

Background

In this new fiscal year, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Staff are looking forward to new opportunities, priorities and challenges. The Regional Policy and Programs Division is considering its new opportunities as it welcomes its newest member, Nic Enstice. Mr. Enstice has worked with SNC previously as a student and as a consultant, assisting with the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative and the Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits initiatives.

Current Status – Grants Administration

Along with completing final grant agreements for the 2012-13 grant round and assisting area staff with amendments and management of current agreements, Grants Administration (GA) staff are busy creating and updating various grant-related policies and procedures. In addition to these updates, staff have completed the first draft of the SNC Grants Operations Manual, which documents important aspects of the grant program as it has developed over the course of the distribution of bond funds received to date. This Manual, along with the policies and procedures being completed, help to ensure consistency in grant development and management over time, and will keep SNC's grant program in compliance with the [Bond Accountability and Audits Guide](#) developed by the California Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Office of State Audits and Evaluations.

In addition, SNC has received notice from DOF of a new grantee audit, for the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Grant 070020. This is a closed and completed grant project that was approved in 2007-08. SNC has participated in prior DOF audits of five grantees, as well as an audit of its overall Proposition 84 grant program. To date, we are pleased that no significant issues have been raised relative to the SNC's administration of the grant program.

Current Status – Budget

Although all of the final reports have not yet been received, the SNC 2012-13 budget was successfully closed at the end of June 2013. There were no surprises in the final budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. Funding was provided from the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) and Proposition 84 for SNC's overall support budget of \$4.744 million. A summary of SNC's budget over the years is included in Agenda Item X.

Current Status – Human Resources

As of July 1, 2013, SNC staff are operating under new labor contracts that have provided a guarantee of no new furloughs for the next two years, along with a wage increase and various miscellaneous benefits.

Also at the beginning of the fiscal year, SNC's personnel transactions support smoothly moved from the Franchise Tax Board to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). These services are provided through an Interagency Agreement with CAL FIRE.

Current Status – Information Technology

Planning is underway to complete SNC's 2013-14 Agency Information Management System report. This report will tie IT goals, activities and accomplishments to SNC's Strategic Plan and current annual Action Plan. Major IT activities for 2013-14 include transition to consolidated e-mail services and upgrades to SharePoint and Microsoft Office. IT staff will also create and deploy SNC's first external SharePoint site, allowing for easier and more efficient document and information collaboration with external SNC partners.

Current Status – Facilities

After several false starts and delays, Mariposa staff will have a new home in late September or early October. The new office is located on 4988 11th Street, about a block from Highway 140 at 11th Street. Staff is anxiously awaiting scheduling by the Department of General Services of the final walk through and move-in dates.

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.

2013-14 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES				
Through July 31, 2013				
State Operations				
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
SALARIES AND WAGES	2,093,018	0	2,093,018	0%
STAFF BENEFITS	808,767	0	808,767	0%
Personal Services, Totals	\$2,901,785	\$0	\$2,901,785	\$0
Operating Expenses & Equipment				
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
GENERAL EXPENSE	220,243	1,454	218,789	1%
TRAVEL - IS	55,000	0	55,000	0%
TRAVEL - OS	1,737	0	1,737	0%
TRAINING	30,000	0	30,000	0%
FACILITIES	288,926	19,390	269,535	7%
UTILITIES	15,380	0	15,380	0%
CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT	813,894	314,800	499,094	39%
CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL	138,000	118,000	20,000	86%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	61,691	120	61,571	0%
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	0%
OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE	25,196	0	25,196	0%
PRO RATA (control agency costs)	192,148	0	192,148	0%
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	\$1,842,215	\$453,765	\$1,388,450	25%
Local Assistance				
<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
2007 Orig Appropriation; Re-ap.11/12 (13/14 Yr 3 of 3)	17,000,000	16,894,467	105,533	99%
2008 Orig Appropriation; Re-ap.11/12 (13/14 Yr 3 of 3)	17,000,000	16,634,415	365,585	98%
2009 Orig Appropriation; Re-ap.12/13 (13/14 Yr 2 of 3)	15,448,000	13,107,005	2,340,995	85%
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
State Operations	4,744,000	453,765	4,290,236	10%
Local Assistance *	49,448,000	46,635,887	2,812,113	94%
SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS	\$54,192,000	\$47,089,652	\$7,102,349	87%