

**802-Upper Stephens Meadow  
Meadow Restoration Project**

**781-Camptonville Forest Biomass  
Business Center Feasibility Study**

**791-Oro De Amador  
Removal Action Workplan**



**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:** Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP)

**Project Title:** Camptonville Forest Biomass Business Center Feasibility Study

**Subregion:** Central

**County:** Yuba

**SNC Funding:** \$ 68,590.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$112,113.00

**Application Number:** 781

**Final Score:** 85

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP) will contract with consultants to develop a detailed feasibility study for a bioenergy facility in Celestial Valley, Camptonville. This study will identify and evaluate fuel resource availability, siting and infrastructure issues, potential environmental impacts, transportation impacts, energy transmission and conversion technology options, and legislative and regulatory issues (including sale/use of energy and/or heat). The study will also address, financial and economic considerations such as costs and availability of obtaining biomass from forest thinning and hazardous fuel reduction projects on the Tahoe and Plumas National Forests. The feasibility study will assist in determining if there are any upfront “deal-killing” issues or “fatal flaws” with such a project. The study will be conducted in a manner to maximize the opportunity for future investment in a facility.

Completion of this study, and the future project that may result, is strongly aligned with the mission and goals of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and Proposition 84 by facilitating increased treatment of forested lands to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire and the resulting impacts to water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational use of public lands.

The proposed project site is on approximately 20-acres of land located off of State Highway 49 in Celestial Valley, about 2 miles south of the community of Camptonville. The site is the previous location of an operating sawmill, which closed in the 1990s. The site is zoned by Yuba County as “A/RR,” or Agriculture/Rural Residential. Industrial uses are allowed in this zoning designation, subject to a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The

Yuba County Planning Department has confirmed that a small-scale biomass power plant is considered an allowable use with a CUP. Information gathered and included in the feasibility study would be useful in completing a future California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis for a proposed biomass project at this site.

CCP will manage the feasibility study contract, including circulation of the Request For Proposal (RFP), selection and oversight of the vendor, and monitoring of project deliverables. CCP will also provide outreach to surrounding communities about the proposed bioenergy facility and the feasibility study, and coordinate with project stakeholders, including members of the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council. In addition, CCP will perform outreach to new stakeholders and existing and potential project partners, evaluate potential funding sources, publish and circulate the final feasibility study, and ensure detailed reporting of project performance to the SNC.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Select Consultant to Prepare Feasibility Study	October 31, 2014
Conduct Community Outreach	December 31, 2015
Complete and Distribute Final Feasibility Study	November 30, 2015
6-Month Progress Reports	February 1, 2015 August 1, 2015
Final Report	February 1, 2016
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	April 1, 2016

**PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$64,260.00
Indirect**	\$1,100.00
Administrative***	\$3,230.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,590.00</b>

- \* 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
  - Yuba County
  - Yuba County Watershed and Fire Safe Council

## **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

**781-Camptonville Forest Biomass  
Business Center Feasibility Study  
Yuba County**

## 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:** Camptonville Forest Biomass Business Center Feasibility Study (SNC 781)

### **Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located on a former sawmill site at the end of Celestial Valley Road, approximately 0.75 mile northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 49 and Ridge Road, approximately 2 miles southwest of Camptonville, approximately 1.75 mile east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir, and approximately 11 miles north of Nevada City, surrounded mainly by Tahoe National Forest Land, in Yuba County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Camptonville

