MM-2** State Compliance. Whenever human remains of Native American origin are discovered, close compliance with state requirements will be followed. This includes immediate cessation of work and notification of the appropriate authorities.

**MM-3** Work stoppage. Immediately upon discovery of any cultural resources, work will be stopped in the immediate area. Work will only be started again upon notification of the appropriate authorities and approval for restart has been obtained.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

**Certification:**

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature ____________________________  Date __________________________

Name  Jim Branham ____________________  Title  Executive Officer
MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Butte Creek Restoration Project (SNC 685) (State Clearinghouse No. 2012092018), located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/State Route (SR) 139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14, and 15. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Butte Creek Restoration Project. It is intended to be used by Pit Resource conservation District staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Butte Creek Restoration Project would construct six to nine ponded water areas and seven to nine plugs (2.1 acres) on the main or finger gullies of Butte Creek. Butte Creek becomes a low gradient stream after draining surrounding mountains in the southeast portion of the valley and joins Ash Creek near the town of Adin. The low gradient portion
of the stream has associated meadow habitat for a length of 4.5 miles before joining Ash Creek. The creek channel is severely entrenched and is depositing excessive amounts of sediment into Ash Creek. The entrenchment also results in lower groundwater levels, associated conversion of meadow habitat to grassland habitat, and poor wetland habitat for fish and wildlife.

Within the 100-acre project area (the Higgins Ranch), roughly one-half of the stream and associated meadow is productive; however, head cuts within the primary and secondary channels are moving up into this productive area, and if left untreated, will eventually “drain” the meadow and look similar to the downstream reach. The downstream reach is typical of most severely entrenched streams in the region. Non-native grasses, mostly cheat grass and Madusae head dominate the land and provide little habitat for wildlife and forage for livestock. The base elevation in the degraded reach is approximately six to eight feet lower than historic levels, and the width is approximately seven to ten times wider. The creek continues to widen and has developed an inset floodplain. It is still very unstable in most areas, and during high flows, streambanks slough off and contribute high levels of sediment to Butte Creek and other receiving water bodies.

The Pit Resource Conservation District acted as Lead Agency under the CEQA in September 2012 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in October 2012.

The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. The mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND would apply to the proposed Butte Creek Restoration Project and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Butte Creek Restoration Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Butte Creek Restoration Project, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the Pit Resource Conservation District or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.
1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the Pit Resource Conservation District in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The Pit Resource Conservation District shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the Pit Resource Conservation District shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.
## TABLE 1-1: BUTTE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

### MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mitigation Measure</th>
<th>Implementation Phase</th>
<th>Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party</th>
<th>Verification of Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM-1</td>
<td>Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Greater Sandhill Crane and Swainson’s Hawk. Prior to construction activities, a qualified wildlife biologist will conduct surveys for the greater Sandhill crane and Swainson’s hawk if construction activities start prior to August 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;. Surveys will document if the species is nesting within or adjacent to the project site. If the species is found nesting within or directly adjacent (within 150 yards) of the project site, construction activities should be conducted at a time when the adults are not nesting, or when they are no longer nesting and/or when the young have fledged.</td>
<td>Prior to Project implementation</td>
<td>Pre-construction</td>
<td>Pit Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CULTURAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM-2</td>
<td>State Compliance. Whenever human remains of Native American origin are discovered, close compliance with state requirements will be followed. This includes immediate cessation of work and notification of the appropriate authorities.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Pit Resource Conservation District, Lassen County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM-3</td>
<td>Work stoppage. Immediately upon discovery of any cultural resources, work will be stopped in the immediate area. Work will only be started again upon notification of the appropriate authorities and approval for restart has been obtained.</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>During construction</td>
<td>Pit Resource Conservation District, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applicant: Sierra Valley Fire Safe and Watershed Council
Project Title: Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement
Subregion: North Central
County: Sierra
SNC Funding: $348,850.00
Total Project Cost: $362,970.00
Application Number: 666
Final Score: 83.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Long Valley Creek Watershed Project in northeast Sierra County will use permitted chemical and hand treatment methods to eradicate noxious weeds such as perennial pepperweed, knapweeds and thistle on up to 6,933-acres of public and private lands in upper watershed waterways and riparian areas.

This project will contribute to the economic viability of Sierra County public and private agricultural and ranching lands by maintaining and improving forage quality and preventing weed spread to agricultural lands downstream of infested (treatment) areas. The project supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s mission and program areas by improving the environmental condition of riparian and associated upland habitats and working lands, and enhancing the region’s ability to sustain high-quality agricultural productivity. The project meets Proposition 84 requirements by protecting perennial and seasonal waterways in a region where water supply and reliability is often limited, and by protecting existing natural resources from further introduction and spread of noxious weeds and associated habitat degradation.

This project is supported by numerous in-kind assistance activities from landowners, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
# PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCFSWC/DFG instruct 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Education Workshop – (participation record, literature/presentations, landowner survey)</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner/DFG Pest Control Advisor field meetings – (copies of treatment prescriptions for each parcel)</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Weed Control Treatment by Contractor</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS Develop Contracts with Landowners – (copies of contracts)</td>
<td>May 2013 – May 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCFSWC/DFG instruct 2nd Education Workshop – (participation record, literature/presentations, landowner survey)</td>
<td>March 2014 – June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Weed Control Treatment</td>
<td>May 2014 – December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCFSWC/DFG instruct 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;/final Education Workshop – (participation record, literature/presentations, landowner survey)</td>
<td>March 2015 – June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third and Final Weed Control Treatment</td>
<td>May 2015 – March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Completion</td>
<td>March 21, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report – deliverables: 1) final monitoring report/maps showing the acreage of the improved (treated) area in each year of the project, 2) summary and discussion of the landowner surveys used to document improvements in knowledge and behavior, 3) photo-documentation 4) summary of the quantitative monitoring assessing weed control efficacy.</td>
<td>September 1, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 1, 2016</strong></td>
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PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$348,850.00</strong></td>
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</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Honey Lake Resource Conservation District
  - Nevada Land Trust
  - NRCS
  - UC Cooperative Extension
  - Department of Fish and Game
  - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

- Oppose
  - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved and/or Restored.
- Number of People Reached.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project (SNC 666)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located adjacent to the California-Nevada border and U.S. Route 395, immediately west of Bordertown, Nevada. The project is approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Granite Hills and approximately 5.4 miles south of Hallelujah Junction in Sierra County, California.

