

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Co. Planning Dept.
P.O. Box 530
Downieville, CA 95936

County Clerk
County of Sierra

Project Title: Hayes-O’Gara Sierra Buttes Open Space Preserve Acquisition Project

Project Location – Specific:

**APN’s 008-120-026; 008-120-027; 008-120-028; 008-120-029; 008-120-030;
008-120-033; 008-120-034; 008-120-038**

Project Location – City: Sierra City **Project Location – County:** Sierra

Project Description:

The project consists of acquisition by the Sierra County Land Trust of up to 487.76 acres of land on up to 8 parcels currently owned by the Hayes and O’Gara families in the Sierra Buttes Mine area. We are applying for State grant to purchase the parcels as funding is available. The purpose of the project is to form the Hayes-O’Gara Open Space Preserve which is largely within the County’s Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Special Treatment area.

The project parcels are currently in private, undeveloped open space with the exception of the one 242 acre parcel (parcel 008-120-030) which includes a small home in the lower elevation.

Our intent is to use the properties immediately for public open space and access, retention of water rights, retention of mineral rights (on parcels that include them), forest and watershed management, and wildland urban interface management. In addition, it is expected that the project area will be used by the public in the future for recreation and to better understand its natural features, cultural history, and the contributions to Sierra City and Sierra County by the Hayes and O’Gara families.

The 242 acre parcel with the home on it will be a fee title purchase with a 29 acre area below the dump that will allowed to be used by the current owner’s family in perpetuity as a “foreign improvement”, essentially a use easement still preserving the conservation values and public use of the property.

This project is a priority because it is within our larger priority acquisition area – the Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Area. The natural resources on the site which would be protected include two major streams, two springs, and wildlife habitat connecting to the greater Lakes Basin area and Tahoe National Forest lands.

The mineral rights on about half of the acreage are included, and our purchase will retire any ability to prospect or mine them. The forested area on its lower elevations is directly adjacent to Sierra City, forming a wildland urban interface that would be managed most effectively without suburban development incursion. In addition, the parcels are visually sensitive as they are highly visible from the Pacific Crest Trail above and as the backdrop to historic Sierra City.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

County of Sierra
**Sierra County Land Trust
P. O. Box 404
Sierra City, CA 96125
530-265-5433**

**FILED
SIERRA COUNTY CLERK**

JUL 24 2019

**HEATHER FOSTER
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY**

Name of Person, Address and Phone Number or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Exempt Status: (check one)

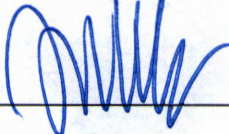
Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 13 Section 15313 & Class 25 Section 15325
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: acquisition of lands for wildfire conservation and a transfer of ownership to preserve natural conditions and historic resources.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Tim Beals **Area**
Code/Telephone: (530) 289-3251

- If filed by applicant:**
- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
 - 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: July 24, 2019 Title: Planning Director

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