

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: THE SIERRA FUND

Project Title: HUMBUG CREEK WATERSHED ASSESMENT AND
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Subregion: CENTRAL

County: NEVADA

SNC Funding: \$197,592.00

Total Project Cost: \$235,092.00

Application Number: 407

Final Score: 90.2

PROJECT SCOPE

The purpose of the Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan is to develop a plan and acquire necessary permits to implement recommended activities to address the problems of turbidity, mercury, and physical hazards in the Humbug Creek/South Yuba River watershed that result from historic mining activities. The project will: compile existing knowledge on the ecosystem, habitat, human and natural environment in the Humbug Creek Watershed; characterize and assess the current water quality conditions of the abandoned Malakoff Diggins hydraulic mine and Humbug Creek and evaluate their contribution to the water quality of the South Yuba; evaluate and select actions to improve water quality in Humbug Creek, congruent with the natural habitat and resource management objectives and obligations of State Parks; and develop a management plan that specifies the recommended management techniques and actions, permitting requirements of any recommended actions, so that permitting can be completed and implementation is ready to proceed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Draft Watershed Assessment for review by advisors	June 2011
Draft Management Plan for review by advisors	April 2012
Draft Watershed Assessment for review by advisors	April 2012

Final Watershed Assessment and Management Plan August 2012	August 2012
Contracts for CEQA and Permitting Activities	August 2012
Final Watershed Assessment and Management Plan	August 2012
FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
SECTION ONE: Direct Costs	
Staff/Personnel	\$52,760.00
Travel/Meeting	1,300.00
Contracts/Consultants	57,400.00
Materials/Supplies	900.00
Purchases/equipment leases/lab costs	3,300.00
CEQA costs / consultant	50,000.00
SECTION TWO: Indirect Costs	
Outreach/Education	8,000.00
Performance Measure Reporting	1,200.00
SECTION THREE: Administrative Costs	22,732.00
GRANT TOTAL	\$197,592.00

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- California Department of Parks & Recreation, Natural Resources Division
- South Yuba River Citizens League, River Scenic Program Director
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Huldrege & Kull Consulting Engineers – Geologists
- Delta Tributaries Mercury Council (Mercury Pollution in Northern California) & Larry Walker & Associates

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 Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Nevada County
Applicant: The Sierra Fund
Project Title: Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan

PROJECT GOAL

The purpose of the Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan is to develop a plan and acquire necessary permits to implement recommended activities to address the problems of turbidity, mercury, and physical hazards in the Humbug Creek watershed that result from historic mining activities. This is an area of the popular Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park that was home to the largest hydraulic mine in the world. The goal of the Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan is to develop a comprehensive plan to address the water quality and safety impairments in the watershed, while maintaining the cultural significance and integrity of the site.

This project directly addresses several goals of the SNC and Prop 84, most prominently:

- Protect, and restore the region's diverse resources by increasing knowledge about the watershed's rich historical and cultural resources, and how to manage and protect them.
- Improve water quality by addressing existing threats of turbidity, mercury and acid mine drainage, which will improve the water quality of Humbug Creek and the South Yuba River, and lead to protection and restoration of downstream waterways, the Yuba and Feather River watershed, and associated natural resources.

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will:

- ❖ Compile existing knowledge on the ecosystem, habitat, human and natural environment in the Humbug Creek watershed in a pro-active, voluntary and collaborative way.
- ❖ Characterize and assess the current water quality conditions of the Diggins and Humbug Creek and evaluate their contribution to the water quality of the South Yuba.
- ❖ Evaluate and select the most effective and feasible actions to improve water quality in Humbug Creek, congruent with the natural habitat and resource management objectives and obligations of State Parks.
- ❖ Develop a comprehensive plan that specifies the recommended management techniques and actions, permitting requirements of any recommended actions, so that permitting can be completed and implementation is ready to proceed.

State Parks will be the key project partner for compiling information on the watershed, and producing a feasible assessment and management plan. The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) will contribute 10 years of water monitoring data in the watershed, and be the main partner to promote community involvement through watershed educational tours and activities.

The Mining Toxins Working Group, a team of experts with representatives from USGS, BLM, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and local environmental contractors will provide a forum for information gathering, project planning, and review of draft

management plans to ensure a final result that can be used as an example for similar sites throughout the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Fund will anchor these activities, manage grant administration, facilitate inter-agency coordination, acquire any needed permits, and draft and finalize assessment and management plan documents.

This project draws on strong in-kind support from its partners. Agency participation in the Working Group is entirely in-kind, totaling at least \$28,000 of staff time. SYRCL is contributing use of their water quality monitoring sites and their watershed coordinator, totaling \$7,500. Finally, The Sierra Fund will use outreach funds already received from The California Wellness Foundation to assist with public outreach for the project. SNC funds will be used to complete all other work described above.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- CA State Parks
- South Yuba River Citizens League
- CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
- Larry Walker Associates
- Holdrege and Kull

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Draft Watershed Assessment for review by advisors	June 2011
Draft Management Plan for review by advisors	April 2012
Final Watershed Assessment and Management Plan	August 2012
Contracts for Permitting Activities	August 2012

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
SECTION ONE: Direct Costs	
Staff/Personnel	\$52,760
Travel/Meeting	\$1,300
Contracts/Consultants	\$57,400
Materials/Supplies	\$900
Purchases	\$3,300
Permits	\$50,000
SECTION TWO: Indirect Costs	
Staff/Personnel	\$0
Outreach/Education	\$8,000
Performance Measure Reporting	\$1,200
SECTION THREE: Administrative Costs	
13% Overhead	\$22,732
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST	\$197,592
SECTION FOUR: Other Project Contributions	\$37,500