

# Agenda Item XII

## Attachment A

# Alpine Fire Safe Council



**Alpine Fire Safe Council**  
PO Box 67  
Markleeville, CA 96120  
(530)-694-1879

[www.alpinefiresafecouncil.org](http://www.alpinefiresafecouncil.org)

*Providing community leadership, resources and a forum to improve wildfire preparedness in eastern Alpine County.*

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Kris Hartnett, Chair  
Markleeville

Steve Yonker, Vice-Chair  
Woodfords

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Woodfords

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E. Alpine Fire & Rescue

## Staff

Kris Hartnett, Coordinator  
Markleeville

Erin Dobyns, Administrator  
Markleeville



Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
[SAPComments@sierranevada.ca.gov](mailto:SAPComments@sierranevada.ca.gov)

Re: Draft 2016-19 Strategic Action Plan

Dear Mr. Branham,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC's) Draft 2016-19 Strategic Action Plan. At its August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Alpine Fire Safe Council voted to submit these comments.

We believe that there is one additional area that the SNC can look to for funding improvements to forest health that will advance the goals of the SNC's Watershed Improvement Program, and that this should be part of the SNC's Strategic Action Plan.

As pointed out in the SNC's State of the Sierra Nevada's Forest report there is not sufficient funding for programs to restore our forests to a healthy condition, and the consequences of not restoring our forests to a healthy condition include declining watershed health, increased risk of catastrophic wildfire, reduced capacity to ameliorate climate change, and reduced water supply, among others. But, private investment could help if it were allowed and encouraged to participate. We are thinking specifically of investment in woody biomass-to-bioenergy facilities, which could pay for some of the needed fuels reduction and forest thinning. Private investment in woody biomass-to-bioenergy facilities will not solve the problems with forest and watershed health everywhere, but in some places it could significantly advance the goals of the SNC's Watershed Improvement Program that otherwise would not be advanced due to lack of funds.

In view of the above we suggest the following modifications to the draft strategic plan:

1. Pages 10 & 11, Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Policies bullet point 4. Add the following: 2012 California Bioenergy Action Plan.
2. Page 11, Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Restoration Implementation, Phase 1, bullet point 4. Add the following: "and the availability of biomass as feedstock for biomass-to-bioenergy facilities."
3. Page 11, Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Restoration Implementation, Phase 2, 2nd bullet point. After "Cultivate new funding streams," insert "including private investment."
4. Page 12, Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Funding 1st bullet point. After "Coordinate with other agencies," insert "and private investors."

Should you or your staff have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or David Griffith at [dGriffith.9@gmail.com](mailto:dGriffith.9@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

Alpine Fire Safe Council  
Per: Kris Hartnett, Chair



**COUNTY OF ALPINE**  
**Board of Supervisors**

September 1, 2015

Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
SAPComments@sierranevada.ca.gov

Re: Draft 2016-19 Strategic Action Plan

Dear Mr. Branham,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC's) Draft 2016-19 Strategic Action Plan. At its September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the Board of Supervisors voted to submit these comments.

We believe that there is one additional area that the SNC can look to for funding improvements to forest health that will advance the goals of the SNC's Watershed Improvement Program, and that this should be part of the SNC's Strategic Action Plan.

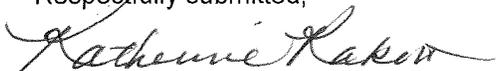
As pointed out in the SNC's State of the Sierra Nevada's Forest report there isn't sufficient funding for programs to restore our forests to a healthy condition, and the consequences of not restoring our forests to a healthy condition include declining watershed health, increased risk of catastrophic wildfire, reduced capacity to ameliorate climate change, and reduced water supply among others. But private investment could help if it were allowed and encouraged to participate. We are thinking specifically of investment in woody biomass-to-bioenergy facilities which could pay for some of the needed fuels reduction and forest thinning. Private investment in woody biomass-to-bioenergy facilities won't solve the problems with forest and watershed health everywhere, but in some places it could significantly advance the goals of the SNC's Watershed Improvement Program that otherwise would not be advanced due to lack of funds.

In view of the above we suggest the following modifications to the draft strategic plan.

1. Pages 10 & 11, Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Policies bullet point 4. Add the following: 2012 California Bioenergy Action Plan.
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3. Page 11, Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Restoration Implementation, Phase 2, 2nd bullet point. After "Cultivate new funding streams," insert "including private investment".
4. Page 12. Watershed Improvement Program, Strategies, Funding 1st bullet point. After "Coordinate with other agencies," insert "and private investors".

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact County Administrative Officer Carol McElroy if you have any questions. Ms. McElroy can be reached via email at [cmcelroy@alpinecountyca.gov](mailto:cmcelroy@alpinecountyca.gov) or by phone at 530-694-2287.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Katherine Rakow, Chair  
Alpine County Board of Supervisors

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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JAMES S. MITRISIN  
Clerk of the Board



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September 1, 2015

Mr. Jim Branham  
Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**RE: Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Draft Strategic Action Plan**

Dear Mr. Branham,

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is pleased to submit its support for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Draft Strategic Action Plan. Our Board appreciates the efforts of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to develop a Strategic Action Plan that focuses its planning efforts on issues that are of critical importance to the counties and communities within the Conservancy's service area.

Specifically, our Board fully supports the Conservancy's identifying the Watershed Improvement Program and the Proposition 1 Grant Program as priority programs within the Strategic Plan's planning efforts.

The goal of the Watershed Improvement Program to restore the health of the Sierra Nevada watersheds while implementing fuel treatment projects will reduce wildfire risks. This program is a perfect example of the Conservancy's collaborative efforts throughout the region that seek to protect the great natural resources within the Sierra Nevada.

While our County is fully supportive of the Conservancy's efforts and the programs identified within the Draft Strategic Action Plan, our County would like to make sure that these efforts do not infringe on the rights of current mining operations. Our Board did receive comments of concern from county residents regarding the protection of mining rights as part of our Board's review and discussion of the Draft Strategic Action Plan.

The County of El Dorado looks forward to being actively involved as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy implements the Draft Strategic Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Veerkamp  
Chairman, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors