SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 HEALTHY FORESTS GRANTS PROGRAM

FUNDED BY THE
The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006

DRAFT

GRANT GUIDELINES
Fiscal Year 2011-12

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The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California.

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I. Introduction

A. Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a California state agency that initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California. The SNC provides state funding through its Proposition 84 Grants Program for local projects in partnership with eligible nonprofits, tribes, and public agencies.

California voters passed Proposition 84, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (the Act) on November 7, 2006. Proposition 84 added Section 75050 to the Public Resources Code (PRC), authorizing the State to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds, and associated land, water, and other natural resources. Section 75050 (j) of the PRC allocates $54 million of these funds for SNC.

The Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act, enacted in 2004 and commencing with PRC Section 33300, established the SNC, and Sections 33343 and 33346 set forth the authority for SNC to award grants of funds in order to carry out the purposes of the Act. The SNC has adopted Program Guidelines and is currently revising its Strategic Plan in accordance with the Act; these documents provide general direction for SNC's activities and serve as the basis for these Grant Guidelines.

B. Purpose of Grants Guidelines and Grants Application Packet

The Grant Guidelines establish the process used by the SNC to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and authorize grants under the SNC Proposition 84 Grant Program. They also explain the scope of, and the requirements for, grant applications. A Glossary of Terms is provided in Appendix C.

A Grant Application Packet (GAP) accompanies the Grant Guidelines, and includes information and forms needed for each category of grant applications. For applicants who want more information about the administrative requirements once a grant is authorized, sample grant agreements for each of the Proposition 84 project types are provided at: http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/sncgrants/managing-your-grant.

II. Grant Program Information

A. Program Funding and Focus 2011-13

The SNC has approximately $10 million remaining from its original $54 million Proposition 84 allocation. These remaining funds will be evenly allocated over Fiscal Years 2011-12 and 2012-13, with a specific focus assigned for each year. For Fiscal Year 2011-12, grant funds will be allocated to the Healthy Forests area of focus as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan, and for Fiscal Year 2012-13 funds will be allocated to the Ranching and Agricultural Lands area of focus. Guidelines specific to the Ranching and Agricultural Lands area of focus will be issued in 2012, and are anticipated to contain the same general provisions as these Guidelines, but with different types of eligible projects and evaluation criteria.

In order to be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC in 2011-12, all projects must meet ***all*** of the following criteria:

1. Maintain a direct focus on forest health (as described below).
2. Meet the Public Resources Code 75050 (Proposition 84) mandate that awards go only to projects that protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources.
3. Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as described in Appendix B

In addition, projects proposed on private land must demonstrate a clear public benefit in order to be eligible for funding, and any revenue generated as a result of a private-land project must be tracked and subsequently re-invested into the project.

Healthy Forests activities, for the purposes of this grant program, include projects that are designed to preserve or improve Sierra Nevada conifer and mixed conifer forest health by reducing the risk and impacts of large, damaging fires and/or preserving or restoring ecosystem function in forests and meadows. Grants for Healthy Forest projects will be allocated to two grant categories and will be awarded in one round.

B. Grant Categories

Category One grants include site improvement/restoration projects and acquisition of conservation easements. Category Two grants are limited to pre-project activities that are necessary for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the SNC grant program criteria. In other words, Category Two grants encompass pre-project activities for the types of projects that would be eligible for a Category One grant according to these Guidelines.

Unlike in previous years, the SNC will not fund activities related to fee title acquisition. As a result, the SNC will not accept applications during 2011- 13 grant rounds for Category One or Category Two projects related to fee title acquisitions.

Examples of potential Category One grant projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Vegetation treatments, prescribed fire or other fuel reduction activities to reduce the risk and harmful impacts of large, damaging fires.
2. Forest management to increase forest resilience, and/or improve habitat conditions and biodiversity.
3. Reforestation and implementation of suitable stand maintenance activities after wildfire, when appropriate.
4. Forest treatments to address forest pest and invasive species.
5. Vegetation treatments to increase carbon sequestration benefits, and foster adaptation resiliency of vegetation in light of predicted climate change.
6. Conservation easements that protect forested lands from conversion to other uses and protect natural resources.
7. Meadow restoration to improve habitat function and water retention.
8. Sustainable utilization of biomass and a full range of forest products, including saw logs, resulting from activities associated with improving forest health.

Examples of Category Two grant projects include work such as:

1. Acquiring permits.
2. Completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.
3. Performing appraisals for conservation easement acquisitions.
4. Performing necessary studies and assessments, and developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project.
5. Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or a set of projects.

C. Ineligible Projects

Examples of ineligible projects include:

1. Fee title acquisitions and associated planning activities.
2. Grants to service or repay bridge-loans.
3. Purchase of mechanical equipment solely for purposes of implementing a single project.
4. Projects dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, any law or regulation.
5. Operations and maintenance of existing structures, including roads.
6. Education, outreach, or event-related projects.
7. Projects to implement required mitigation measures unless they are included as a part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds.

This list is not exhaustive and is offered only as guidance to potential applicants.

The SNC will make determinations of eligibility on a project-by-project basis during the evaluation phase of the application process. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please consult with SNC staff.

D. Eligible Applicants

Grant funds may be authorized for:

1. Public agencies (any city, county, district, or joint powers authority; state agency; public university; or federal agency).
2. Qualifying nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. "Nonprofit organization" means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the Conservancy.
3. Eligible tribal organizations (includes any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 9250-9255, inclusive, of Document 95-3839 (February 16, 1995) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time).

NOTE: As a general rule**,** organizations or individuals performing non-grant-related work for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy under contract <u>are ineligible to apply</u> for a grant from the SNC during the life of the contract. This policy applies to organizations that:

1. Contract directly with the SNC.
2. Are providing services as a subcontractor to an individual or organization contracting directly with the SNC.
3. Employ an individual, on an ongoing basis, who is performing work for the SNC under a contract whether as the contractor or as a subcontractor.

If you have a contract with the SNC and are contemplating applying for a grant, please consult with SNC staff to determine eligibility.

E. Process

All applicants are required to comply with the SNC's pre-application process. Pre-applications will be evaluated to confirm applicant and project eligibility, including relevance to the Healthy Forests focus area. Applicants whose projects meet the Proposition 84, SNC mission and program areas, and focus area criteria will receive an invitation to submit a full application. SNC program staff will be available to provide invited applicants assistance in developing the elements of a full application up to the point of final submission.

Full applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of technical experts and SNC staff. Site visits may be requested as part of the evaluation process. Applications will be awarded points in accordance with the evaluation criteria described in Section

IV of these Guidelines.

In Fiscal Year 2011-12 approximately $5 million will be available for awards, based on the remaining Proposition 84 funding and any returned funds from previously authorized projects. Funding will be awarded without a specific or guaranteed allocation by Subregion.

F. Consultation and Cooperation with Local Agencies

As part of the SNC's commitment to open communication and transparent decision-making, we notify government agencies, such as County Boards of Supervisors and local water districts, of eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area.

For all grants, SNC staff will notify the county and/or city affected and public water agency (when appropriate), and request comments within 15 business days following notification. The SNC will make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local governments. The individual SNC Boardmembers representing each geographic Subregion within the SNC boundary will also be notified at this time and may wish to communicate with the affected entities as well.

If an applicant has a project-specific resolution of support from the affected city and/or county and water agency, it should be included in the application package in order to facilitate the overall assessment process.

G. Grant Provisions

For each awarded grant the SNC develops an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to that project. Please be aware that if you are authorized to receive a grant from the SNC, the provisions listed below will also apply:

1. Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State.
2. Grant-eligible costs may be incurred by the grantee only after the grantee has entered into a fully executed agreement with the SNC; only these costs will be eligible for reimbursement.

The SNC may provide assistance to the grantee to ensure the grantee's clear understanding and interpretation of the terms and conditions of the grant.

III. Applying for a Grant

Note: See Grant Application Packet (GAP) for more application information.

A. Pre-Application Requirement

Applicants are required to complete and submit an electronic pre-application to SNC by the date posted on the SNC Web site. (Note: If your organization applied to the California Firesafe Council Grants Clearinghouse for 2012, please skip this section

and go to Section B below.) All pre-application information and forms will be available on the SNC Web site, and any pre-application that is submitted after the deadline will not be considered for evaluation. Basic project information, such as that listed below, is requested in the pre-application:

1. Grant application type
2. Project name
3. Applicant name and address
4. Applicant type
5. Applicant's authorized representative
6. Person with day-to-day responsibility for management of the grant
7. Project description
8. Funding and budget information
9. Project location, including latitude and longitude
10. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance
11. Type and status of land tenure for the project (site improvement projects only)
12. Appraisal status (conservation easement acquisition projects only)
13. Articles of incorporation, IRS letter, and bylaws (nonprofit organizations only)

B. California Firesafe Council Application Reciprocity

FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE APPLIED TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRESAFE COUNCIL GRANTS CLEARINGHOUSE ONLY: As an alternative to submitting the mandatory SNC pre-application form, local organizations that applied to the 2012 California Firesafe Council (CFSC) Grants Clearinghouse will be allowed to submit a copy of their CFSC grant application – with a short supplemental information sheet – to meet the SNC's pre-application requirement. If invited to submit a full application, all applicants will be required to use the regular SNC Grant Application Packet, which requires additional information.

C. Use of Pre-Application

Pre-applications described in Sections A and B above will be evaluated to confirm applicant and project eligibility. All pre-applications that meet eligibility criteria will result in an invitation to the applicant to prepare a full application. SNC program staff will be available to provide assistance to invited applicants in developing the elements of a full application. Applicants invited to submit full applications will not need to re-submit pre-application information.

D. Multiple Pre-Applications

An applicant can submit pre-applications for more than one project and may be invited to submit multiple full applications.

E. General Information

All full application materials and forms will be available from the SNC Web site or SNC offices by request. All full application materials are due and must be either delivered to the SNC headquarters office in Auburn by 5:00 PM on the application due date or mailed and postmarked no later than the due date. Any full application

that is delivered or is mailed and postmarked after the deadline will not be considered for evaluation. Files must be delivered in the format specified in the GAP. Applications that are deemed incomplete or ineligible may not be processed or evaluated by the SNC.

F. Project Eligibility

Generally, funds must be expended within the statutory boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a project to be eligible. Certain types of projects which involve implementation outside the boundaries of the Region may also be eligible if they meet all guideline requirements of the SNC and have a direct benefit to the Region. Such projects might include physical projects located just outside the boundary which result in tangible benefits to resources within the boundaries of the SNC. Applicants should consult with SNC staff when such projects are being considered. See Appendix A or http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/maps/snc-region for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's boundaries.

Project eligibility, and any determinations of eligible costs (see below), is subject to applicable conditions and limitations which may later be set forth in the State Budget Act or other official state or federal guidance.

G. Category One: Site Improvement/Restoration or Conservation Easement Acquisition

1. Overview

   As described earlier in this document, only site improvement and/or restoration projects and conservation easement acquisitions in the SNC's stated Healthy Forests focus area will be eligible for grant awards in the 2011-12 Category One grant round. Examples of potential Category One grant projects include, but are not limited to:

   - Vegetation treatments, prescribed fire or other fuel reduction activities to reduce the risk and harmful impacts of large, damaging fires.
   - Forest management to increase forest resilience, and/or improve habitat conditions and biodiversity.
   - Reforestation and implementation of suitable stand maintenance activities after wildfire, when appropriate.
   - Forest treatments to address forest pest and invasive species.
   - Vegetation treatments to increase carbon sequestration benefits, and foster adaptation resiliency of vegetation in light of predicted climate change.
   - Conservation easements that protect forested lands from conversion to other uses and protect natural resources.
   - Meadow restoration to improve habitat function and water retention.
   - Sustainable utilization of biomass and a full range of forest products, including saw logs, resulting from activities associated with improving forest health.

The proposed funding ranges for Category One grant projects are:

- $5,000 to $250,000, or
- $5,000 to $350,000

The SNC Board will determine the maximum Category One grant amount at the September 2011 Board meeting where these Guidelines will be considered for approval.

2. Site Improvement Requirements
   - All pre-applications, including those for projects to be implemented on federal and tribal lands, are required to address how CEQA compliance will be achieved. CEQA compliance needs to be completed prior to submittal of a full application. See Section III.I on Environmental Documentation for more information.
   - All full applications are required to identify and state progress and projected dates of completion for all permits necessary to complete the project.
   - Full applications must include site and topography maps, as well as site photos.
   - Land Tenure:
     Applicants must submit documentation to the SNC showing that they have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties to be improved or restored[1]. Proof of adequate land tenure includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

     - Fee title ownership.
     - An easement or license agreement, sufficient for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.
     - Other agreement between the applicant and the fee title owner, or the owner of an easement in the property, sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners or an appointed designee must provide written permission to complete the project.

- Land Tenure Requirements: – Alternate Process
  When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of application, but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed upon grant authorization, the applicant must follow the alternate land tenure process by submitting a template copy of the proposed agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or permission form at the time of application. Once a project has been authorized for funding by the SNC Board, the applicant

[1] Adequate site control is the power or authority to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

must submit documentation of land tenure within 60 days. The SNC will not execute a complete grant agreement until proof of land tenure is established.

3. Conservation Easement Acquisition Requirements

- The SNC will accept applications from public agencies, qualifying nonprofit organizations, and eligible tribal organizations to acquire conservation easements (fee title acquisitions are not eligible for grant funding in this cycle).
- Any conservation easement acquisitions must be from willing sellers.
- The terms under which the conservation easement is acquired shall be subject to the SNC's approval.
- All interests to be acquired must be in perpetuity.
- A grant application to acquire a conservation easement is required to specify all of the following:

    - The intended use of the property;
    - The manner in which the land will be managed; and,
    - How the cost of ongoing management will be funded.

- Applications are required to include a recent appraisal (two paper copies and an electronic version [CD]); see Appendix F for applicable requirements according to California State appraisal regulations. All appraisals will be reviewed by the California Department of General Services. Appraisals are requested at the time of full application submittal, but applicants will have 60 days from the application due date to provide the SNC with a completed appraisal. Any applicant taking advantage of this delay does so at his/her own risk, as the SNC cannot guarantee that necessary reviews will be conducted in time to meet the Board schedule.
- If the project applicant intends to transfer the responsibility for the project to a third party in the future, evidence that the third party is aware, willing, and capable of assuming the long-term management of the project must be provided. The SNC must approve such transfer prior to it occurring.
- Proposition 84 funds may not be used to service or retire debt previously incurred by an eligible applicant in connection with the applicant's acquisition of a real property interest.
- The SNC may require applicants to provide a Phase I or Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (toxics report) on any property proposed for conservation easement acquisition. Applicants should consult with SNC staff to determine if this requirement is applicable.

H. Category Two: Pre-Project Grants

Category Two grants are limited to pre-project activities that are necessary to prepare for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the SNC grant program criteria. In other words, Category Two grants encompass pre-project

activities for the types of projects that would be eligible for a Category One grant according to these Guidelines.

Examples of Category Two grants include work such as:

1. Acquiring permits.
2. Completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.
3. Performing appraisals for conservation easement acquisitions.
4. Performing necessary studies and assessments, and developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project.
5. Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or a set of projects.

The maximum amount for individual Category Two grants is $75,000.

I. Environmental Documents

The SNC is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time the Board authorizes any grants. This means the SNC must possess completed environmental documentation in order for its Board to make the findings necessary to authorize grant requests. The type, cost, timing, and amount of documentation needed to satisfy CEQA requirements can vary greatly depending on the type and scope of the proposed project and the type of applicant.

Since CEQA compliance will vary depending on the proposed project activities and the type of applicant, it is very important that applicants consult with SNC staff as early as possible before the application deadline to determine what documents would be needed for inclusion in a full application.

For purposes of CEQA compliance, all activities proposed within a grant application will fall into one of three categories:

1. **Not a "Project"**
   The action is not defined as a "project" under CEQA and therefore is not subject to CEQA review. No CEQA compliance documentation is required of the applicant in this situation. The full application must include a brief description of why the applicant believes the project is not considered a project under CEQA.

2. **Exempt from CEQA either Statutorily or Categorically**
   Specific types of activities have been identified as exempt from environmental analysis under CEQA. SNC requires the filing of a Notice of Exemption with either the county clerk or the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, as appropriate, for categorically or statutorily exempt projects. Requirements for projects in this category differ by applicant type, as follows:

- State or local agencies authorized to certify CEQA documents are required to submit the appropriate, completed CEQA documents, including a filed, date-stamped Notice of Exemption, with the application.
- For all other applicants (nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, tribal organizations), the SNC may act as lead agency in the CEQA process and may be able to file a Notice of Exemption for a project – but applicants **must** consult with SNC staff in advance of submitting a full application to determine whether the SNC can act as lead agency.

3. **Subject to CEQA Analysis**
   Activities that do not fall into the first two categories will require completion of additional environmental documentation (e.g., Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report). SNC requires copies of the adopted environmental documentation and the filed, date-stamped Notice of Determination to be submitted with the full application.

   If a project involves National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation because the applicant is a federal agency or the project is occurring on federal land, the applicant must provide a copy of the NEPA documentation and consult with SNC staff to determine the appropriate mechanism for meeting CEQA requirements in order to be eligible for awarding of State funds.

Additional discussion and direction regarding SNC requirements and the CEQA process may be found in Appendix E. We strongly encourage you to contact SNC staff for assistance well in advance of the pre-application deadline since CEQA compliance can require a significant amount of time to complete.

J. Projects with Uncertain Treatment Area

If a project's geographic area or deliverables cannot be fully determined at the time of application because the applicant is trying to maximize treatment, the grant application must indicate the minimum and maximum numerical objective (deliverables) that the project will likely achieve. Examples of these types of projects include, but are not limited to, vegetation clearing activities, revegetation projects, or invasive plant removal projects. Environmental review documentation for these projects must cover the maximum area proposed.

K. Eligible Costs

Only direct project costs for items within the scope of the project and within the time frame of the project agreement are eligible for payment. Costs related to project-specific performance measures and reporting are required to be addressed in the project budget.

Eligible administrative costs must be directly related to the project and may not exceed 15 percent of the project implementation cost. To determine the amount of eligible administrative costs, the applicant must first determine the cost of implementing the project, not including any administrative costs. Once the project

implementation cost has been determined, the applicant may calculate administrative costs and include them in the total grant request.

L. Ineligible Costs

Indirect expenditures billed as a percentage of implementation costs are not eligible for reimbursement. These are expenses that involve ongoing operations, or repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

In addition, grant funding may not be used to establish or increase a legal defense fund or endowment, make a monetary donation to other organizations, or pay for food or refreshments.