**Project Location – County:** Yuba

### **Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Camptonville Community Partnership, LLC is requesting \$68,590 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act Grant Program for funding to develop a site-specific bioenergy (wood gasification) feasibility study and provide public outreach and communication in Yuba County. The proposed project is located on an approximately 30-acre parcel, which contained a sawmill that was in operation until the 1990s. The Yuba Biomass Feasibility Study conducted by TSS Consultants in December 2010, indicated that there is sufficient sustainable biomass available in the foothill region of Yuba County and the neighboring counties. The area surrounding the project site is mostly Tahoe National Forest land with Wildland Urban Interface due to private properties and communities in the general region. The area has been identified by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as an area in need of fuel reduction and forest thinning efforts, due to high fuel load and extreme fire risk, and thus could help to provide sustainable woody forest biomass to fuel a bioenergy facility. The proposed project would prepare the site-specific feasibility study for a three (3) megawatt (MW) biomass facility that would use wood gasification technology. The proposed project would also develop materials describing the opportunities of a biomass facility at the proposed location. The feasibility study would identify and evaluate fuel resource availability, siting and infrastructure issues, conversion technology options, legislative and regulatory context, and financial and economic considerations to determine the viability of a 3-MW biomass facility at the former sawmill location. In addition, the feasibility study would identify environmental factors and the next steps for the project, including the appropriate CEQA process (i.e., appropriate technical studies and environmental document) in order to fully identify and analyze the project-specific effects on environmental resources within the area. The purpose of the project is to prepare a feasibility study addressing fuel availability in the area, economic opportunities of a biomass-to-energy enterprise, site improvements and infrastructure, environmental factors, and environmental documents required for the CEQA process in order to develop a 3-MW facility.. The direct benefit of the proposed project includes identifying the viability of the 3MW biomass facility and identifying the environmental factors that would require evaluation of impacts to environmental resources. The ultimate benefit of the 3MW biomass facility includes providing economic opportunity, providing fuel reduction within the surrounding forest and Wildland Urban Interface areas. This would ultimately promote healthier forests and reduce wildfire severity.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Camptonville Community Partnership, LLC

**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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262 "Feasibility and Planning Studies"

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Camptonville Forest Biomass Business Center Feasibility Study Project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which have not yet been approved or funded. The project consists of collecting data to determine the biomass-to-energy conversion technology options, fuel availability, identifying siting and infrastructure needs, economic opportunities, and public education and outreach. 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:** City of Jackson

**Project Title:** Oro de Amador Removal Action Workplan Project

**Subregion:** South Central

**County:** Amador

**SNC Funding:** \$75,000.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$75,000.00

**Application Number:** 791

**Final Score:** 87

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Oro de Amador Removal Action Workplan Project will allow the City of Jackson to complete a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) on a 159 acre parcel of abandoned mine lands adjacent to the City. The purpose of the Removal Action Workplan is to present relevant information for evaluating removal/management alternatives for the mine waste tailings in order to protect human health and nearby waterways. This property was purchased by the City of Jackson in 2006 and is slated to be used for a park, recreation purposes and open space after additional remediation is completed. It was previously owned by Kennedy Mine and Milling Company and used for gold mine tailings processing and storage which makes it a "brownfield" and potentially eligible for Federal Environmental Protection Agency( EPA) Brownfield Cleanup grants.

The City has been working with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on soil contamination sampling projects and the completion of this RAW is the required next step between the previously completed assessments and the clean-up phase.

The City plans to seek implementation funding again through Brownfield grants upon completion of the RAW. They have been successful in obtaining grant funding for previous park development projects through the State's Housing and Community Development Program and Caltrans and plan to seek additional funds from these sources and others to eventually develop the property. This will include preparing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document, for which the City can act as Lead and completing all of the required permits.

Required testing of storm water runoff under the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan has routinely shown elevated levels of toxic materials, including arsenic and a DTSC Targeted Site investigation found mercury and chromium concentrations in the lakebed area that warrant further consideration. All appropriate best management practices will be evaluated for implementation to minimize the potential for runoff carrying eroded mine waste materials offsite and from entering surface waters. A RAW includes a site investigation, health based risk assessment, removal action goals, removal action alternatives and analysis, and final recommendations for any required clean-up of the property. DTSC is responsible for approving the completed RAW.

The community has been supportive of this project since the City acquired the property in 2006. A local group of citizens formed the “Oro De Amador Study Group” to assist the City with clearance of the access restrictions placed upon the property by DTSC. This group includes local recreation enthusiasts, soils engineers and other local community members. Pending completion of future planning and environmental review processes, it is anticipated that the park may include mixed-use baseball/soccer fields, softball fields, pedestrian/bike trails, a skateboard park, children’s playground areas and vast areas of open space for passive recreation.

