

Background

As you are aware, Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act was approved by voters in 2006 – two years after the legislation creating the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) was signed into law. The SNC was allocated \$54 million in the measure for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. Just after the 2006 measure was passed, the SNC hit the ground running with our very first grant program and was able to award the full \$17 million appropriation from the 2007-08 state budget. The SNC has continued the grant program, awarding over \$50 million dollars for 294 projects within the Region. The Board is considering the grant guidelines for the last round of funding under Proposition 84 today.

“Investing in California’s Watershed: Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Grant Program” (Report) was published as a recognition of the success of the grant program and the achievements of the grantees, as well as, a demonstration that investing in the Region’s watersheds benefits water supply and reliability for Californians. The Report makes the case for future investment in the Sierra and provides testimony to the special aptitude the SNC has for playing an important role when investment vehicles such as the upcoming water bond or the greenhouse gas emission reduction cap-and-trade auction program become available.

The ten project profiles highlighted within the Report provide a sample of the types of projects funded in five categories illustrating specific needs within the Region and the benefits achieved from project implementation. Targeted audiences are encouraged to explore the characteristic projects by accessing individual videos through the SNC Web site. Additionally, in conjunction with the development of the Proposition 84 Report, staff is generating a stronger internet presence, introducing a new interactive map project for the Web site and providing a platform to access not only the select Report project videos, but more as they are developed.

Current Status

Distribution of the Report to a wide range of stakeholders and policy makers has occurred. The Report, along with a summary of key messages and links to the interactive map, videos, and other resources resides on the SNC Web site. Staff is in the process of making presentations, with the Report as the focal point, to all 22 counties served by the SNC. These presentations will include the various other activities that the SNC has carried out in each county.

The SNC appreciates the support of the Resource Legacy Fund Foundation, whose generous support partially funded production of the Report.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to distribute the Prop 84 Report hard copies to identified recipients and utilize its messages as a tool for outreach and education. The interactive map on

the SNC Web site is evolving and will be expanded to include more dynamic and informative applications. Individual project highlight videos will be developed as more projects begin to close.

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.