

Background

Year-end is always a busy time in the administrative offices of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). Things are even more hectic as we prepare to switch personnel support services from the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE). FTB has provided excellent support to SNC as we have matured as a department. CalFIRE will take over in July 2013, providing more limited support, since staff has built internal capacity to take over some services that FTB had previously provided.

Current Status – Grants Administration

Unfortunately, SNC has received notice that project 731, awarded to Sequoia Riverlands Trust in the amount of \$347,061 for the “Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed,” must be withdrawn. This project was a victim to declining land values, which made the overall project financially challenging for the owner. This project was approved by the Board in the 2012-13 Ranching and Agricultural Lands grant cycle. These funds will remain available for future award.

Current Status – Budget

As of July 1, 2013, the one day per month furlough will end, which will restore 4.62% to staff salaries. Staff awaits final determination as to whether the use of student assistants will be allowed to commence once again at the beginning of this new fiscal year. The restriction for using Retired Annuitants for mission critical functions only continues into 2013-14.

Current Status – Human Resources

Staff is excited to introduce Lisa Primeaux, SNC’s new Senior Budget and Contracts Analyst. Lisa comes to us with more than 13 years of experience working for the California Conservation Corps, the Department of Conservation, and the Department of Developmental Services. She is an experienced budget analyst and has significant additional administrative skills she brings to her new position. Lisa also has a BA degree in English from Sonoma State. She replaces Shelly Owens, who left the SNC late last year.

As we say hello to a new employee, we are saying goodbye to one of our managers. Kerri Timmer has departed for opportunities at the Sierra Business Council. Hiring of a new Regional Policy and Programs Manager should be complete by the end of the fiscal year.

Staff have continued to make progress in completing SNC’s first round of the Conservancy Project Development Analyst (CPDA) series of exams. As a reminder to the Board, the SNC converted to this classification last year. The series of exams provide potential promotional opportunities for employees and establish hiring lists to fill open positions as they arise.

Current Status – Facilities

Modifications to the downtown Mariposa office that will house SNC staff were stalled due to permitting delays. The move of the staff currently in the Fairgrounds office is now expected to occur in late summer.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

2012-13 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES				
Through March 2013				
State Operations				
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
SALARIES AND WAGES	1,959,717	1,330,850	628,867	68%
STAFF BENEFITS	583,430	515,050	68,380	88%
Personal Services, Totals	\$2,543,147	\$1,845,901	\$697,246	73%
Operating Expenses & Equipment				
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
GENERAL EXPENSE	208,479	185,752	22,727	89%
TRAVEL - IS	55,000	41,358	13,642	75%
TRAVEL - OS	2,791	-	2,791	0%
TRAINING	19,800	10,229	9,571	52%
FACILITIES	288,395	229,180	59,215	79%
UTILITIES	14,480	9,831	4,649	68%
CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT	1,017,870	712,360	305,510	70%
CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL	139,800	93,876	45,924	67%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	118,047	16,907	101,140	14%
CONSOLIDATED DATA CENTER	-	-	-	0%
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	0%
OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE	22,124	14,361	7,763	65%
PRO RATA (control agency costs)	161,517	40,379	121,138	25%
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	\$2,048,303	\$1,354,233	\$694,071	66%
Local Assistance				
<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
2007 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	17,000,000	0	100%
2008 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	17,000,000	0	100%
2009 Original Appropriation (reapprop 12/13)	15,448,000	12,792,445	2,655,555	83%
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
State Operations	4,591,450	3,200,133	1,391,317	70%
Local Assistance *	49,448,000	46,792,445	2,655,555	95%
SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS	\$54,039,450	\$49,992,578	\$4,046,872	93%

* The balance includes encumbrances for March awards totaling \$5,155,865, minus \$347,061 to reflect the withdrawal of project 731. The remainder, \$2,655,555 remains available for future award.