### **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Issue Request for Qualifications for a contractor to complete the Removal Action Workplan (RAW)	July 31, 2014
Select Contractor	September 15, 2014
Progress Report	January 31, 2015
Draft RAW completion and delivery to DTSC	March 30, 2015
Review of RAW by DTSC	April 1 – June 30, 2015
Final Removal Action Workplan	June 30, 2015
Final Report	July 31, 2015
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>September 1, 2015</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$75,000.00
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</b>

\* 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

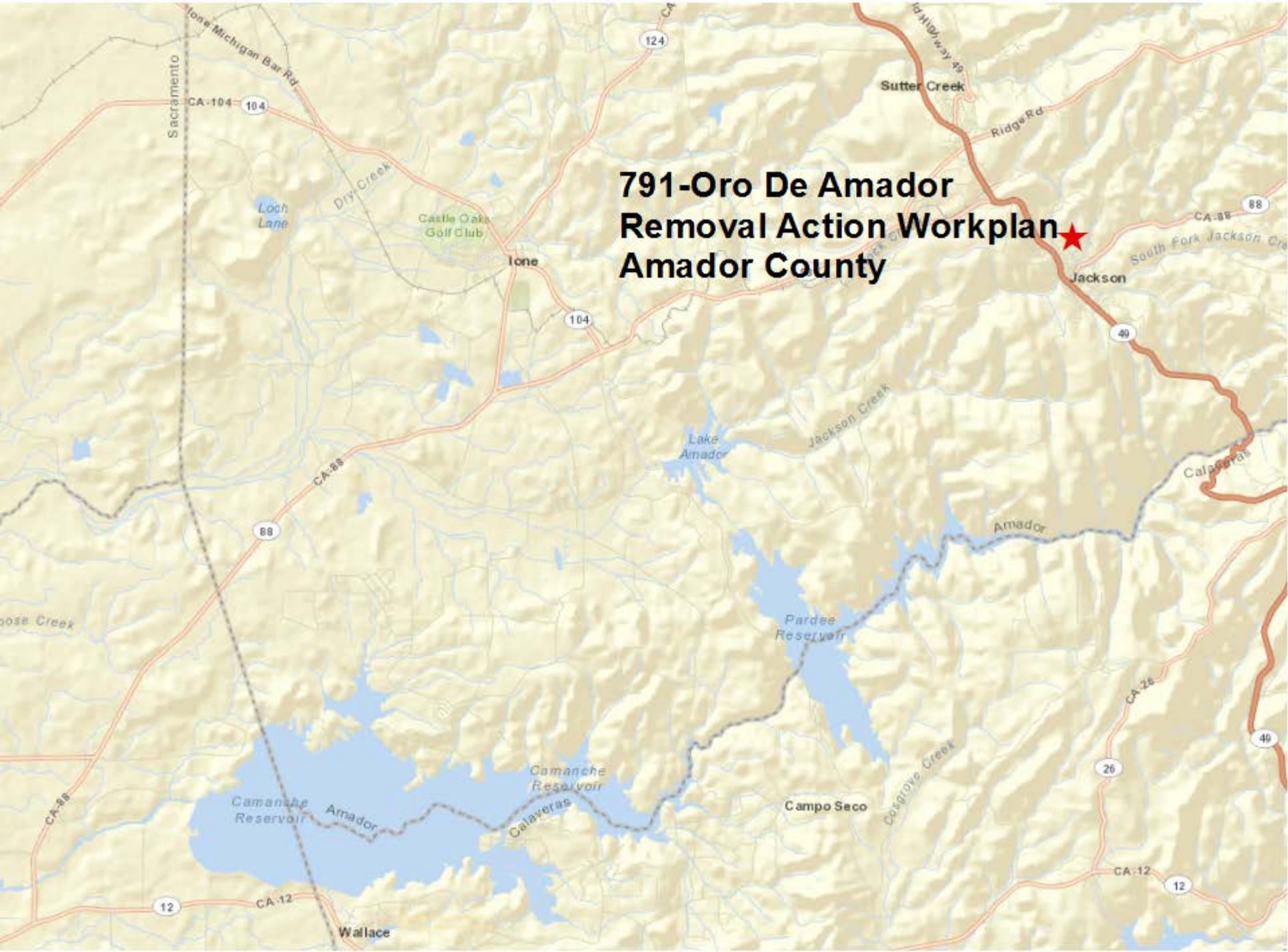
- Support
  - Department of Toxic Substances Control
  - Oro De Amador Study Group
  - Amador County Recreation Agency
  - Amador Citizens for Transportation Options
  - Amador County East Little League

## 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

# 791-Oro De Amador Removal Action Workplan Amador County



## 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:** Oro De Amador Removal Action Work Plan (SNC 791)

### **Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located on 159 acres (Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 02-070-031, 02-070-037, 020-070-038, 020-070-040, and 020-020-040) between North Main Street and New York Ranch Road, north of Court Street, approximately 0.75 mile northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 49 and SR-88, in close proximity to downtown, within the city of Jackson, in Amador County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Jackson

**Project Location – County:** Amador

### **Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

City of Jackson is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act Grant Program for funding to develop a Removal Action Workplan for removing contaminants from an abandoned mine property in order to protect human health and waters of the State in the City of Jackson, Amador County.

The proposed project site was once used by the Kennedy Fold Mine for a tailings disposal area in the City of Jackson, Amador County. The property was acquired by the City of Jackson in December 2006 from a subsidiary to Chubb Insurance Group. The subsidiary to Chubb Insurance Group determined that it was not cost-effective to retain the site for residential or commercial development. Thus, the City obtained the property to provide public access to the area for both active and passive recreational uses. While the subsidiary to Chubb Insurance Group owned the property, the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) identified the property as "trespasser only" and restricted the public access. The City has since worked with DTSC to identify potential hazards on the property, mainly concerning abandoned mines and high levels of arsenic. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a Targeted Brownfield Assessment report in 2008 and the DTSC completed a Targeted Site Investigation report in 2009; both reports identified various areas where the arsenic concentrations on the project site were higher than acceptable levels.

The proposed project would prepare a Removal Action Workplan for removal and management alternatives for the mine waste tailings sand that is located on the property, put there by the Kennedy Gold Mine. The Removal Action Workplan would provide a site investigation, health based risk assessment, removal action goals, removal action alternatives and analysis, and final recommendations for any required clean-up of the property. The Removal Action Workplan provides the link between the previously completed assessments and applying for the EPA's Brownfield Grant program for the clean-up work. The workplan would describe/identify appropriate best management practices to help minimize the potential for runoff carrying eroded mine waste materials offsite and from entering surface waters. The Removal Action Workplan would also consider alternatives which may include locating materials of concern away from drainages and placing the materials above the groundwater table to protect the waters of the State. The proposed project is located immediately north of downtown Jackson, on an open space "abandoned mine lands" property that has potential to provide the City with open space and recreational lands. The completion of the Removal Action Workplan would identify the actions needed for purposes of human health and safety and to protect the waters of the State from contamination. The purpose of the project is to identify recommended mine tailing and

hazardous material removal goals and best management practices. The benefits of the project include identifying best management practices necessary to remove hazardous materials associated with historic mine tailings (i.e., cyanide, arsenic, and other metals). This would allow the City to apply for EPA Brownfield Grant program funding in order to help prepare environmental documentation for CEQA compliance and to fund the clean-up work identified in the Removal Action Workplan. This would ultimately promote healthier waters of the State, as well as public health and safety.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Jackson

**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 Oro De Amador Removal Action Work Plan Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, 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 collecting data to determine the health based risks, removal action goals, removal action alternatives, and final recommendations for any required clean-up of the property. 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:** Lassen Land and Trails Trust

**Project Title:** Upper Stevens Meadow Project

**Subregion:** North

**County:** Lassen

**SNC Funding:** \$115,385.00

**Total Project Cost:** \$123,000.00

**Application Number:** 802

**Final Score:** 90

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project is located in western Lassen County on privately-owned land surrounded by the Lassen National Forest. The Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) owns a conservation easement on the property and will complete the project to improve the hydrologic function of approximately one mile of Pine Creek and 90-acres of montane meadow. This will be accomplished by removing encroaching lodgepole pine from the meadow to reduce competition for water and nutrients by native meadow species and will lengthen time for availability of groundwater to support natural stream flows. Pine creek is the primary tributary to Eagle Lake and is critical habitat for the Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant funds will leverage other investments and in-kind work from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Trout Unlimited and the landowner to remove encroaching lodgepole pine. All forest material removed during this project will be used for bio-energy production or for the construction of barrier fencing on the Modoc Line Rail Trail Project, partially funded by a previous grant from the SNC. The project has been included as an element of an approved Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan which includes measures to protect water quality, cultural resources, and sensitive/special status plant and wildlife species on the property.

The USFS Eagle Lake Ranger Station will conduct post-project monitoring to evaluate the effects of conifer removal on understory plant communities over time, and Trout Unlimited will conduct habitat typing surveys. Monitoring data will be used to compare similar projects completed along Pine Creek on National Forest land. The Forest Service prepared a Categorical Exclusion to satisfy National Environmental Protection Act

(NEPA) requirements for work they will complete on this and other nearby related projects.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Establish monitoring protocols and photo points	June-July 2014
Remove encroaching lodgepole pine within the meadow area.	August – November 2014
Final clean-up and removal of lodgepole seedlings by hand-pulling	June – August 2015 August 2016
Conduct post-treatment monitoring	August 2015 August 2016
Progress Reports	February 28, 2015 August 30, 2015 February 28, 2016 August 30, 2016
<b>FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST</b>	<b>December 31, 2016</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Direct*	\$106,000.00
Indirect**	\$5,560.00
Administrative***	\$3,825.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$115,385.00</b>

\* 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

- Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Partners for Wildlife
- Rosenberg Trust
- UC Cooperative Extension; Lassen County

## **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 streambank protected or restored
- Acres of land improved or restored



**802-Upper Stephens Meadow  
Meadow Restoration Project  
Lassen County**



## 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 Stevens Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 802)

### **Project Location – Specific:**

The project is located on a 640-acre property (Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 085-080-06) in upper Stevens Meadow, immediately south of Forest Route 31N36, approximately four miles west of State Route (SR) 44, approximately 16 miles west of Eagle Lake, approximately 16 miles north of Lake Almanor, approximately 16.5 miles northeast of Chester, and approximately 28 miles northwest of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

**Project Location – City:** Susanville and Chester

**Project Location – County:** Lassen

### **Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Lassen Land and Trails Trust is requesting \$115,385 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act Grant Program to implement the removal of encroaching lodgepole pine on approximately 90 acres of the 640-acre property along Pine Creek within Upper Stevens Creek Meadow in Lassen County. The proposed project would remove encroaching lodgepole pine using both mechanical and hand treatment methods. Mechanical removal of lodgepole pine trees would take place on approximately 20 acres. On the remaining 70 acres, the lodgepole pine trees would be harvested using hand treatment methods. The lodgepole trees would be used for a zigzag fence. Some of the trees would be chipped and transported to a biomass energy facility; however, these activities (chipping and transporting to a biomass energy facility) would provide off-set costs and is not part of the proposed project. The encroaching lodgepole pine threatens to impair the plant community through altered hydrology, shade, and changing soil composition. The loss of the meadow would impact Pine Creek, and ultimately Eagle Lake, by increasing water speed, erosion and sediment loads, flooding events, and would alter the native plant communities along the length of the stream. Therefore, by removing the encroaching lodgepole pine trees, the proposed project would maintain the native meadow plant community, protect the vegetation along the banks of Pine Creek, and would improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

The project site is subject to an approved Non-industrial Timber Management Plan which contains silvicultural prescriptions (timber harvest requirements) and provides protective measures for stream zones, cultural resources and special status plant and wildlife species. Any work within the watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) would include hand treatments and would be seasonally limited. No cultural resources are within the proposed project area. The proposed project area provides some habitat for State and Federal special status species; however, as part of the treatment activities, pre-treatment surveys would identify plant and wildlife special status species in the treatment areas. If special status plant species are identified, they would be flagged and avoided. If special status wildlife species are identified, a buffer surrounding their activity locations would be provided and treatment activities would occur outside that buffer, allowing the treatment methods to avoid wildlife special-status species.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore and maintain the native meadow plant community in order for the montane meadow to function properly. In a properly functioning meadow, the native sedges, willows and other species stabilize the stream bank and act as sponges to keep water available late into the season. The loss of streamside vegetation leads to stream incisions, which in turn leads to a lower water table, further altering the vegetative

community. Protection of the meadow would ultimately provide healthier meadows, healthier streams, and healthier watersheds, and would protect existing natural resources from being altered by encroaching lodgepole pine and associated habitat degradation.

**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 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration 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 (mechanical and hand treatments of encroaching lodgepole pine) in support of maintaining and/or improving the long-term viability of the montane meadow, including its hydrologic function. The proposed project is intended to improve the habitat quality and function of the montane meadow to help sustain forest and watershed health and contains measures to protect water quality, special status plant and animal species, and cultural resources in the project area. No significant adverse impacts to natural or cultural 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*