Project Location – City: Bordertown, NV
Project Location – County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc. (SCFSWC) is requesting $348,850 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for implementation of a noxious weed control program. The project would treat existing populations of noxious weeds within private and public ranching lands in the upper Long Valley Creek Watershed. The project would be implemented for three years within the upper Long Valley Creek riparian corridor, adjacent upland areas, and tributaries. The project area includes a portion of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area (HJWLA) and six private parcels for a total of approximately 6,933-acres and 6.5 linear miles of stream channel. Weed removal would occur through chemical and non-chemical control techniques which would be deployed using hand-held equipment and limited use of boom sprayers mounted on trucks. The project would also provide annual workshops focused on noxious weed prevention, treatment, and management in each year of the grant. The purpose of the project is to protect and restore vegetative resources, improve riparian and associated upland habitats, and contribute to an improved regional economy through better habitat quality that enables production of sustainable products. Further, the project would protect perennial and seasonal waterways, and would protect existing natural resources from the further introduction and spread of noxious weeds and associated habitat degradation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc.

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (chemical and mechanical weed control) that are intended to improve the habitat quality and condition of agricultural lands...
within the project area and to help to sustain the economic viability of the affected ranches by maintaining forage quality and the integrity of the grazing lands and associated riparian corridors, combined with the implementation of educational programs. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (530) 823-4698

---

Signature:________________________  Date:______________  Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham  

Date Received for Filing at OPR:______________  
Revised 2005
Applicant: Pit Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project

Subregion: North

County: Modoc

SNC Funding: $149,777.00

Total Project Cost: $166,277.00

Application Number: 680

Final Score: 82.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project will improve wetland resources, water quality, and the operation of a third generation working ranch in the Upper Pit River Watershed in Modoc County. The project involves stabilizing up to 3,000 feet of stream banks while also creating crossing locations within the stream for wheels of a center pivot irrigation system.

The project is expected to increase sprinkler irrigation efficiency by approximately 20%, and is vital for the landowner to continue working the ranch. Work done to stabilize and restore stream banks will result in reduced erosion and will help to enhance in-stream habitat for many fish species. The project expects to improve stream habitat through increases in summer base flows, cooler water temperatures, and the retention of channel pools during the dry season. Surrounding riparian habitat will also be improved by increasing forage and cover. The project is unique because of its combination of habitat improvement and increased potential for efficient hay production.

The wheel stream-crossing locations serve two purposes: 1) allow a hardened and stable surface for wheels to roll; and 2) provide grade control within the stream to prevent further erosion. This project will implement an innovative approach to increasing irrigation and land-use efficiency while achieving environmental benefits to the watershed, and may be used as a model for designing future similar projects.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post-Design/Pre-Construction Review Bid</td>
<td>July 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Construction</td>
<td>July - October 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 31, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring Post-Project</td>
<td>July 2013 – March 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>April 30, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>June 30, 2014</td>
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FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST

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<th>PROJECT COSTS</th>
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<td>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</td>
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<td>Direct*</td>
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<td>Indirect**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Alan and Kathie Nelson

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Types of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
   11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
   Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement/Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project (SNC 680)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located in Round Valley, approximately 2.25 miles north of Adin, in Modoc County, California.

Project Location – City: Adin
Project Location – County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting $149,777 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to enhance the bank of Dutch Flat Creek and to provide wheel crossings for the pivot irrigation/sprinkler system on the Nelson Ranch; the project totals 3,000 linear feet of creek improvements and a total disturbance area of 3.5-acres. Project activities include resloping constriction points within the floodplain, transporting fill material to low areas, constructing cross vanes, placing gravel, and replanting salvaged vegetation. Construction methods include operating machinery (e.g., excavator, loader, and scraper) to create benches, move and place rocks, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas in order to minimize erosive flood forces in the floodplain. The cross vanes would be constructed to allow a pivot irrigation/sprinkler system to cross the creek on a stable surface, thus providing grade control within the entrenched stream. Special status species (e.g., nesting raptors) have the potential to occur on-site, thus construction activities would be timed to avoid impacts on any species. There are no known cultural resources on the property. The purpose of the project is to improve the form and function of Dutch Flat Creek and its floodplain, stop soil erosion, improve fish habitat, and minimize long-term maintenance and loss of agriculture infrastructure. The project would improve water quality, reduce potential sources of erosion, improve floodplain function by allowing flows to spread evenly within the channel to support establishing meadow conditions, and enhance riparian and habitat areas along the creek within the project site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pit Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: ________________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement/Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project involves minor alternations to private ranch and agricultural land and creek enhancement by resloping the streambank and providing cross vanes of gravel to allow safe crossing of the pivot
irrigation/sprinkler system for purposes of improving the form and function of Dutch Flat Creek and its floodplain, stopping soil erosion, improving fish habitat, and minimizing long-term maintenance and loss of agriculture infrastructure resulting from bank erosion. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________ Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: ___________  
Revised 2005
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant: El Dorado County Department of Agriculture

Project Title: Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties

Subregion: Central and East

County: El Dorado, Alpine

SNC Funding: $266,500.00

Total Project Cost: $480,500.00

Application Number: 707

Final Score: 81.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will eradicate invasive weeds using permitted mechanical and chemical methods. The project encompasses seven treatment areas in El Dorado County and two in Alpine County. The work will treat up to 98 privately-owned lands in or near the communities of Georgetown, Camino, Indian Creek, Somerset, Cedar Ravine, Woodfords, and Markleeville and public Caltrans rights-of-way along Highways 50 and 88. The majority of lands to be treated are private agricultural lands used for grazing and feed production. Additionally, an existing comprehensive roadside survey and eradication program for both counties will be extended.

All treatment areas will be surveyed and mapped utilizing a geographical positioning system (GIS). Maps will be created showing the changes in the individual population sizes and densities. All data will be compared to historical records to determine success in the eradication efforts. The target weed species are all aggressive invaders that thrive in roadside and agricultural wetland and drainage areas. Protecting these watersheds will ultimately protect and preserve productive agricultural crop lands and grazing lands, helping to ensuring long-term economic viability.

By continuing eradication efforts on the infestations before they are allowed to expand into an uncontrollable size, the project is protecting unique native plant communities and wildlife, while simultaneously preventing further spread west into California along major transportation corridors. Public agency project partners (Carson Water District, U.S. Forest Service, El Dorado County Agriculture Department, etc) will treat their sites.
utilizing their own funds, which will be counted towards $214,000 of in-kind contributions for this project.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of Work (surveys, photo points, landowner docs acquired)</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment season 1</td>
<td>July 2014 - June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment season 2</td>
<td>July 2015 - June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment season 3</td>
<td>July 2016 - December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping Analysis and Reporting</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping and Analysis Final Report</td>
<td>April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Reports</td>
<td>January 2015, July 2015, January 2016, July 2016, January 2017</td>
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</tbody>
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**FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST** March 1, 2017

**PROJECT COSTS**

<table>
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<tr>
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* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION**

- **Support**
  - El Dorado Weed Management Area
  - The Alpine/Upper Carson Weed Management Area,
  - Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada.

- **Oppose**
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Diversity of People Reached.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties Project (SNC 707)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located on seven sites in El Dorado County up to the edge of the Lake Tahoe Basin and two sites in Alpine County, surrounding Woodfords and Markleeville, in California.

Project Location – City: N/A
Project Location – County: Alpine and El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The El Dorado County Department of Agriculture is requesting $266,500 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to implement an integrated pest management approach to eradicate aggressive noxious weed populations and complete surveys/mapping of the noxious weed populations at nine sites in El Dorado and Alpine Counties. The noxious weeds out-compete native vegetation and eventually create a monoculture that negatively impacts agricultural and range lands. In addition, invasive weeds contribute to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Thus, the project would provide for the ongoing protection of agricultural and range lands within these Counties, and ultimately the South Fork of the American River Watershed in El Dorado County and the Upper Carson River Watershed in Alpine County, from the potential adverse effects of invasive noxious weeds. The project would involve seven targeted locations in El Dorado County and two in Alpine County, all on privately-held lands. The project would include implementing chemical and manual noxious weed treatments, as outlined in the integrated pest management approach, and mapping the noxious weed populations at the sites. Treatments will occur over three seasons, beginning Summer 2014, and include hand-pulling individual plants and applying herbicides.

No sensitive cultural resources are known to be present at the project sites. If ground-distrubing methods are identified as successful, staff will work with landowners and resource managers to confirm presence or absence of cultural resources prior to undertaking any ground-disturbing eradication work.

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation’s PRESCRIBE will be used to identify any special-status species in the project areas. If weed eradication activities are to take place within habitats identified in PRESCRIBE, visual surveys will be conducted at infestation sites, and herbicide use will be limited or avoided in those areas and weed removal will be limited to hand-pulling only.

The purpose of the project is to eradicate invasive noxious weed populations for the protection of creeks and streams in the lower sections of the local watersheds. Protection of such watersheds would ultimately allow for preservation of native grasses (agricultural lands) and range lands in the project area, in support of their long-term economic viability.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado County Department of Agriculture
Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land,” and Section 15306, “Information Collection”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes; and Section 15306, Class 6, which permits data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project consists of implementing chemical and manual noxious weed treatments, as outlined in the integrated pest management approach, and mapping the noxious weed populations at nine sites in El Dorado and Alpine Counties. The noxious weeds out-compete native vegetation and eventually create a monoculture that negatively impacts agricultural and range lands. The invasive weeds contribute to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Thus, weed eradication would maintain and/or improve hydrologic functions within the affected watersheds, protect the long-term viability of agricultural and range lands in the region, and preserve native grasses. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _______________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005
Applicant: Bureau of Land Management
Eagle Lake Field Office

Project Title: Rush Creek Improvement Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: $207,164.00

Total Project Cost: $350,000.00

Application Number: 718

Final Score: 81.67

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will result in constructing up to 8 miles of fencing to protect Rush Creek and related riparian areas, and make improvements to seven natural springs to provide sustainable water sources across 500-acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for cattle, sheep, and wildlife.

The project will permanently fence off the degraded Rush Creek Tributary portion of the project area to vehicular traffic and temporarily fence it off to grazing. The Rush Creek Tributary area is currently being overused, in part, due to a lack of adequate water sources across the landscape. Cattle, sheep, wild horses and burros are conditioned to use familiar places that provide adequate resources. The Rush Creek Tributary area is a convenient, accessible and reliable water source and feeding place. In addition, the Nobles Trail traverses through the tributary for about four miles and parallels Smoke Creek Road, a main thoroughfare. Eliminating vehicles from the tributary will protect botanical and cultural resources, eliminate pollution associated with oil and gas emissions and reduce soil compaction. Temporarily eliminating grazing allows the vegetation to rest and to recover naturally.

Seven dispersed springs have been identified for improvement. All are located within a 10 mile radius of the Rush Creek tributary area and all are adjacent to established roadways. The project will install spring boxes, cradled aluminum troughs, inflow and outflow pipes and escape ladders; this allows small wildlife species to escape if they happen to fall into the trough. Spring box improvements provide quality water for livestock, wildlife, wild horses, burros, and allow grazing permittees to more adequately...
distribute the grazing pattern across the landscape. In addition, it will conserve two important riparian areas. Fencing will protect the water sources, soils and vegetation and enhance the riparian meadows, improve water quality and provide a naturally sustainable ecosystem.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weed Inventories/Treatments</td>
<td>June 2013, Annual thru 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Status Plant Survey</td>
<td>June 30, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fencing and Spring Improvements</td>
<td>June 2013 – October 2014, 2015</td>
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<td>Final Report</td>
<td>October 30, 2015</td>
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<th>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</th>
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PROJECT COSTS

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
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*  Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.
** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Nevada Department of Wildlife
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of land improved or restored.
- Linear feet of stream bank protected or restored.
- Number of significant sites protected or preserved.
- Feet of trail/path constructed or improved.
To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Project Title: Rush Creek Improvement Project (SNC 718)

Project Location – Specific:
The project includes nine sites located in the Rush Creek Tributary area, near the California/Nevada Border, the center of the sites is located approximately 9 miles east of U.S. Route 395, approximately 24 miles east of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville
Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) Eagle Lake Field Office is requesting $207,164 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to close a segment of Noble’s Trail to vehicular traffic, develop/redevelop eight springs, and conserve two riparian areas, all within an approximate 10 mile radius of Rush Creek Tributary, totaling approximately 500-acres of improved and restored land. Project activities include spring re-development (replace/upgrade existing infrastructure) at Phone Trough, Coyote Spring, Rush Canyon Spring, Jenkins Spring, Sheep Rail Spring 1, Lower Line Spring, and Antelope Spring; Lone Willow Spring would be developed (install spring box and infrastructure). In general, construction work includes installing spring boxes, cradled aluminum troughs, inflow and outflow pipes, and escape ladders. Ground disturbing work entails a backhoe used to dig a trench from the collection box to the trough area. Riparian areas would be fenced at the spring sites as well. Additional fencing includes two miles of steel pipe fencing at Five Springs, four miles of four-wire design fencing at Rush Creek Tributary, and two miles of four-wire design fencing at Upper Line Spring. At the Rush Creek Tributary location, fencing would be installed with water gaps to allow livestock to access the two water sources and gates allowing pedestrian and equestrian traffic would be installed at the north and south ends of the Noble’s Trail segment; vehicular traffic would be excluded. Surveys for cultural resources were conducted in September, October, and November of 2012 and cultural resources were identified located near project activities at two locations; however, sites would be flagged and avoided and an archaeological monitor would be present. The project would avoid any special status species and would ultimately benefit special status plant species (silverleaf milk vetch). The purpose of the project is to redistribute/redirect grazing livestock, reduce bare soil to less than 20 percent throughout the Rush Creek Tributary area, protect wagon track swales on Noble’s Trail/Rush Creek Tributary, ultimately increase the Rush Creek population of silverleaf milk vetch, improve riparian wildlife habitat, and improve ecological processes and water quality at Five Springs and Upper Line Springs. The benefits of the project include improvement of ecological conditions and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality and watershed conditions, and protection of the Noble’s Emigrant National Historic Trail.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office
Exempt Status: (check one)
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15302, “Replacement or Reconstruction”; and, Section 15303, “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Rush Creek Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2, which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; and Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The project involves closing a segment of Noble’s Trail to vehicular traffic by installing fencing, developing/redeveloping eight springs, and conserving two riparian areas, all within an approximate ten-mile radius of Rush Creek Tributary. At sites with cultural resource sensitivity, resources would be avoided and an archaeological monitor would be present. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____________________________ Date: _____________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____________ Revised 2005
Applicant: Tuolumne County Land Trust
Project Title: Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement – Appraisal and Planning
Subregion: South Central
County: Tuolumne
SNC Funding: $19,650.00
Total Project Cost: $26,150.00
Application Number: 753
Final Score: 81.17

PROJECT SCOPE

This grant will provide funding to complete all planning necessary to secure funding for purchase of a conservation easement (CE) on the Ratto Ranch, a 238-acre ranch located near the city limits of Sonora, California. The conservation easement being sought for this property will protect water quality within the headwaters of the Peppermint Creek Watershed, a tributary of the Tuolumne River.

The ranch has many additional values including its historic buildings, vernal pools, wetlands, rare animals and scenic landscapes which have been used for various classic film productions. The biological assessment completed for this property lists 186 plants, 47 animal and 27 different bird species, with several categorized as threatened and or special species of concern. The wetlands found in this watershed function as a buffer to upstream active residential development. Residential development pressure in the area is high and bordering ranches on the east side have recently been subdivided. The property is designated for 37-acre parcel sizes and is conducive to small ranch subdivision.

Work to be conducted includes:

- Historical and Environmental Site Assessments
- Conservation Easement Drafted
- Complete a Baseline Study and Monitoring Plan
- Complete Appraisal and Associated Reviews
Additional funding for this project is being provided by the local chapters of Audubon and the California Native Plant Society along with the Film Commission and Friends organization.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<td>Complete Environmental Site Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Historical Site Assessment</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Six-month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Baseline Study</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Monitoring Plan</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Six-month Progress Report</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Conservation Easement Language</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete and Submit Six-month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Appraisal</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct and Complete Appraisal Review</td>
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<td>Complete and submit Final Report</td>
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<td>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</td>
<td>June 30, 2015</td>
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PROJECT COSTS

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PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Audubon California
  - California Native Plant Society
  - California Rangeland Trust
  - Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
  - Sierra Foothill Conservancy
  - Tuolumne County Agricultural Commissioner
  - Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors
  - Tuolumne County Film Commission
  - Tuolumne County Visitor’s Bureau
• Tuolumne Heritage Commission
• Trust for Public Land

• Oppose
  o None

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

• Number of People Reached.
• Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
• Number and Type of Jobs Created.
• Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
• Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
• Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
• Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement - Appraisal and Planning Project (SNC 753)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located approximately two miles northwest of Sonora and approximately three miles southwest of Columbia, between public wild lands (New Melones/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Stanislaus National Forest), in Tuolumne County, California.

Project Location – City: Columbia, Sonora
Project Location – County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Tuolumne County Land Trust is requesting $19,650 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete planning activities, including an appraisal and site assessment for future purchase of a conservation easement on the historic Ratto Ranch. The 238-acre Ratto Ranch is a working cattle ranch that supports wetlands, vernal pools, rare plants, and historic buildings; contributes to water quality within Peppermint Creek (a tributary of the Tuolumne River); provides scenic value along State Route 49; and has been historically used as a movie production site. The project would involve site assessments for environmental and cultural resources and documentation of the history of the ranch with regard to the film industry. Recommendations would be made for preservation of historic structures and rare plants, woodland management, and pasture and wetland improvements. The findings of the assessments would be made publicly available. An appraisal would be conducted to determine the value of the conservation easement, and a conservation easement would be drafted. A baseline study and monitoring plan would also be prepared to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are met in the future. The purpose of this project is to conduct site assessments, land appraisal, and a baseline study/monitoring plan for future purchase of a conservation easement to preserve the natural and historic resources on the Ratto Ranch in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tuolumne County Land Trust, Inc.

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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: _______________________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement – Appraisal and Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project would consist of site assessments and management recommendations, land appraisal, and a baseline study/monitoring plan for future purchase of a
conservation easement to provide long-term preservation of the natural resources on Ratto Ranch. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (530) 823-4698

Signature: __________________________  Date: _____________  Title: Executive Officer  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:  

*Revised 2005*
Applicant: Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Project Title: Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal

Subregion: East

County: Inyo County

SNC Funding: $88,249.00

Total Project Cost: $88,249.00

Application Number: 700

Final Score: 80.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will augment current invasive plant management efforts within the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) area, a massive riverine restoration project that includes thousands of acres of grazing rangeland in the southern Owens Valley in Inyo County. The goals of the project include the management of 5,870-acres of known weed infested agricultural lands and the eradication of 15 of the 38 identified weed population sites.

The outcomes of this project supports Proposition 84 goals by enhancing the overall function of the watershed, improving environmental conditions such as wildlife habitat, flood control capacity, water quality, and native plant habitat. Additionally the project aligns with the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant program by enhancing the local agriculture production through higher quality and quantity of forage and crops, as well as, protecting the natural resources and processes that facilitate agricultural production. The applicant is also leveraging SNC funds by providing $55,000 as in-kind funding for this project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Training and orientation of staff</td>
<td>May 1-3, 2013</td>
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<td>Field work and treatment activities</td>
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### Project Costs

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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
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### Project Letters Support/Opposition

- **Support**
  - Eastern Sierra Land Trust
  - Sierra Club – Range of Light Chapter

- **Oppose**
  - None

### Project Performance Measures

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Weeds Managed.
- Reduction of known sites.
- Eradication of high-value sites.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project (SNC 700)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is generally bordered to the west by U.S. Route 395, located approximately 0.75 mile north of Lone Pine, in Inyo County, California.

Project Location – City: Lone Pine
Project Location – County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Inyo and Mono Counties’ Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is requesting $88,249 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for eradication or reduction of weed populations at 38 sites within a 52,000-acre area directly upstream of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). The project is part of ongoing invasive plant management activities on sites upstream of the LORP aimed at increasing watershed function. Project activities include eradicating invasive species at 15 of the 38 sites with a 70 percent overall reduction, by using herbicides (outside the buffer zone required by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Regional Water Quality Control Board), hand pulling techniques with appropriate disposal, and surveying 52,000 acres for any new invasive species populations. The purpose of the Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Restoration Project is to supplement ongoing invasive plant management activities in sites upstream of the LORP in order to increase the ability of the watershed to provide water for both agricultural activities and for municipal use in Los Angeles through improved watershed function.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Inyo and Mono Counties’ Agricultural Commissioner’s Office

Exempt Status: (check one)
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land;” and Section 15306, “Information Collection”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes; and Section 15306, Class 6, which permits data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project consists of minor land alterations (weed eradication/reduction) and surveying activities that would in turn provide for improved rangeland and watershed functioning while reducing the threat of the spread of weeds onto croplands, and allow for the recordation of unknown “pioneer” weed populations to enable more effective management and control of
potential threats to surrounding agricultural lands. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: **(530) 823-4698**

Signature: ___________________________  Date: ____________  Title:  _Executive Officer_  
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: ____________

*Revised 2005*
Applicant: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Project Title: Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: $35,000.00

Total Project Cost: $35,000.00

Application Number: 722

Final Score: 80.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will enable Lassen Land and Trails Trust to complete pre-project work necessary to acquire a conservation easement to protect 578-acres of a working landscape near Susanville in Lassen County.

A conservation easement on this working ranch will improve water quality in the Honey Lake Valley through protection of this threatened segment of the riparian corridor of Gold Run Creek, a tributary to the Susan River. In addition to preserving ecological values, an easement will preserve the economic viability of this working ranch. Lassen Land and Trails Trust has identified the Pyle Ranch as critical for protection due to the continuing adjacent development threats to water resources and wildlife habitat.

The Pyle Ranch includes several acres of riparian corridor, and approximately 400-acres tilled for feed crops and 160-acres of irrigated meadow and pasture. The ranch sits in the Honey Lake Valley in Lassen County. State Highway 36, the primary transportation route into Susanville from the west, borders the northeastern edge of the property. Due to the proximity of this property to Susanville and its location on a major transportation corridor, the Pyle Ranch is under considerable development pressure. A significant number of adjacent properties have been sub-divided and have been subject to lot line adjustments for both commercial and residential development. An existing conservation plan was developed in 2010 with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to implement irrigation water management and resource management to improve water quality, water storage and wildlife habitat conditions. This plan will provide a base upon which a conservation easement can be drafted to ensure that these resources are protected in perpetuity. The Sierra Nevada Red Fox (Vulpes
vulpes necator), which is also currently under review for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act may be found on the ranch property. The ranch is also within the seasonal migration corridor for the Lassen mule deer herd, which is in decline. In addition, other species known to occupy habitats like those found on the Pyle Ranch include approximately 30 species of mammals, 15 species of reptiles, 5 species of amphibians, and 30 species of birds.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop Draft Conservation Easement/Negotiation</td>
<td>May 2013 - September 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFP State-Certified Real Estate Appraiser</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select Appraiser</td>
<td>October 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Appraisal</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase and Sale Agreement; Draft Monitoring Plan; Development of Funding Sources</td>
<td>November 2013 - February 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>March 30, 2014</td>
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**FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST** June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

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<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Honey Lake Valley RCD
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
To: Office of Planning and Research  
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy  

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement Project (SNC 722)

Project Location – Specific:  
The project is located in the Honey Lake Valley, south of Sierra Road and north of Richmond Road, adjacent to State Route 36 and along Gold Run Creek, approximately 1.3 miles south of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville  
Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:  
The Lassen Land and Trails Trust is requesting $35,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to conduct preliminary research for establishing a conservation easement in the future that would preserve 582 acres of working ranch and agricultural lands on the B&V Pyle Ranch, and providing protection of a portion of the Gold Run Creek riparian corridor. The conservation easement would allow for preservation of the economic viability of the working B&V Pyle Ranch, which consists of 22 acres of riparian corridor, 160 acres of irrigated meadow and pasture, and 400 acres tilled for feed crops. The project would identify resource protection and restoration priorities for the B&V Pyle Ranch which is within the Honey Lake Watershed; update the existing Lassen County Richmond Gold Run Area Plan (May 1983), most of which was developed in the 1990s and early 2000s, to address such priorities for the protection of water resources, agricultural uses, and wildlife habitat; draft a conservation easement and monitoring plan to preserve the critical conservation values (e.g. water resources and working agricultural lands); complete an appraisal by a State-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser; execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement; and identify potential funding sources for acquisition of the conservation easement. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to allow for the future purchase of a conservation easement that would protect and sustain, in perpetuity, working agricultural lands, including a portion of a critical riparian corridor and associated wildlife habitat. The project would ultimately contribute to watershed improvement, wildlife habitat conservation, and long-term preservation of the agricultural heritage of the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)  
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);  
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));  
☐ 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: ______________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:  
The proposed Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency
has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of the identification of resource protection and restoration strategies for the B&V Pyle Ranch which is within the Honey Lake Watershed; research and coordination with appropriate parties to complete the land appraisal; executing a Purchase and Sale Agreement; and identification of funding sources to allow for long-term protection of agricultural operations, water resources, and wildlife habitat on the working B&V Pyle Ranch. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: *(530) 823-4698*  
Signature:________________________ Date:______________ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:  
*Revised 2005*
Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Project Title: Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: $347,061.00

Total Project Cost: $1,496,544.00

Application Number: 731

Final Score: 80.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The purpose of the project is to acquire a conservation easement on part of a southern Sierra foothills ranch in the White River Watershed. Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the landowner regard this as “Phase 1” of placing the entire ranch under easement protection. The ranch contains valuable grassland, sycamore alluvial woodland, vernal pool and blue oak savannah habitats that are suitable for a number of special status species such as San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, vernal pool fairy shrimp, burrowing owl and a variety of other grassland-dependent species. This working ranch has been the home of, and directly managed by, the same family since 1874. The property is strategically positioned to achieve grassland, riparian and blue oak woodland conservation goals, and to contribute to large-scale habitat connectivity for climate change adaptation. It straddles the transition between valley grasslands and blue oak woodlands, and is bisected by riparian corridors that connect these two major communities to mixed conifer and chaparral habitats at higher elevations. It also encompasses rare alkali meadows and blue oak woodlands that are vulnerable to fragmentation by development. This property, as currently zoned could be split into 160- acre parcels, with the potential of 2 residences on each parcel. To the west of this land within less than a mile, conversion to low density residential is underway. Phase 1 will protect intermittent streams and associated springs in the Fountain Springs Gulch area in the northeast corner of the ranch. The project will result in establishment of a conservation easement on approximately 480-acres, with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy covering the purchase price and transaction costs on roughly 380-acres and the landowner donating the conservation easement on the remaining 100-acres. If the goal of eventual protection of the entire ranch is achieved, it will directly conserve
1.75 miles of the White River riparian corridor, as well as, many more miles of intermittent streams and numerous springs that feed into the White River Watershed. It would also conserve thousands of acres of blue oak woodland and grassland; vernal pools and associated special status species; a stretch of rare sycamore alluvial woodland; and habitat for as many as 18 special status species.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNC Grant Authorization</td>
<td>June 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify title or loan subordination issues that need to be resolved, if any</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execute purchase &amp; sale agreement and open escrow</td>
<td>July 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfy conditions of purchase &amp; sale agreement for SNC-funded conservation easement</td>
<td>October 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report to SNC</td>
<td>January 31, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT COSTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

**PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION**

- Support
  - Southern Sierra Partnership
  - Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

- Oppose
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected.
- Number of Special Significance Sites.
- Acres of Land Conserved.
Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed Project (SNC 731)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is bisected by Old Stage Road, located immediately south of Fountain Springs, in Tulare County, California.

Project Location – City: Fountain Springs  Project Location – County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Sequoia Riverlands Trust is requesting $347,061 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to purchase a conservation easement over 375-acres of a working ranch in the White River Watershed, which is currently under Williamson Act contract. The conservation easement includes riparian, sub-irrigated meadow, and blue oak woodland areas at the east end of a planned six-mile wildlife/connectivity corridor, linking the blue oak woodlands and meadows to grasslands and the White River. The conservation easement would protect existing agricultural land uses (rangeland) and wildlife habitat, including sub-irrigated meadow and one mile of riparian corridor, in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325, “Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Acquisition of a conservation easement in the White River Watershed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of purchasing a conservation easement to protect the rangeland, wildlife habitat, wildlife/connectivity corridor, sub-irrigated meadow, and one mile of riparian corridor, in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ________________________ Date: ___________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham
Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005
Applicant: Northern California Regional Land Trust

Project Title: Pine Creek Linkage Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Tehama

SNC Funding: $50,300.00

Total Project Cost: $50,300.00

Application Number: 740

Final Score: 80.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The Pine Creek Linkage Project will facilitate the acquisition of conservation easements on four (4) large, working ranches totaling approximately 13,848-acres located within the Pine Creek Watershed in southeastern Tehama County on the border of northern Butte County. 12,768 of 13,848-acres (92%) of the land acquisition is contiguous and the project will permanently protect vital habitat connectivity through a mosaic of habitats already providing essential migration habitat and critical deer winter forage.

Northern California Regional Land Trust (NCRLT) will negotiate terms of the conservation easements with the landowners and develop the easement deeds. Deliverables generated from the Project will include a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) approved and adopted Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and four (4) appraisals. With the CAPP and appraisals completed, NCRLT will formally seek funding from DFG and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to purchase conservation easements on the four (4) properties.

When completed, the 13,848-acres of protected ranches will sustain oak woodland, grassland, migration corridors, critical deer winter range, water quality, and habitats for many sensitive species that rely solely or in part on this landscape. In addition, by maintaining watershed health and promoting groundwater recharge, the project supports existing downstream uses such as recreation and irrigation.
### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negotiate terms and draft four (4) deeds of conservation easement with landowners</td>
<td>May 1 – July 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission appraisals on subject properties meeting SNC and WCB guidelines and specifications</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review existing regional CAPPs, specifically the Lassen Foothills Ecological Reserve</td>
<td>May 1 – June 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with DFG personnel to prepare Project CAPP using provided DFG template</td>
<td>July 1 – August 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Project CAPP and submit to DFG for review and approval</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete appraisals</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit deliverables (Project CAPP and completed appraisals) to SNC</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on all Performance Measures that are incorporated into the grant agreement in the Final Report, in accordance with the Detailed Performance Measures descriptions.</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST

- July 1, 2014

### PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$50,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$50,300.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.*

**Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.**

***Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.*

### PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- **Support**
  - California Department of Fish and Game – Northern Region
  - California Department of Fish and Game – Northern Central Region
- **Opposition**
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments.
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
   11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
   Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Pine Creek Linkage Project (SNC 740)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located east of State Route 99, within the Pine Creek Watershed, approximately seven miles north of Chico, approximately 10 miles west of Paradise, and approximately 19 miles east of Corning, in Butte and Tehama Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Chico, Paradise, Corning
Project Location – County: Butte and Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Northern California Regional Land Trust is requesting $50,300 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to prepare the Conceptual Area Protection Plan and appraisals of four working ranches totaling approximately 13,848 acres. The proposed project would complete the Conceptual Area Protection Plan and property appraisals necessary to gain funding for a conservation easement; funding for the easement is currently anticipated to be from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. Activities under this project include review of existing plans, coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, obtain approvals from CDFW for the Conceptual Area Protection Plan, negotiate draft Deeds of Conservation Easement with current landowners, and appraise the four working ranches. The purpose of this project is to prepare a site specific Conceptual Area Protection Plan and complete property appraisals in order to apply for state funding for a conservation easement over four working ranches, ultimately protecting vital linkage habitat and critical deer winter forage in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Northern California Regional Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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: ____________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Pine Creek Linkage Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of preparing a Conceptual Area Protection Plan, receiving CDFW approval on the Conceptual Area Protection Plan per the requirements of state funding (currently anticipated to be from the California Wildlife Conservation Board), and appraising the four working ranches in order to apply for state funding for a conservation easement, thus protecting vital linkage habitat in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: Revised 2005
Applicant: Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council

Project Title: Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural lands Improvement Project

Subregion: South

County: Kern

SNC Funding: $274,420.00

Total Project Cost: $274,420.00

Application Number: 689

Final Score: 79.50

PROJECT SCOPE

Public and private landowners in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Watersheds agree that the single greatest threat to the viability of their ranching and agricultural lands is the uncontrolled spread of noxious weed species. The Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project proposes to implement a strategic noxious weed control program within this complex of public and private land, thereby slowing and perhaps even stopping, the spread of noxious weeds, and improving overall watershed health, habitat quality, and the condition of agricultural lands within the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Watersheds. The proposed project will also decrease the likelihood of the spread of noxious weeds to un-infested areas including private and public agricultural and ranching lands located adjacent to and downstream of the project area, and contribute to the economic viability of Sierra grazing and farm lands by maintaining and improving both hay and forage quality.

By prescribing site-specific treatments, the project treats noxious weeds stands within private ranching lands and on public lands and private preserves utilized by ranchers in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River and in the Walker Basin Creek Watersheds. Target species include, but are not limited to, 7 noxious weeds, specifically, Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven), Arundo donax (Giant Cane), Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian Olive), Lepidium latifolium (Perennial Pepperweed), Lythrum salicaria (Purple Loosestrife), Centaurea solstitialis (Yellow Starthistle), and Tamarix ramosissima (Salt Cedar), on a complex of 11 public and private lands. Mechanical treatment methods employed include the following: Cutting and/or girthig
of target trees with application of herbicide to the cut areas; mowing, disk ing, and grazing. The project’s Pest Control Advisor will meet with individual landowners, observe their specific areas of infestations, develop treatment prescriptions and agree upon the treatment method(s).

In addition to the chemical and mechanical weed control measures specified above, the project partners will develop noxious plant identification print materials and fact sheets for distribution to participants and community stakeholders. A monitoring report will summarize the acres of land improved, the species of weeds treated and maps identifying treatment areas.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNC Grant Authorization</td>
<td>June 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMRC&amp;D WSC in coordination with the Audubon Kern River Preserve Manager, Land Steward and Department of Fish &amp; Game (DFG) Pest Control Advisor will develop education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables include participation record, copies of literature/presentations provided to participants, and copy of landowner participation agreements.</td>
<td>September 30, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowner /licensed weed control contractor with technical assistance of DFG Pest Control Advisor will conduct fields meetings - deliverables include copies of treatment prescriptions for each parcel.</td>
<td>December 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNC 6 Month Report</td>
<td>December 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Weed Control Treatment by weed control contractor and employees conducting back pack spraying.</td>
<td>March 31, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNC 12 month progress report</td>
<td>June, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMRC&amp;D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Advisor will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.</td>
<td>December 31, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 31, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMRC&amp;D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Advisor will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies</td>
<td>March 31, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more</td>
<td>June 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
than one spray episode as needed.

### 24-Month Progress Report

**DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies**

**September 30, 2015**

### 30-Month Progress Report

**Fourth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.**

**June 30, 2016**

### 36-Month Progress Report

**DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations**

**September 30, 2016**

### 42-Month Progress Report

**Fifth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.**

**June 30, 2017**

### 48-Month Progress Report

**Final Report to SNC**

**December 1, 2017**

### FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST

**December 31, 2017**

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**PROJECT COSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$189,456.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$28,418.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$274,420.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

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**PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION**

- **Support**
  - Eastern Kern RCD
  - Kern River Valley Revitalization

- **Oppose**
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- The Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project
(SNC 689)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is divided into three parts located in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River, and the Walker Basin Watersheds. The first part begins where the South Fork Kern River enters Kern Valley from the Sierra and extending along eight miles of riparian area to the Take Line of Lake Isabella, along State Route 179, near Onyx and Weldon. The second part of the project is along the North Fork Kern River riparian area north of the Take Line of Lake Isabella, along Kelso Valley Road, near Kernville. The third part of the project is located along Indian Creek and Walker Basin Creek in the Walker Basin, approximately 15 miles south of the Town of Lake Isabella, along Berlando Road and Walker Basin Road. The entire project is located in Kern County, California.

Project Location – City: Onyx, Weldon, Kernville, Lake Isabella
Project Location – County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council is requesting $274,420 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to treat noxious weeds using mechanical and chemical methods on a total of 5,218-acres and five miles of streams located in three distinct areas in north-central Kern County. Areas include a portion of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW, formerly Department of Fish and Game) Canebrake Ecological Reserve and Audubon Kern River Preserve and nine private parcels. Four herbicide options, depending on the site, would be applied by hand or backpack equipment. Work would not occur during the special-status bird nesting season (southwestern willow fly-catcher and yellow billed cuckoo) and the herbicide application method would target only the intended noxious weeds, and is designed not to drift or overspray to non-target vegetation. Mechanical methods for removing invasive species include cutting and/or girdling of target trees with application of herbicide to the cut areas. No ground disturbing activities would occur. The purpose of the project is to reduce the existing noxious weed populations to below a level of ecological significance and enhance landowner knowledge and behavior toward noxious weed prevention. The project would protect and restore vegetative resources, improve riparian and associated upland habitats, improve the habitat quality of the working ranches, and protect existing natural resources from further introduction and spread of noxious weeds.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: ____________________________
Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project involves chemical and non-chemical weed treatments to private and public lands and riparian areas to reduce existing noxious weed populations which would allow for the natural restoration of native vegetation. No ground disturbing activities would occur. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ______________________ Date: __________ Title: __ Executive Officer __
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _______________ Revised 2005
Applicant: El Dorado National Forest
Project Title: Cody Meadow Restoration Project
Subregion: Central
County: El Dorado
SNC Funding: $72,000.00
Total Project Cost: $72,000.00
Application Number: 693
Final Score: 78.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of this project is to conduct planning and design activities and complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation that is needed to undertake a meadow restoration project to improve hydrologic function, water quality, and habitat within Cody Meadow to ensure the long-term viability of an historic and active grazing allotment.

Cody Meadow is located on the Placerville Ranger District of the El Dorado National Forest, entirely on Forest Service Lands under federal jurisdiction. The meadow consists of 123-acres of mapped meadows contained in a long narrow valley situated within the headwaters of the South Fork American River Watershed. The Cody Meadow Unit allotment is grazed annually by 350 head of cattle. Cody Meadow has been adversely impacted by soil erosion from past grazing activities, as well as by roads and OHV trails, thus limiting the natural filtering capacity of the meadow system. An Allotment Management Plan was created in 2007 to manage grazing activities, but the meadow in still in need of restoration.

The Cody Meadow Restoration Project will also support long-term ecological value and economic viability of the Cody Meadow Allotment as well as improve the water quality health of the South Fork American River Watershed. U.S. Forest Service and Trout Unlimited personnel will be contributing in-kind support to this project.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work begins (survey work begins when snow allows)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey/inventory, proposed action/purpose &amp; need (concurrent), project initiation letter</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public involvement plan and scoping</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issues &amp; alternatives, specialist reports written (final, except where consultation is required)</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Month Progress Report</td>
<td>October 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation completed, all specialist reports finalized</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPA document written</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering survey and design</td>
<td>February 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comment period</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision document written, project completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</td>
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PROJECT COSTS

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<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
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<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
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</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - NRCS
  - Trout Unlimited
  - USDA Forest Service

- Oppose
  - N/A
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research  
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Cody Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 693)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located in the Placerville Ranger District of the El Dorado National Forest, entirely on Forest Service Lands, 32 miles east of Placerville, approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Twin Bridges, and approximately 8 miles southeast of Kyburz, in El Dorado County, California, Township 10 North, Range 17 East, Section 6, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Location – City: Twin Bridges  
Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The El Dorado National Forest is requesting $72,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for planning, design and environmental review of improvements for future meadow restoration activities within the 123-acre Cody Meadow. The meadow has been identified as a priority restoration project by the NFS, and would be designed to be consistent with the El Dorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Act. The project would involve data collection in the form of site surveys and assessments for existing environmental conditions/resources and identification of potential actions required to achieve the desired meadow improvements. Engineering survey and design work would also be completed for restoration improvements to be implemented in the future. Following the planning and initial environmental review and a National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) document would be prepared and approved for the project. The purpose of this project is to complete design work and NEPA documentation needed to undertake restoration activities in order to improve hydrologic function, water quality, and habitat within Cody Meadow. The project will also enhance the long-term ecological value of Cody Meadow and the health of the Headwaters South Fork American River Watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado National Forest

Exempt Status: (check one)  
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);  
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));  
☐ 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: ________________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Cody Meadow Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource evaluation, identification of appropriate design and improvement measures, and preparation of a NEPA document to allow for future meadow restoration in support of
improving hydrologic function, water quality, and habitat within Cody Meadow. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature: Jim Branham</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date: _________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title: Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Date Received for Filing at OPR:** Revised 2005
Applicant: California Land Stewardship Institute

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Amador County

Subregion: South Central

County: Amador

SNC Funding: $ 75,000.00

Total Project Cost: $134,000.00

Application Number: 735

Final Score: 77.95

PROJECT SCOPE

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over Amador County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas.

The Fish Friendly Farming/Fish Friendly Ranching (FFF/FFR) program operated by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will work directly with landowners to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) will be prescribed and if needed projects will be designed using the FFF/FFR templates and working with the owner. This project will complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000 acres up to a maximum of 5000 acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments.

Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor.

CLSI will enroll up to 70 agricultural and ranching properties in the FFF/FFR program and will complete land owner agreements /enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued. CLSI is also providing in-kind services which further leverages SNC’s award.
## PROJECT SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct First Year BMP Training</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct First Year Site Assessments</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Certifications</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Second Year Site Enrollment</td>
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<td>August 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue Certifications</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize Data Collection and Pesticide Use Revision</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Project Designs</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit Final Report</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</strong></td>
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## PROJECT COSTS

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<td>Administrative***</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,000.00</strong></td>
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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.
PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Amador Resource Conservation District

- Oppose
  - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

To: Office of Planning and Research
From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy

PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Amador County Project (SNC 735)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located on agricultural and rangeland areas generally between State Route 49 and the edge of mapped farmland within Amador County, California.

Project Location – City: Plymouth, Amador City, Sutter Creek, Jackson, and Pine Grove
Project Location – County: Amador

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) is requesting $75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis and site assessment on a minimum of 3,000-acres and a maximum of 5,000-acres of agricultural and rangeland areas generally from SR 49 east to the edge of the mapped farmland within Amador County, which have a general ratio of 15 linear feet of creek/river corridor per acre of agricultural and range lands in order to provide appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the area. The project would conduct a pollution prevention analysis on a minimum of 3,000-acres and a maximum of 5,000-acres and provide a BMP list with a timeline and project design. The site assessments would cover soil erosion, water use, chemical use, stream networks, agricultural areas, grazing areas, and non-agricultural areas. The CLSI would also provide the tools necessary for farming/ranching to implement BMPs for sustainable farming/ranching practices. The CLSI and the Amador County Resource Conservation District (RCD) will also provide assistance in implementing the BMPs and will complete annual photo monitoring. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation and identification of appropriate site-specific BMPs that are fish friendly. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare site-specific BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Land Stewardship Institute

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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: __________________________

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Amador County Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource evaluation and identification of appropriate site-specific BMPs that are fish friendly. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: ______________________  Date: ___________  Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: Revised 2005
Applicant:  El Dorado County Resource Conservation District

Project Title:  Fish Friendly Farm Phase 2

Subregion:  Central

County:  El Dorado

SNC Funding:  $75,000.00

Total Project Cost:  $154,000.00

Application Number:  734

Final Score:  77.95

PROJECT SCOPE

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over El Dorado County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas.

The Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) program operated by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will work directly with landowners through the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) will be prescribed and if needed projects will be designed using the FFF templates and working with the owner. This project will complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000 acres up to a maximum of 5000 acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments.

Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor.

CLSI will enroll up to 111 agricultural and ranching properties in the FFF program and will complete land owner agreements/enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued.

Additional funding for this project has been provided by National Resources Conservation Services and in-kind services are being provided by CLSI.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</th>
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** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - None
- Oppose
  - None
PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming – Phase II Project (SNC 734)

Project Location – Specific:
The project includes an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of various farm and ranch lands in the central Sierra within El Dorado County, California.

Project Location – City: Pollock Pines, Kyburz, Coloma, Placerville, Emerald Bay
Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District is requesting $75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis and a site assessment on 15 linear feet of creek/river corridor per acre of farm in order to provide appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the area. The assessment would cover an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of agricultural and rangelands (including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments and revegetation designs for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor) throughout El Dorado County. The project includes conducting an assessment of soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats, and agricultural land management practices. BMPs would be prescribed to reduce pollutants in runoff and create additional habitat on farms and rangeland and are focused on reducing erosion and bacterial pollution in waterways, creek restoration, and sustainable livestock operations. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs that are fish friendly. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare site-specific BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one)
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Fish Friendly Farming – Phase II Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: __________________________  Date: __________  Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: Revised 2005
Applicant: California Land Stewardship Institute  
Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Placer County  
Subregion: Central  
County: Placer  
SNC Funding: $ 75,000.00  
Total Project Cost: $134,000.00  
Application Number: 737  
Final Score: 77.95  

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over Placer County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas.

The Fish Friendly Farming/Fish Friendly Ranching (FFF/FFR) program operated by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will work directly with landowners to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) will be prescribed and if needed projects will be designed using the FFF/FFR templates and working with the owner. This project will complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000-acres up to a maximum of 5000-acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments.

Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor.

CLSI will enroll up to 45 agricultural and ranching properties in the FFF/FFR program and will complete land owner agreements /enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued. CLSI is also providing in-kind services which further leverages SNC’s award.
PROJECT SCHEDULE

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct Second Year Site Assessments</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Certifications</td>
<td>September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Third Year Site Enrollment</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct Third Year BMP Training</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct Third Year Site Assessments</td>
<td>August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Certifications</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report</td>
<td>February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize Data Collection and Pesticide Use Revision</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Project Designs</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed and submit Final Report</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</td>
<td>March 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</th>
<th>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct*</td>
<td>$63,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect**</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative***</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.
** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.
*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Pine Hill Orchard
  - Placer County Resource Conservation District
• Oppose
  o None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

• Number of People Reached.
• Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
• Number and Type of Jobs Created.
• Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
• Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
• Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
• Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
   PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
   Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching Program - Placer County Project (SNC 737)

Project Location – Specific:
The project includes an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of privately-held agricultural and range lands in the central Sierra within Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Tahoe City, Kings Beach, Foresthill, Colfax, Applegate
Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) is requesting $75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis and site assessment on 15 linear feet of creek/river corridor per acre of farm in order to provide appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the area. The assessments would cover an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of land (including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments and revegetation designs for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor). The site assessments would examine soil erosion, chemical use, stream networks, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats, and agricultural land management practices. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare site-specific BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Land Stewardship Institute

Exempt Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
☐ 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:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching Program - Placer County Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource
evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs that are fish friendly. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Matthew Daley  
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _________________________ Date: ___________ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005