If ineligible costs are included in the project budget, it could result in the project being deemed ineligible in total. In some cases, the project may be approved for funding with the total amount of the award reduced by the amount of the ineligible costs. In that event, the SNC will contact the applicant to confirm that the project is still viable. Applicants should avoid including ineligible costs in the application and should contact SNC staff with questions.

M. Performance Measures and Reporting

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to the SNC achieving its programmatic goals.

Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures at the time of full application submittal. Detailed information and recommended performance measures can be found in Appendix D of this document. Applicants may also propose alternative performance measures, which will be subject to the approval of SNC staff if the grant is authorized. The proposed measure(s) will be finalized in consultation with SNC staff prior to grant agreement approval. Please refer to the Evaluation Criteria, Section IV, for further description of how performance measures will be considered as part of the application.

All grantees will be required to provide periodic progress reports and a final report. The final report must include data related to the project performance measures. See http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/sncgrants/managing-your-grant for additional information on the required contents of these reports.

IV. Healthy Forest Grant Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria to determine which projects are consistent with the requirements of Proposition 84, provide the greatest contribution to achieving improved forest health, and are supportive of the Program Goals and mission of the SNC. Additional criteria used to evaluate applications include: project quality and readiness, cooperation and community support, long-term

maintenance and sustainability, and project category preference.

When describing a project, applicants should include enough detail so that a person unfamiliar with the project could understand the project's location, purpose, goals, outcomes, design or methodology, staffing, and costs. Applications will be awarded points as described below. The maximum number of points possible for each application is 100.

A. Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits, SNC Program Goals and Mission, and Forest Health Benefits (Maximum 60 points)

Based on the applicant's project description, up to 60 points may be awarded for the following items:

1. Consistency with the Goals of Proposition 84

Evaluators will be looking for concise project descriptions that clearly explain how the project will contribute to the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds, and associated land, water, and other natural resources.

2. SNC Program Goals and Mission

Evaluators will be looking for applications that align with the SNC's mission and Program Areas (listed in Appendix B). Projects that provide substantive benefits across multiple program areas will receive a higher score. More detailed descriptions of the SNC program areas can be viewed at http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/about-us.

3. Forest Health Benefits

Projects will be evaluated based on their contribution to preserving or improving forest health in the Sierra Nevada Region, as defined in these guidelines. A variety of factors will be considered, depending on the type of project being evaluated. For example, fuels reduction and forestry projects will be evaluated based on how the project contributes to one or more of the following: decreased risk of fire, improved fire resiliency, appropriate species diversity, improved habitat, etc. Meadow restoration projects will be evaluated based on how the project contributes to improved forest health overall, increases in natural storage of water, hydrologic benefits or effects downstream, etc. Conservation easements will be evaluated based on how the project contributes to the ongoing management of working forests, including protecting against the threat of conversion to another use, the protection of natural resources, habitat connectivity, etc. All project types will be evaluated for their potential benefits to communities and local economies.

B. Project Quality and Readiness (Maximum of 25 points)

Up to 25 points may be awarded for applications that exhibit a complete, realistic and attainable plan for success. Project Quality and Readiness will be evaluated in the areas listed below. Applicants should ensure they include information that responds to the noted questions in each area.

1. **Purpose, Goals, and Deliverables**

   - Does the project have clearly stated purpose, goals, and deliverables?
   - Does the applicant propose using identified best management practices and/or appropriate scientific information in achieving project deliverables?
   - Is the project part of a larger plan? If so, how does it relate to the overall goals and deliverables?

2. **Workplan and Schedule**

   - Does the workplan adequately describe the specific tasks and schedule needed to complete the project and achieve the stated deliverable(s)?
   - Is the workplan realistic and does it describe the specific roles of all partners involved in the project?

3. **Budget**

   - Are the budgeted amounts adequate and appropriate to achieve the stated deliverables?
   - Is the applicant providing in-kind resources?
   - If funding other than SNC funding is needed for project completion, what is the status of other funding?

4. **Restrictions, technical documents, and agreements**

   - Are necessary permits, agreements, and technical documents in place?
   - Are there property restrictions and/or encumbrances that could adversely impact project completion?

5. **Organizational Capacity**

   - Does the applicant possess the capacity to complete the project as proposed?
   - Does the applicant, including current staff, have experience in completing similar projects?
   - If appropriate, does the applicant have project partners and/or contractors with expertise necessary for project completion?

C. Cooperation and Community Support (Maximum of 5 points)

Up to 5 points may be awarded for applications that demonstrate community support from a diverse range of stakeholders. Projects that were developed through a collaborative group or a process that included public input, such as the development

of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Forest Plan, General Plan, etc., will receive a higher score.

D. Long-term Management and Sustainability (Maximum of 5 points)

Up to 5 points may be awarded for applications that clearly describe how the long-term management of the project will be accomplished and financed. Projects funded with Proposition 84 dollars are required to be maintained for a minimum of 10 years after implementation.

E. Project Category Prioritization (Maximum of 5 points)

In scoring grants, the SNC will use the following prioritization methodology. Each application submitted will automatically be assigned a point value based on project type. Priority weighting is awarded to Category One restoration and site improvement projects over all other project types.

One of the two alternatives for project type priority weighting listed below will be selected for the final Guidelines, based on public comments and SNC Board direction. This decision will be made at the September 2011 SNC Board meeting.

1. Alternative One

Give priority to grant awards in this order:

- Site improvement projects (5 points).
- Pre-project activities that ready on-the-ground site improvement projects (2 points).
- Acquisition of conservation easements (1 point).
- Pre-project due-diligence projects that ready the acquisition of conservation easements (0 points).

2. Alternative Two

Give priority to grant awards in this order:

- Site improvement projects (5 points).
- Pre-project due diligence projects that ready on-the-ground site improvements or the acquisition of conservation easements (2 points).
- Acquisition of conservation easements (0 points).

In addition to the technical evaluation, SNC staff will consider geographic distribution of proposed projects when developing recommendations for the SNC Board.

APPENDIX A

Program Geographic Area

Project must be located in, or partly in, the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Region to be eligible. PRC Section 33302 (f) defines the Sierra Nevada Region as the area lying within the Counties of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba, bounded as follows:

> On the east by the eastern boundary of the State of California; the crest of the White/Inyo ranges; and State Routes 395 and 14 south of Olancha; on the south by State Route 58, Tehachapi Creek, and Caliente Creek; on the west by the line of 1,250 feet above sea level from Caliente Creek to the Kern/Tulare County line; the lower level of the western slope's blue oak woodland, from the Kern/Tulare County line to the Sacramento River near the mouth of Seven-Mile Creek north of Red Bluff; the Sacramento River from Seven-Mile Creek north to Cow Creek below Redding; Cow Creek, Little Cow Creek, Dry Creek, and the Shasta National Forest portion of Bear Mountain Road, between the Sacramento River and Shasta Lake; the Pit River Arm of Shasta Lake; the northerly boundary of the Pit River watershed; the southerly and easterly boundaries of Siskiyou County; and within Modoc County, the easterly boundary of the Klamath River watershed; and on the north by the northern boundary of the State of California; excluding both of the following:
>
> (1) The Lake Tahoe Region, as described in Section 66905.5 of the Government Code, where it is defined as "Region."
> (2) The San Joaquin River Parkway, as described in Section 32510.

See: http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/maps/snc-region for a general map of the Region; however, applicants should contact staff to verify whether project is located in an eligible area.

APPENDIX B

SNC Mission

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California.

SNC Program Areas

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy was created as a state agency to do all of the following, working in collaboration and cooperation with local governments and interested parties:

- Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation;
- Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources;
- Aid in the preservation of working landscapes;
- Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires;
- Protect and improve water and air quality;
- Assist the Regional economy through the operation of the SNC's program; and,
- Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

APPENDIX C

Glossary of Terms

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in the SNC Proposition 84 Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Packet shall have the following meanings:

Acquisition – To obtain ownership of permanent interest in real property through conservation easements. Leaseholds and rentals do not constitute Acquisition.

Administrative Costs – Administrative costs include any expense which does not relate directly to project implementation. Similar to the traditional definition of 'overhead,' administrative costs include rent, utilities, travel, per diem, office equipment and supplies, services such as internet and phone, etc.

Applicant – The entity applying for a SNC grant pursuant to these guidelines.

Application – The individual application form and its required attachments for grants pursuant to the SNC Program.

Appraisal - An estimate of the value of real property or other specific interest in real property.

Authorized Representative – The officer authorized in the Resolution to sign all required grant documents including, but not limited to, the grant agreement, the application form, and payment requests. The authorized representative may designate an alternate by informing SNC in writing.

Best Management Practice – A practice or combination of practices considered to be the most effective means (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) of meeting a particular goal or achieving a particular end.

Biological /Other Survey – An evaluation or collection of data regarding the conditions in an area using surveys and other direct measurements.

Board – The Governing Board of the SNC as established by PRC Section 33321.

Bond or Bond Act – Proposition 84, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resources Code Section 75001 et seq.).

Capital Improvement Projects – Projects that utilize grant funds for acquisition of conservation easements or site improvement/restoration.

CEQA – The California Environmental Quality Act as set forth in the Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. CEQA is a law establishing policies and procedures that require agencies to identify, disclose to decision makers and the public, and attempt to

lessen significant impacts to environmental and historical resources that may occur as a result of a proposed project to be undertaken, funded, or approved by a local or state agency. For more information, refer to: http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/.

CEQA/NEPA Compliance – Activities an entity performs to meet the requirements of CEQA or NEPA.

Collaborative Process – Willing cooperation between stakeholders with different interests to solve a problem or make decisions that cut across jurisdictional or other boundaries; often used when information is widely dispersed and no single individual, agency or group has sufficient resources to address the issue alone.

Condition Assessment – Characterization of the current state or condition of a particular resource.

Conifer Forest – Type of forest characterized by cone-bearing, needle-leaved trees, characteristic of much of the Sierra Nevada Region.

Conservancy – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33302 (b).

Conservation Easement – Any limitation in a deed, will or other instrument in the form of an easement, restriction, covenant or condition which is or has been executed by or on behalf of the owner of the land subject to such limitation and is binding upon the successive owners of such land, and the purpose of which is to retain land predominantly in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested or open-space condition. (Civil Code Section 815.1)

Data – A body or collection of facts, statistics, or other items of information from which conclusions can be drawn.

Design/Permit – Preliminary project planning or identification of methodologies or processes to achieve project goals, and the process of obtaining any regulatory approvals or permits necessary from appropriate governmental agencies in order to conduct the work of the project.

Easement – An interest in land entitling the holder thereof to a limited use or enjoyment of the land in which the interest exists, or to restrict the use or enjoyment of the land by the owner of the fee title.

Eligible Costs – Expenses incurred by the grantee during the agreement performance period of an approved agreement, which may be reimbursed by the SNC.

Enhancement – Modification of a site to increase/improve the condition of streams, forests, habitat and other resources.

Environmental Site Assessment – Phase I, Phase II or other reports which identify potential or existing contamination liabilities on the underlying land or physical improvements of a real estate holding.

Executive Officer – Executive Officer of the SNC appointed by the Board, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33328, to manage the Conservancy.

Fair Market Value – The value placed upon property as supported by an appraisal that has been reviewed and approved by the California Department of General Services or other authority designated by law or by the SNC.

Fee Title –The primary interest in land ownership that entitles the owner to use the property subject to any lesser interests in the land and consistent with applicable laws and ordinances.

Fiscal Sponsor – An organization that is eligible to receive SNC Proposition 84 grants and is willing to assume fiscal responsibility for a grant project, although another entity would carry out the grant scope of work.

Grant – Funds made available to a grantee for eligible costs during an agreement performance period.

Grant Agreement – An agreement between the SNC and the grantee specifying the payment of funds by the SNC for the performance of the project scope within the agreement performance period by the grantee.

Grant Agreement Performance Period – The period of time during which the eligible costs may be incurred under the grant, and in which the work described in the grant scope must be completed.

Grant Agreement Term – The period of time that includes the agreement performance period, plus time for all work to be billed and paid by the state. This period is the same as the beginning and ending dates of the agreement.

Grantee – An entity that has an agreement with the SNC for grant funds.

Grant Scope – Description of the items of work to be completed with grant funds as described in the application form and cost estimate.

Infrastructure Development/Improvement – The physical improvement of real property, including the construction of facilities or structures (such as bridges, trails, culverts, buildings, etc.).

In-kind Contributions– Non-monetary donations that are utilized on the project, including materials and services. These donations shall be eligible as “other sources of funds” when providing budgetary information for application purposes.

Land Tenure – Legal ownership or other rights in land, sufficient to allow a grantee to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. Examples include: fee title ownership; an easement for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement; or agreements or a clearly defined process where the applicant has adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

Mixed Conifer Forest – Forests along a broad continuum of climatic zones and including many different assemblages of species in addition to conifers. Unlike forests dominated by a single species, the different constituents of mixed conifer forests create varying structures and spatial patterns.

Model/Map – Representations to visually show the organization, appearance or features of an area or subject.

Monitoring/Research – To search, observe or record an operation or condition with tools that have no effect upon the operation or condition.

Natural Resource Protection – Those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to rivers, lakes, and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources, or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources and includes acquisition, restoration, preservation and education.

NEPA – The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. NEPA is a federal law requiring consideration of the potential environmental effects of proposed project whenever a federal agency has discretionary jurisdiction over some aspect of that project. For more information, refer to: http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/index.html

Nonprofit Organization– A private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC as set forth in Public Resources Code Section 33300 et seq.

Other Sources of Funds – Cash or in-kind contributions necessary or used to complete the acquisition or site improvement/restoration project beyond the grant funds provided by this program.

Outreach Materials – Audio, visual and written materials developed to help explain a particular topic or subject.

Performance Measure – A quantitative measure used by the SNC to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes.

Plan – A document or process describing a set of actions to address specific needs or issues or create specific benefits.

Planning – The act or process of creating a plan.

Pre-Project Due Diligence – The analysis necessary to identify all aspects influencing a project and determine the risks associated with a project.

Preservation – Protection, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities.

Project – The work to be accomplished with grant funds.

Project Coordinator – An employee of the SNC who acts as a liaison with the applicants or grantees and administers grant funds, ensuring compliance with guidelines and the grant agreement.

Proposition 84 – See Bond.

Public Agencies – Any city, county, district, or joint powers authority; State agency; public university; or federal agency.

Region – The Sierra Nevada Region as defined in Public Resources Code Section 33302 (f).

Resilience – The ability of an ecosystem to regain structural and functional attributes that have suffered harm from stress or disturbance.

Region-wide – Providing benefits that affect the overall breadth of the SNC Region or multiple Subregions within the Region.

Resource Protection – Those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to natural, cultural, historical or archaeological resources, or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or resources, such as acquisition of conservation easements, development, restoration, preservation or interpretation.

Restoration – Activities that initiate, accelerate or return the components and processes of a damaged site to a previous historical state, a contemporary standard or a desired future condition including, but not limited to, projects for the control of erosion, the control and elimination of exotic species, fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources, road elimination, and other plant and wildlife habitat improvement.

Site Improvements – Project activities involving the physical improvement or restoration of land.

SNC – Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Stewardship Plan– A plan to provide ongoing implementation and management associated with the acquisition of a conservation easement or site improvement/restoration project.

Study/Report – Research or the detailed examination and analysis of a subject.

Total Cost – The amount of the Other Sources of Funds combined with the SNC grant request amount that is designated and necessary for the completion of a project.

Tribal Organization – An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 9250-9255, inclusive, of Document 95-3839 (February 16, 1995) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time.

Working Landscape(s) – Lands producing goods and commodities from the natural environment (such as farms, ranches, and forests in timber production). For many communities, these lands are an important part of the local economy, culture, and social fabric.

Working Landscape Preservation – Actions that preserve activities occurring on ranches, farms, and forestlands that result in sustainable economic, ecological, and social benefits to communities, people, and their environments.

APPENDIX D

Performance Measures

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to SNC achieving its programmatic goals.

All grantees are required to report on performance measures for their projects. Certain information will be asked of all projects. This includes data related to four quantitative performance measures if applicable to the project:

- 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

In addition to the information that will be asked of all projects, grantees will report on performance measures (usually one to three) related to their specific project.

Submitting Performance Measures in the Grant Application

You must propose project-specific measures as part of your grant application. Generally, you will select these measures from the pre-approved list developed by the SNC. However, you also have the option of proposing a different measure in your application if you believe it would be more appropriate for your project. Final Performance Measures will be determined in consultation with SNC staff, but it is highly recommended that the applicant work with SNC staff during the pre-application process to concur on the appropriate Performance Measures prior to application submission.

The Performance Measures you select should be directly applicable to your project's goals, outcomes, and deliverables. Approved measures become part of a grantee's final grant agreement.

The four Performance Measures listed above that are required of all projects should be addressed in the grant application as to if and how they are applicable to the project.

The applicant is not expected to conjecture the quantitative outcomes of the Performance Measures in the grant application, but merely to list and discuss their applicability.

Selecting Project-Specific Performance Measures

1. You should begin the process of selecting project-specific performance measures by referring back to the project category you selected for your project.

The table on the following page provides a list of the recommended measures that are most likely to be relevant for projects in each category. A description of all of the measures follows the table. Examine your project purpose, goals, desired outcomes, and deliverables (from your project general description). Select measures that will help you determine whether and how well these have been achieved. (If you are unclear on which measure/s to select or have questions, please contact SNC staff.)

2. Review your project workplan and budget to ensure you have factored in the time and cost to gather and report performance measure-related information. For each Performance Measure, a detailed description of information gathering and reporting requirements is provided on the SNC website: http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/sncgrants/managing-your-grant/detailed-performance-measure-descriptions

3. You may find that the performance measures listed below are not relevant to your project. SNC encourages the development of performance measures most appropriate for your project. Development of new measures should be done in consultation with SNC staff, because it requires their approval. When proposing a new performance measure, keep in mind that the measure should directly relate to a specific project goal, outcome, or deliverable. Consider performance measures that can be tracked using accepted methods to ensure that your data will be consistent and defensible. For any new performance measures proposed for your project, provide the following information:

   - Clear definition
   - Data collection method(s)
   - Data sources
   - Target values

Reporting Performance Measures Outcomes in the Progress and Final Reports

Grantees must report on all Performance Measures that are incorporated into the grant agreement in the Progress Reports (when interim measurement is applicable) and the Final Report, in accordance with the Detailed Performance Measures descriptions.

Grantees are also required to provide qualitative, or narrative, information in their final project reports as requested on the Final Report form.

Performance Measures by Project Category
All Grants

A. Common to All Categories
1. Number of People Reached 2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada 3. Number and Type of Jobs Created 4. Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities
B. Common to Site Improvement & Acquisition Categories
5. Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created 6. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored 7. Number of New Recreation Access Points 8. Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved 9. Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided 10. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior
C. Acquisition Only
11. Acres of Land Conserved
D. Site Improvement Only
12. Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced 13. Acres of Land Improved or Restored 14. Acre Feet Per Annum of Streamflow Improved 15. Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved 16. Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year
E. Pre-Project Planning
17. Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments 18. Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation 19. Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

Performance Measure Descriptions

The following Performance Measures (PMs) have been developed to meet SNC's initial needs as it launches its programs and provides initial grant funding for several project types. These PMs, along with a brief description of each, are listed below in five broad categories: Performance Measures for All Projects, Performance Measures Common to Site Improvement and Acquisition Projects, Performance Measures for Acquisition Projects, Performance Measures for Site Improvement Projects, and Performance Measures for Pre-Project Planning Projects.

A. <u>Performance Measures for All Categories</u>

1. **Number of People Reached**
   Number of People Reached measures progress of information-sharing and education efforts and inclusiveness of other project efforts such as plan development.

2. **Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada**
   The Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged provides a measure of the additional resources contributed to SNC funded projects by grantees and other partners. The total value is based on other funds provided by external sources, valuation of volunteer hours, and the value of in-kind contributions made by a project.

3. **Number and Type of Jobs Created**
   Number and Type of Jobs Created provides an accounting of the full-time equivalent jobs created by SNC-funded activities. Information provided should describe whether the job is expected to be temporary or long-term.

4. **Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities**
   New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities measures the types, quantities, and, where appropriate, estimated dollar values of new, improved, or preserved activities, products, and services resulting from the project.

B. Performance Measures Common to Site Improvement and Acquisition Projects

5. **Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created**
   The Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity maintained or created is based on the California Energy Commission's (CEC's) standards for renewable energy eligibility and includes energy generation capacity from biomass, wind, solar, small hydroelectric and other qualifying sources.

6. **Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored**
   Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored provides a measure of a project's contribution to water quality, riparian property values, habitat, and stream connectivity. Information provided should indicate whether the stream bank is being protected or restored.

7. **Number of New Recreation Access Points**
   Number of New Recreation Access Points measures improvements in recreation access by: type of access points, recreation type, and change in capacity.

8. **Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved**
   Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved records the total number of sites with important cultural or natural features that are protected from development or other adverse impacts.

9. **Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided**
   Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided demonstrates the value of Sierra ecosystem resources in reducing the effects of climate change. Potential project types can include conservation forest management, renewable energy generation, and industrial process improvements. The carbon reductions included in this performance measure will be informed by and linked, as

appropriate, to standard approaches and protocols such as those published by the California Climate Action Registry.

10. **Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior**
Measurable Change in Knowledge or Behavior tracks the effects of educational and interpretive efforts to improve appreciation for and stewardship of Sierra Nevada resources. Examples of behavioral change include increased Firewise landscaping and removal of noxious weeds on private property. Examples of change in knowledge include improved student understanding of climate change and increased public acceptance of prescribed fire.

C. Performance Measures for Acquisition Projects

11. **Acres of Land Conserved**
Acres of Land Conserved includes areas that have been conserved through acquisition, including easements. This performance measure provides an accounting of the extent of landscape and natural resources conserved by SNC activities. Information provided should include the method of conservation (acquisition or easement) and the primary purpose of conservation (recreation, open space, working landscapes, etc).

D. Performance Measures for Site Improvement Projects

12. **Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced**
Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced measures the benefits of water conservation and efficiency projects and particular restoration efforts that impact timing of flows. These actions benefit both local residents and the people of California who receive their water supply from the Sierra Nevada. Project activities can include: meadow restoration to enhance runoff timing or incentive programs such as converting to drip irrigation to reduce demand.

13. **Acres of Land Improved or Restored**
Acres of Land Improved or Restored tracks efforts to reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as catastrophic wildfire, and improve natural resource conditions, such as site productivity and wildlife habitat, through site improvement. Information provided should identify whether the acres protected have been categorized by importance or priority rating through another agency or program, such as acres of critical habitat, or acres in moderate, high and very high fire hazard areas, as delineated by the CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zoning Map.

14. **Acre-Feet per Annum of Streamflow Improved**
Acre-Feet per Annum of Streamflow Improved measures the changes in flow conditions in a given stream or river resulting from a project. This performance measure directly addresses improving water quality and habitat, since flow can be a controlling driver in these issues. Subcategories include: water conservation or efficiency projects dedicating conserved water to instream flows, actions that

result in changes in management, short-term leases of water for instream flows, and permanent transfers through acquisition of a water right.

15. **Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved**
    The Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved incorporates paved and unpaved multi-use urban, hiking, OHV, equestrian and other trails and paths. Information provided should identify the length, type of trail/path and type of use.

16. **Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year**
    The Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year indicates the pollutant reduction effectiveness of restoration, water quality, and air quality projects. Current projects focus on reducing sediment and mercury pollution; however, additional pollutants may be targeted in future projects. Information provided should identify the pollutant type/s to be reduced and the amount of reduction.

E. Performance Measures for Pre-Project Planning Projects

17. **Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments**
    The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments is a measure that may be relevant for a wide variety of projects. Plans and assessments help communities plan for resource use, qualify for targeted funding, and support understanding of conditions and management options. Examples of anticipated subjects include fire protection, water resources, land use, tourism development, habitat surveys and many more.

18. **Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation**
    Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Implemented measures progress in moving SNC-funded projects from initial stages of collaboration and planning to on-the-ground actions and acquisitions.

19. **Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior**
    Measurable Change in Knowledge or Behavior tracks the effects of educational and interpretive efforts to improve appreciation for and stewardship of Sierra Nevada resources. Examples of behavioral change include increased Firewise landscaping and removal of noxious weeds on private property. Examples of change in knowledge include improved student understanding of climate change and increased public acceptance of prescribed fire.

APPENDIX E

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

Overview

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency and therefore SNC actions are subject to all provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This means that when the SNC is initiating or making discretionary decisions such as providing financial support to entities for projects, we must ensure that project activities are undertaken in compliance with CEQA.

Projects are defined by CEQA as: The whole of an action that has potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and specifically related to the SNC grant program:

A project includes an activity which is funded, in whole or in part, through public agency contracts, **grants**, subsidies, loans, or other assistance from a public agency.

For more information about **CEQA**, you may visit the following Web site: http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/index.html

Completion of appropriate documentation

Applicants are strongly urged to consult with SNC staff prior to initiating the application process to determine how best to meet the CEQA requirements. Failing to do so may result in inadequate documentation and ultimately in the project being deemed ineligible.

For activities that meet the CEQA definition of a project, the appropriate documentation must be completed and adopted or certified by a California local or state agency ("Lead Agency"). The Lead Agency for environmental documentation must determine whether or not the project will have a significant potential impact on the environment. For most grant authorizations, SNC will act as a "Responsible Agency",authorizing grant funding for projects that have already been approved by a Lead Agency.

Under specific circumstances, SNC will act as a Lead Agency, if the project meets the definition of being categorically or statutorily exempt from CEQA. This opportunity may exist for project applicants that are not state or local agencies.

All documentation for CEQA compliance is required at the time of application. Completion of CEQA documents cannot be made a "condition" of grant approval.

Categories of Proposed Projects
Proposed projects will fall into one of the following four CEQA categories:

- **Not a Project per CEQA**

Upon receiving a grant application or pre-application consultation request, SNC must evaluate whether or not the activity being proposed is defined as a project for CEQA purposes. If the proposal does not meet the CEQA definition of a project, no documentation is required and the applicant should note that this is the case in the application (examples might include some planning activities).

- **Categorical and Statutory Exemptions**

Specific types of activities have been identified as exempt from environmental analysis under CEQA. All projects funded by the SNC require the filing of a Notice of Exemption for categorically or statutorily exempt projects. Requirements for projects in this category differ by applicant type, as follows:

- State or local agencies authorized to certify CEQA documents are required to submit the appropriate, completed CEQA documents, including a filed Notice of Exemption, with the application.
- For all other applicants (nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, tribal organizations), the SNC *may* act as lead agency in the CEQA process and *may* be able to file a Notice of Exemption for a project – but applicants must consult with SNC staff in advance to determine whether the SNC will act as lead agency.

- **Negative Declaration and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

An Initial Study must be completed for projects which are not categorically or statutorily exempt. If the Initial Study concludes that a project will not have a significant impact on the environment, a Negative Declaration may be prepared and adopted by the Lead Agency. When impacts are identified and may be alleviated through mitigation measures during project implementation, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared and adopted by the Lead Agency. Noticing, Preparation, and Public review for these documents may require several months to complete. Documentation of completed actions must be provided with application.

- **Environmental Impact Report**

If it is determined through an Initial Study that a project may result in a potential significant impact to the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. Noticing, Preparation, and Public review for an EIR may require up to two years for completion. Documentation of completed actions must be provided with application.

Consistency with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Projects that are located on Federally Managed Lands must comply with both NEPA and CEQA requirements. If the federal agency has found that the project is a categorical exclusion under NEPA, the signed Decision Notice must be submitted with the application. If the environmental impacts of the project are analyzed in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, a completed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision must be submitted at the time of application along with the approved document. The SNC may act as the Responsible Agency under these circumstances **if the document complies with the provisions of the comparable CEQA document.** However, in some instances the NEPA process may not adequately meet CEQA requirements. Federal agencies or those conducting activities on federal lands are strongly encouraged to coordinate with a California public agency on CEQA compliance issues.

Applicant Responsibilities

Grant Applicants are responsible for ensuring that CEQA compliance requirements are met and ready for SNC Board approval at the time of application. The responsibilities of the applicant vary depending on the type of entity and project.

APPENDIX F

Appraisals

If a grant of funds is made to acquire an interest in real property the agreement between the SNC and the recipient will require all of the items listed below:

1. The transfer of an interest in the real property shall be subject to approval of the SNC, and a new agreement sufficient to protect the public interest shall be entered into between the SNC and the transferee.

2. The deed or instrument by which the grantee acquires an interest in real property under the grant shall include a power of termination on the part of the SNC. The deed or instrument shall provide that the SNC may exercise the power of termination by notice in the event of the grantee's violation of the purpose of the grant through breach of a material term or condition thereof, and that, upon recordation of the notice, full title to the interest in real property identified in the notice shall immediately vest in the SNC, or in another public agency or a nonprofit organization or tribal organization designated by the SNC to which the SNC conveys or has conveyed its interest.

REGULATIONS FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF APPRAISAL REPORTS TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION LANDS:

Appraisal Reports prepared for the acquisition of any land or interest therein by or with funding from an "acquisition agency" as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5096.501 (a) must conform to the following minimum standards in order to be considered for Appraisal Review by the State.

1. Appraisal reports shall be prepared by, and include a signature by an appropriately Licensed or Certified Real Estate Appraiser in good standing. (Pursuant to Part 3, commencing with Section 11300 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code and the California Code of Regulations Section 3701.)

2. Appraisal reports shall include descriptive photographs and maps of sufficient quality and detail to clearly depict the subject property and any market data relied upon, including the relationship between the location of the subject property and the market data.

3. Appraisal reports shall include a complete description of the subject property land, site characteristics and improvements. Valuations based on property's development potential shall include:

   - Verifiable data on the development potential of the land (e.g. Certificate of Compliance, Tentative Map, Parcel Map, Final Map).
   - A description of what would be required for a development project to proceed.

Appraisal reports shall include a statement by the appraiser indicating to what extent land title conditions were investigated and considered in the analysis and value conclusion.

Appraisal reports shall include a discussion of implied dedication, prescriptive rights or other unrecorded rights (Civil Code Sec. 801-813, 1006-1009) that may affect value. Indicating the extent of the investigation, any knowledge of, or observation of conditions that might indicate evidence of public use.

Appraisal Reports, or portions thereof, concluding other than nominal value for specialty interest, including but not limited to timber, minerals, or carbon credits, shall be prepared and signed by a certified or registered professional qualified in the field of specialty interest.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES (DGS) APPRAISAL SPECIFICATIONS

All appraisals must be completed and signed by a State of California Certified Real Estate Appraiser who certifies that the appraisal is in compliance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice as currently adopted by the Appraisal Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation.