



Board Meeting Agenda
December 3-4, 2008

December 3, 2008
Field Trip

12:00 - 5:00 PM

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip focusing on issues and activities relevant to the Conservancy's mission in the South Central Subregion. The field trip will begin at Ironstone Vineyards in the Heritage Room at 12:00 PM. Members of the public are invited to participate in the field trip but are responsible for their own lunch and transportation. Limited space on the bus may be available, please call (530) 823-4672 to determine availability. The public is welcome to attend a reception following the field trip at Ironstone Vineyards.

December 4, 2008
Ironstone Vineyards Conference Center
Heritage Room, Second Floor
1894 Six Mile Road
Murphys, CA 95247

9:00AM

(Agenda Items may be taken out of order)

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Oath of Office for New Boardmembers**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Approval of October 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes**
- V. Public Comments**

Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.
- VI. Chairman's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. State Budget Update
 - b. Report from Future Funding Board Committee (Wilensky and Sher)
 - c. Subregional Representatives for 2009-10
- VII. Election of Vice Chair**

The Board will elect a Vice Chair for 2009.

VIII. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Budget/Staffing Update
- b. Sierra Nevada License Plate Update
- c. Northern Sierra Partnership Overview
- d. Stewardship Council Update
- e. Outreach Activities
- f. County Board of Supervisors Presentations

IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

X. Proposed Amendments to SNC's Conflict of Interest (ACTION)

The Board will receive public comments, consider the proposed amendments, and provide direction to staff concerning action on the proposed amendments to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Conflict of Interest Code.

XI. 2009-10 Grant Allocation (ACTION)

Staff will provide the Board with a recommendation on the allocation of Proposition 84 funds for 2009-10 (contingent upon appropriation). The Board may provide direction to the staff to proceed on an allocation plan for 2009-10, to be integrated into Grants Guidelines for 2009-10.

XII. Strategic Plan Update (ACTION)

The Board will review and may take action on draft recommended changes to the SNC's Strategic Plan.

XIII. Strategic Opportunity Grants (ACTION)

The Board will review and may authorize Strategic Opportunity Grants listed in Attachment A of this agenda.

XIV. Boardmembers' Comments

XV. Public Comments

XVI. Adjournment

Meeting Materials are available on the SNC website at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. For additional information or to submit written comment on any agenda item, please contact Mrs. Burgess at (530) 823-4672 or tburgess@sierranevada.ca.gov. or 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn CA 95603. If you need reasonable accommodations please contact Mrs. Burgess at least *five* working days in advance, including documents in alternative formats.

Closed Session: Following, or at any time during the meeting, the Conservancy may recess or adjourn to closed session to consider pending or potential litigation; property negotiations; or personnel-related matters. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a), (c) (7), or (e).

Agenda Attachment A
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS
December 4, 2008

| Subregion | Reference # | County | Project Title | Grantee Organization | Amount Recommended |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Region-wide | SNC 080082 | Region-wide | The Great Sierra River Clean Up | South Yuba River Citizens League | \$76,900 |
| | SNC 080207 | Region-wide | Regional Approach for Water Reuse | Amador Water Agency | \$270,000 |
| Region-Wide Sum | | | | | \$346,900 |
| East | SNC 080119 | Alpine | East Carson River Riparian Restoration Project | USFS - Humboldt-Toiyabe NF | \$35,000 |
| | SNC 080181 | Inyo | Inyo Complex Post-Fire Watershed Recovery | Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office | \$34,300 |
| | SNC 080185 | Mono | Parks and Recreation and Trail System Master Plans Program Environmental Impact Report | Town of Mammoth Lakes | \$185,535 |
| | SNC 080210 | Inyo | Jack Laws in Eastern Sierra Classrooms | Friends of the Inyo | \$10,611 |
| East Sum | | | | | \$265,446 |
| South | SNC 080109 | Kern | Bob Powers Gateway Preserve Strategic Plan | Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation | \$71,000 |
| | SNC 080116 | Kern | Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program | Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$34,051 |
| | SNC 080189 | Madera | Fine Gold Creek Riparian Fencing | Sierra Foothill Conservancy | \$100,000 |
| | SNC 080226 | Tulare | Restoration of Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs in SEKI: Pre-Project Due Diligence | Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks | \$49,900 |
| South Sum | | | | | \$254,951 |
| South Central | SNC 080029 | Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne | Central Sierra Watershed Education Program | Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$98,700 |
| | SNC 080101 | Tuolumne | Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration | Tuolumne Utilities District | \$100,000 |
| | SNC 080193 | Mariposa | Mariposa School Forest Project | Mariposa County Economic Development Corporation | \$50,000 |
| | SNC 080199 | Amador, El Dorado | Cosumnes Watershed Home Yard Audits | California Association of Resource Conservation Districts | \$35,900 |
| | SNC 080205 | Mariposa | Post-Fire Invasive Weed Management in the Upper Merced River Watershed | Upper Merced River Watershed Council | \$60,500 |
| South Central Sum | | | | | \$345,100 |
| Central | SNC 080012 | Nevada, Placer | Bear Valley Meadow: Restoring Cultural and Ecological Integrity | American Rivers | \$107,000 |
| | SNC 080081 | Yuba | Forbestown Fuel Break Environmental Compliance | High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$22,000 |
| | SNC 080087 | El Dorado | Watersheds: Human Connections | American River Conservancy | \$65,000 |
| | SNC 080092 | Nevada | Nevada City Environs Trail and Restoration Project | Friends of Deer Creek | \$207,345 |
| | SNC 080149 | El Dorado | Hazel Meadow Restoration Project | El Dorado Irrigation District | \$66,116 |
| | SNC 080170 | Nevada | Final Planning and Design for the Trout Creek Pocket Park Restoration Project | Mountain Area Preservation Foundation | \$93,500 |
| | SNC 080163B | El Dorado | Sierra Nevada Rangeland 2008 Pre-Project Due Diligence Tasks Penobscot Ranch | California Rangeland Trust | \$11,675 |
| Central Sum | | | | | \$572,636 |
| North | SNC 080151 | Lassen | 101 Ranch Conservation Easement | Lassen Land & Trails Trust | \$40,000 |
| | SNC 080213 | Lassen | South Ash Valley Riparian Monitoring Project | Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. | \$50,000 |
| | SNC 080220 | Lassen, Shasta | Lower Beaver Creek Planning Project | Fall River Resource Conservation District | \$82,700 |
| | SNC 080222 | Modoc | Lower Rose Creek Restoration Project | Pit Resource Conservation District | \$47,490 |
| | SNC 080223 | Modoc | Mason/Monchamp/Balcom Streambank Stabilization and Floodplain Enhancement Project | Pit Resource Conservation District | \$188,390 |
| North Sum | | | | | \$408,580 |
| North Central | SNC 080041 | Plumas | Plumas County Fire Safe Council Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction Planning | Plumas County Fire Safe Council | \$72,000 |
| | SNC 080131 | Sierra | Jamison Ranch Conservation Easement | The Pacific Forest Trust | \$50,000 |
| | SNC 080156 | Sierra | Dotta Property Fee Title Acquisition | Feather River Land Trust | \$200,000 |
| | SNC 080165 | Plumas | Feather River Watershed Stewardship and Education | Plumas Corporation - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management | \$99,544 |
| | SNC 080163A | Plumas | Sierra Nevada Rangeland 2008 Pre-Project Due Diligence Tasks Key Brand Ranch | California Rangeland Trust | \$12,675 |
| North Central Sum | | | | | \$434,219 |
| Grand Total | | | | | \$2,627,832 |

Agenda Attachment B
 NOT RECOMMENDED* STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS
 December 4, 2008

| Rank | Subregion | Reference # | County | Project Title | Grantee Organization | Amount Requested |
|--------------------------|-------------|--|---|--|---|--------------------|
| Medium** | Region-Wide | SNC 080018 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Conservancy/Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership Coordinator | US Fish and Wildlife Service, Habitat Restoration Division | \$82,300 |
| | | SNC 080028 | Alpine, Amador, Calaveras | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Planning and Development Project | Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$216,900 |
| | | SNC 080037 | Shasta, Tehama | Battle Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan | Tehama County Resource Conservation District | \$185,050 |
| | | SNC 080040 | Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Yuba | Abandoned Mine Lands Watershed Assessment Model: North and Middle Yuba Rivers | Department of Toxic Substances Control | \$500,000 |
| | | SNC 080080 | Region-wide | The Conifer Classroom | California Community Forests Foundation | \$25,900 |
| | | SNC 080090 | Butte, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Tehama, Yuba | Collaborative Land Conservation and Conservation Capacity | Resources Legacy Fund | \$190,000 |
| | | SNC 080128 | Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa | Place-based Community Design Templates for the Sierra Nevada | Local Government Commission | \$362,400 |
| | | SNC 080134 | Region-wide | Web-based Tools and Training Workshops for Evaluating Fuel Treatment Options in the Sierra Nevada Region | The Regents of the University of California- Berkeley | \$249,800 |
| | | SNC 080148 | Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Calaveras | Restoring Natural Reservoirs: Determining Priority Actions in the Sierra Nevada | Natural Heritage Institute | \$179,200 |
| | | SNC 080166 | Region-wide | Condition Assessment and Restoration Needs for Montane Meadows in the Sierra Nevada | Colorado State University, Office of Sponsored Programs | \$245,828 |
| | | SNC 080176 | Region-wide | Connecting Sierra Nevada Communities and Landscapes | The Regents of the University of California Office of Research, Sponsored Programs | \$298,300 |
| | | SNC 080178 | Region-wide | Rivers of California-- Book Project | Heyday Institute | \$50,000 |
| | | SNC 080180 | Alpine, Amador, Calaveras | Septic System Management Program for the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | \$360,000 |
| | | SNC 080184 | El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Yuba | Welcome to the Foothills, A Guide to Living Lightly in ___ County | High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$80,000 |
| | | SNC 080187 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Classroom Project-2 | California Institute for Biodiversity | \$123,000 |
| | | SNC 080188 | Madera, Placer | Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project Phase 2 | The Regents of the University of California Office of Research, Sponsored Programs | \$127,000 |
| | | SNC 080197 | Amador, El Dorado | Implementation Plan for Grey Water Systems in the Consumnes Watershed | California Association of Resource Conservation Districts | \$31,900 |
| | | SNC 080206 | Region-wide | Sierra Green Community Forestry Working Circle Partnership (Sierra Green) | Friends of the River Foundation | \$450,000 |
| | | SNC 080212 | Region-wide | Evaluating Steroid Hormone Occurrence, Fate and Transport on Grazing Rangelands in the Sierra Nevada Region | Board of Regents, NSHE, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno | \$179,925 |
| | | SNC 080215 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Carbon Cooperative | Sierra Business Council | \$320,000 |
| SNC 080216 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Hydroelectric License Implementation Project | Friends of the River | \$97,250 | | |
| Region-Wide Sum | | | | | | \$4,354,753 |
| East | | SNC 080208 | Mono | MLTPA Trails Plan Implementation Program 2008 | Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation | \$158,200 |
| | | SNC 080211 | Mono | Monitoring Effects of Habitat Restoration on Breeding Songbirds and Waterfowl at Adobe Valley Ranch | PRBO Conservation Science | \$16,000 |
| | | SNC 080225 | Mono | Hydrological Modeling of Upper Owens River Watershed | Cal Trout | \$306,000 |
| | | SNC 080227 | Inyo | LivingWise Program | High Sierra Energy Foundation | \$20,080 |
| East Sum | | | | | | \$500,280 |
| South | | SNC 080036 | Fresno, Madera | Documenting Motor Vehicle Impacts on Watersheds, Wildlife and Forest Visitors | The Wilderness Society - California/Nevada Regional Office | \$68,000 |
| | | SNC 080110 | Kern | Riverside Whitewater Park | Kern River Valley Council | \$100,000 |
| | | SNC 080115 | Kern | A Guide to Living Lightly in the Southern Sierras | Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$18,700 |
| | | SNC 080136 | Madera | Sustainable Vegetation Management Pilot Program Planning Grant | Coarsegold Resource Conservation District | \$35,200 |
| | | SNC 080175 | Tulare | Long Meadow Trail Environmental Pre-Project Due Diligence | Community Services Employment Training, Inc. | \$199,778 |
| | | SNC 080186 | Fresno | Kings River Experimental Watershed: Research on Stream Water Quality and Forest Restoration in the | USFS - Pacific Southwest Research Station | \$439,500 |
| South Sum | | | | | | \$861,178 |
| South Central | | SNC 080130 | Tuolumne | Quantifying Eighty Years of Change at the Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest: Implications for Restoring Biodiversity and Resilience to Fire in the Sierra Nevada | US Department of Agriculture - Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station | \$108,864 |
| | | SNC 080177 | Mariposa | Wildlink | Yosemite Institute | \$87,000 |
| | | SNC 080182 | Mariposa | Merced River Center at Briceburg, Phase II Education and Displays | Upper Merced River Watershed Council | \$246,200 |
| | | SNC 080191 | Mariposa | Watershed Classroom for Yosemite National Park | Yosemite Association | \$89,800 |
| | | SNC 080192 | Amador | Green Energy Water Conversion Project | Amador Water Agency | \$500,000 |
| | | SNC 080202 | Tuolumne | Projects Coordinator - Tuolumne County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Program | Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District | \$328,000 |
| SNC 080204 | Tuolumne | Tuolumne County Land Trust Capacity Building and Critical Acquisition Planning | Tuolumne County Land Trust | \$23,200 | | |
| South Central Sum | | | | | | \$1,383,064 |
| Central | | SNC 080006 | Placer | Fish and Habitat Response to the Natural Flow Regime of the North Fork American River: Establishing a Reference Site for the Northern Sierra Nevada Range | Regents of the University of California- Davis | \$441,198 |
| | | SNC 080010 | Nevada | Strategies for Sierra Rivers and Water Supply in a Changing Climate | American Rivers | \$174,200 |
| | | SNC 080014 | Nevada | Landowner Outreach and Education Program | Nevada County Land Trust | \$45,000 |
| | | SNC 080021 | Placer | Waterway Protection Education | Placer County Department of Public Works | \$116,000 |
| | | SNC 080032 | Nevada, Placer, Yuba | Yuba, Bear and American Rivers Relicensing Coordination - Concept Proposal to the SNC for Incorporation into the CHRC Submission to the SNC | Foothills Water Network | \$50,000 |

Agenda Attachment B
NOT RECOMMENDED* STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS
 December 4, 2008

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|-----------|
| | SNC 080034 | Placer | Current and Historical Condition of Headwater Streams and Riparian Zones in the Upper North Fork of the American River | Sierra Nevada Research Center | \$235,000 | |
| | SNC 080091 | Nevada | Working Landscape Transaction Management Project | Nevada County Land Trust | \$87,500 | |
| | SNC 080097 | El Dorado | Conservation Vision and Action Plan | American River Conservancy | \$16,550 | |
| | SNC 080098 | Nevada | Yuba River Narrows Habitat Restoration Planning | Yuba County Resource Conservation District | \$179,700 | |
| | SNC 080124 | Placer | Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Fuels Reduction Project Phase I | Placer County Resource Conservation District | \$266,000 | |
| | SNC 080129 | Placer | Open Space Fire Prevention, Vegetation Management and Watershed Protection Prescribed Grazing Project | City of Rocklin | \$102,000 | |
| | SNC 080144 | El Dorado, Nevada, Placer | Recognizing Your Watershed - Watershed Signage Placement | Nevada County Resource Conservation District | \$36,850 | |
| | SNC 080183 | Placer | Study of Donner Summit Region Watershed | Serene Lakes Donner Summit Conservation Association | \$329,400 | |
| | SNC 080195 | El Dorado, Nevada, Placer | Quantifying Sediment Delivery From Native Roads, Diversion Ditches, and Mines within the Yuba, Bear, American and Cosumnes River Watersheds to Identify and Prioritize Future Restoration Projects | California Association of Resource Conservation Districts | \$395,500 | |
| | SNC 080196 | Nevada | Deer Creek Watershed Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan | Friends of Deer Creek | \$375,000 | |
| | SNC 080219 | Placer | Developing Greenville High School Natural Resources Academy's Field Research and Watershed Program | Sierra Institute for Community and Environment | \$85,500 | |
| Central Sum | | | | | \$2,935,398 | |
| North | SNC 080003 | Shasta | Bear Creek Fractured-rock Groundwater Study | Western Shasta Resource Conservation District | \$49,869 | |
| | SNC 080007 | Lassen | Restoring Rangeland Watershed and Fisheries: Pine Creek Watershed and Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout | The Regents of the University of California- Davis | \$217,560 | |
| | SNC 080152 | Modoc | Watershed Restoration Evaluation Project | Central Modoc Resource Conservation District | \$47,600 | |
| | SNC 080201 | Shasta | Triple B Ranch Due Diligence | Shasta Land Trust | \$12,650 | |
| | SNC 080214 | Lassen | Shaffer Sage-Grouse Lek Land Appraisal | Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Field Office | \$11,500 | |
| | SNC 080217 | Modoc | Highway 139 Watershed Interpretation Project | Modoc National Forest | \$45,200 | |
| | SNC 080221 | Shasta | Rough Sculpin Distribution and Habitat Surveys | Fall River Resource Conservation District | \$100,850 | |
| North Sum | | | | | \$485,229 | |
| North Central | SNC 080074 | Butte | Community Coordination, Soil Erosion Education, and Implementation | Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council | \$95,796 | |
| | SNC 080093 | Plumas | Lakes Basin Trail and Watershed Restoration | Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | \$206,500 | |
| | SNC 080155 | Plumas | Improving Public Access and Educational Opportunities on Feather River Land Trust Properties | Feather River Land Trust | \$28,085 | |
| | SNC 080167 | Plumas | Healthy Trails and Watershed Planning Project | Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | \$44,200 | |
| | SNC 080179 | Plumas | Eastside Meadow Restoration Project Development | Feather River Coordinated Resource Management | \$100,000 | |
| North Central Sum | | | | | \$474,581 | |
| Medium Sum | | | | | \$10,994,483 | |
| Low*** | South | SNC 080053 | Fresno | Musick Creek Watershed Protection Project, Part 4 | Sierra Music and Arts Institute | \$90,000 |
| | | SNC 080100 | Kern, Tulare | Review and Study for Possible Revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the North and South Forks of the Wild and Scenic River | US Forest Service, Kern River Ranger District | \$145,000 |
| | | SNC 080120 | Kern | Indian Wells Valley Remote Well Rehabilitation Project 2008 | Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District | \$61,600 |
| | | SNC 080200 | Kern | Fencing Willow Springs Pond | Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$16,590 |
| South Sum | | | | | \$313,190 | |
| South Central | SNC 080194 | Tuolumne | Pine Mountain Lake Woody Biomass Utilization Feasibility Study | Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council | \$9,200 | |
| South Central Sum | | | | | \$9,200 | |
| Central | SNC 080039 | Yuba | Roadside Fuel Reduction | County of Yuba - Department of Public Works | \$182,490 | |
| | SNC 080122 | Placer | "You and Your Forests" a How to Guide and Defensible Space and Healthy Forest Handbook | Placer County Resource Conservation District | \$10,000 | |
| | SNC 080168 | Yuba | Yuba County Residential Chipping Program | High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$130,000 | |
| | SNC 080203 | Placer | Placer Legacy Outreach Program | Placer County Planning Department | \$30,000 | |
| Central Sum | | | | | \$352,490 | |
| North | SNC 080150 | Modoc | Defensible Space-Landowner Assistance Program | Modoc Fire Safe Council | \$116,200 | |
| | SNC 080153 | Modoc | Modoc County Noxious Weed Eradication Aerial Treatment Project | Modoc County Department of Agriculture | \$54,000 | |
| | SNC 080164 | Shasta | HCVFSC - Cassel Concern #1 - 18 Acre Fuel Break | Fall River Resource Conservation District on behalf of Hat Creek Valley Fire Safe Council | \$42,428 | |
| | SNC 080218 | Lassen | Environmental Clearances for the Dodge Reservoir Sage-Grouse Habitat Restoration Project | Bureau of Land Management - Eagle Lake Field Office | \$36,500 | |
| North Sum | | | | | \$249,128 | |
| North Central | SNC 080063 | Butte | Applying Lessons Learned: Watershed Fire Stewardship Education Project | Butte County Firesafe Council | \$39,900 | |
| | SNC 080190 | Plumas | FRC Hatchery Fish Transport Project | Feather River College Hatchery | \$59,248 | |
| North Central Sum | | | | | \$99,148 | |
| Low Sum | | | | | \$1,023,156 | |
| Grand Total | | | | | \$12,017,639 | |

* SOG applications that were not recommended for funding in this first round remain active for the second round, with projects in the Medium category having the highest potential for possible funding depending on mix of new applications received.

** Applications listed under the Medium ranking generally met Proposition 84 objectives and contributed to the mission of SNC, but either didn't rank as high on other criteria or are being held back for consideration in the second round because they didn't address on-the-ground projects.

*** Applications in the Low ranking generally did not exhibit as strong a tie to Proposition 84 or the SNC mission or didn't compete as successfully on other fundamental evaluation criteria.

Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2008
Grand Sierra Lodge, Emerald Room
1111 Forest Trail
Mammoth Lakes, CA



I. Call to Order

Chairman Chrisman called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM

II. Roll Call

Present: John Brissenden, Mike Chrisman, Byng Hunt, Tom Wheeler alternate for Jon McQuiston, Bob Kirkwood, BJ Kirwan, Byron Sher, Robert Weygandt, Carol Whiteside, Steve Wilensky, Mike Chapel, Bill Haigh and Mike Tollefson.

Absent: Brian Dahle, Rose Comstock and John Lloyd

III. Approval of June 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes.

Action: Boardmember Whiteside moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve the June 5, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time; however, Boardmember Brissenden noted how exciting it was during the field trip to see the collaboration and SNC dollars at work in local communities.

V. Chairman's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. *State Budget Update*

Chairman Chrisman stated this was like no other budget process he has been involved in and there may be some mid-year budget reconstruction. Chrisman noted that SNC's budget of \$17 million has strong support and that the Resources Agency, "came out pretty well," given that there was approximately a seven percent reduction overall in the state budget. He stated that the Resources Agency is blessed with special bond funds that support many of the programs like the SNC. Chrisman noted the Executive Order, issued in July, is still in place, unless something on the revenue side changes.

b. *Board meeting schedule for 2009*

Chairman Chrisman indicated that a revised schedule for 2009 has been provided to Board members. The only change from the previously approved schedule is moving the September meeting so that the SNC may participate in a joint field trip with the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC). The Board concurred in the revised schedule and Executive Officer Branham will work with RCRC on the meeting details

October 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes

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and report back to the Board. Chairman Chrisman noted the 2008 December meeting will be held in Calaveras County with Boardmember Wilensky as the host.

c. *Presentation on the Lower Owens River Project from Greg James, Special Counsel to Inyo County*

Mr. James gave an in-depth accounting on the history of the City of Los Angeles' efforts to divert Eastern Sierra watershed from the Lower Owens River Valley, including the efforts of the Mono Lake Committee to save Mono Lake. Mr. James discussed the present day interaction between the City of Los Angeles and local government of the Eastern Sierra, and the need for more collaboration. Mr. James thanked the Board for the grant. Mr. James introduced Kevin Carunchio, Chief Administrative Officer of Inyo County.

Mr. Carunchio stated Supervisor Linda Arcularius apologized for not attending the Board meeting. He noted that phase one of a recreational use planning process is underway. The SNC grant will be used to hire a plan writer and facilitator for the purposes of including a broad segment of the community, including school children, in the planning process. Mr. Carunchio introduced Nathan Reed with the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Mr. Reed described the noxious weed control program, as well as the specific activities being funded by the SNC. Chairman Chrisman asked what weeds were the focus of this effort and the affect they had on waterways. Mr. Reed stated the it is primarily pepperweed, a native of China with stringy roots that takes over on stream banks and makes them prone to erosion.

VI. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. *Budget/Staffing Update*

Jim Branham, Executive Officer, reported that vacancies have occurred in two permanent positions since the last Board meeting. As a result of the Executive Order issued by the Governor in July, the SNC is unable to fill these vacancies and has also lost all of its retired annuitants and student assistants. Because the SNC is a small organization, the loss of these resources has created challenges. While all of the staff at SNC has stepped up to meet these challenges, Branham specifically recognized a number of staff, who have done excellent work despite having reduced resources: Kerri Timmer and Angela Avery with regard to grants administration; Pete Dufour and Shelly Owens with regard to administrative functions, and; Theresa Burgess with regard to all of the work she does to support the Board, the executives, and the entire organization. Branham also recognized three retired annuitants, who volunteered their time without pay to the SNC after the issuance of the Executive: Rita Adair, Laurie Keith, and Barbara Harriman.

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Branham directed the Board's attention to the tables in the staff report and explained that specific line items within the budget this year are different from last year based on adjustments to more accurately reflect where actual expenditures are occurring.

Boardmember Kirkwood asked whether the SNC could proceed with filling our vacancies now that the new State budget is in place. Branham explained that the SNC is still unable to hire since the Executive Order is still in effect, but that we are hoping for some relief from the Executive Order in the future.

Boardmember Kirkwood noted that the cost of personal services went up between last fiscal year and the current fiscal year while the cost of contracts went down significantly. Branham explained that this is mostly attributable to two things: the SNC reached full staffing during the prior fiscal year and there were some large contracts in the prior year that were one time in nature, in particular a large contract for the procurement of a grants management system for the SNC.

Branham concluded by calling attention to the Administration and legislature's continued strong support for the SNC, as evidenced by the full base funding and \$17 million of Proposition 84 grant funds proposed by the Governor and included in the final budget passed by the legislature for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

b. 2008-09 Grants Update

Branham provided an update of the grants program. While the Board authorized nearly \$17 million last year, two grants authorized by the Board were not executed resulting in a total of \$15.9 being expended. Discussing a chart showing the distribution of all grants awarded last year by Subregion, he noted the differences in Subregional amounts was primarily due to the disproportionate number of competitive grant applications received and approved from certain Subregions. Branham also presented a graphic showing the distribution of funds for the year by project categories as follows: about 60 percent awarded to on the ground (site improvement/acquisition), 10 percent pre-project planning to directly lead to an on the ground project, and about 30 percent categorized as other (planning, monitoring/research and education/interpretation). Boardmember Whiteside suggested identifying the Subregions on a map in reports and all presentations. Boardmember Brissenden suggested linking funds to individual legislative districts to show distribution for future bond measure considerations.

He indicated that applications received in this year's first SOG round were, as a general rule, quite well prepared. He suggested this may be due to clarifications in the guidelines, outreach efforts to applicants and the fact applicants are more familiar and comfortable with the SNC process. Branham noted that at the last Board meeting staff had recommended and the Board approved a plan to award about half the SOG amount in December and the remaining in June and that staff will be guided by that direction in bringing recommendations forward in December. He also noted that the upper limit for SOG1 grants has been increased to

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\$250,000 from \$100,000. The intent of this change was to increase the number of SOG 1 applications, however this has not proven to be the case in the first round.

Program Manager Kerri Timmer provided an overview of competitive grants. There is one annual deadline for competitive grants and this year 30 applications were received and of these, three were deemed ineligible or incomplete. Competitive grants recommendations will be made at the March 2009 Board meeting. She added that there is one more round of Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) applications due in February to be authorized by the Board in June, 2009. Last fiscal year, 146 grants were awarded and are currently being managed by the area staff. About 120 applications have already been submitted for this year.

c. *Sierra Nevada License Plate Update*

Branham reviewed information provided in the staff report for this item, including progress in the following areas: the development of a license plate design with approval from Department of Motor Vehicles, California Highway Patrol and the SNC Board; completion of a marketing plan by Velocity 7 and The Sierra Fund; and the recent completion of a draft sign-up brochure to be used when enough funds have been raised to kick-off the marketing campaign. Branham went on to mention that raising funds in the current economic climate has proven difficult and described three competing environmental plate campaigns currently or about to be launched. Chairman Chrisman asked how much money is needed to trigger the marketing plan. Branham responded that the entire campaign is estimated to cost about \$350,000 and about one-half of that would be needed to kick-off the campaign.

Boardmember Whiteside suggested that it would be beneficial if the SNC could coordinate with the other license plate campaigns instead of competing against each other. She suggested that Secretary Chrisman lead this effort. Boardmember Brissenden agreed and asked if there is a "drop dead" date to trigger the campaign. Branham responded that there is not. Boardmember Brissenden then asked if any conversations have been had by all the competing agencies and Chairman Chrisman responded that there had not been conversations to his knowledge. Branham added that SNC staff has been communicating with two of the other agencies interested in new plate programs, but opportunities for cooperation are minimal at this point. Boardmember Whiteside commented that the SNC Board had not been solicited for funds to kick-off the campaign. Branham responded that that would be quickly remedied. Chairman Chrisman indicated that he would follow up on the issue and initiate a conversation with other agencies pursuing new plates.

d. *"Greening the SNC" Update*

Branham reported that the SNC has formed a "Green Team," led by Brandon Sanders, to identify short and long-term opportunities to reduce and/or mitigate the environmental impacts of SNC's operations. The Green Team will identify and

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implement feasible actions in three key areas, including energy efficiency, recycling/source reduction/reuse, and water and air, to determine ways to measure the effect of those actions on the SNC's overall carbon footprint. Boardmember Kirkwood pointed out patent concerns with the use of remanufactured printer ink cartridges, one of the potential actions identified. Staff will report back to the Board on progress at future meetings.

e. *Strategic Plan Update Process*

Branham explained that the SNC's Strategic Plan is now at the two-and-a-half year mark. He stated that, while a comprehensive review will occur at the five year point, it is a good time to review the Plan to ensure that it continues to address critical issues and determine if there need to be any changes.

Branham noted that staff has tentatively identified the issue of climate change as an area where greater emphasis should be provided in the plan and that staff also recommends reorganization of the Plan, moving specific actions proposed (many of which have been completed), to an appendix that can be updated on a regular basis.

Branham proposed that staff prepare a draft revised plan to be considered at the December Board meeting. Following Board review and modifications at the December meeting, a draft would be made available to the public and comments considered in preparation of a final draft for approval at the March 2009 Board meeting.

f. *Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council Update*

Soapy Mulholland, representing the Stewardship Council, presented a brief history of the Council; stating it was formed as part of a PG&E settlement agreement with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The agreement establishes that 140,000 acres of PG&E's watershed lands will be conserved in perpetuity. It is anticipated that some of the lands will be donated to eligible parties and other lands may continue to reside with PG&E. In addition, the Council is to create a Youth Investment Program providing \$30 million in funding over 10-years to programs that provide outdoor opportunities for underserved youth or enhance parks and recreation areas. The Council is to cease to exist by about 2013. Members of the Stewardship Council and SNC staff have been discussing an appropriate role for SNC in this process. Mulholland suggested a role for SNC is to support small, non-profit organizations to build capacity to be able to manage certain parcels of land.

Boardmember Kirkwood stated that the SNC is prohibited from buying land but can receive land, so we could consider establishing a joint venture to hold lands. Chairman Chrisman stated there is a long-term role for SNC to participate as partners and empower smaller land conservation entities. Furthermore, introducing youth to the outdoors is the greatest portion of the program. SNC can

play an important role in increasing the capacity of partners to ensure the program is successful beyond 2013.

Mulholland suggested SNC help with land management enforcement if donees need help. Chairman Chrisman appointed Boardmembers Haigh and Wheeler (alternate for the South Subregion) to a committee to assist staff in exploring the issue further.

VII. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

Christine Sproul, Deputy Attorney General, noted that several things are happening in the area of climate change. The Air Resources Board is developing regulations related to AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. In addition, SB 375, which was recently chaptered into law, links greenhouse gas reductions to local land use planning, including, for example, reductions in vehicle miles traveled. One potential role for the SNC could be to help local communities meet the State targets and coordinate information among local communities. Finally, there have been recent court cases related to the need to address climate change as part of the CEQA process.

Chairman Chrisman stated that the Resources Agency is also working on a Climate Adaptation Strategy under the direction of Tony Brunello, which is expected to be completed next spring.

VIII. Schedule for Expenditures of Proposition 84 funds (ACTION)

Branham noted that at the June Board meeting the Board approved a plan to award \$17 million in Proposition 84 grant funds in the current fiscal year. The plan included an allocation of \$14 million among the various grant categories and \$3 million to remain unallocated. He indicated that staff is proposing that the plan be revised to expend \$14 million in the current year, with \$3 million to remain available for future year funding. He pointed out that the recommendation is based on the uncertainty relating to future bond measures and would allow the SNC to extend the Proposition 84 funding an additional year, with awards of approximately \$10 million annually for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Boardmember Kirwan questioned if the bond money is not available in the future, will the Legislature be willing to support the SNC, considering its good track record of accomplishments. Chairman Chrisman noted it is a good question, but noted the significant strain on the state budget. Boardmember Kirkwood indicated his support of the staff recommendation. Branham commented that the good news is SNC will be in a significantly better position to ask for a bigger share of the next bond, due to greater knowledge of what's needed in the Region and track record of developing a good grant delivery system.

Action: Boardmember Whiteside moved and Boardmember Sher seconded a motion to approve the expenditure of Proposition 84 funds with \$14 million for this fiscal year and review future allocation in the guidelines process for 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Climate Change (ACTION)

Branham introduced the topic and then introduced Steve Eubanks, a consultant to the SNC on Climate Change, to present a prepared overview of the work he has completed and compiled over the last several months. Eubanks presented topics included in the staff report and his assessment of subject areas where continuing work should be focused. Board members urged the staff to coordinate with other entities, including the University of California system.

Branham then described the following four areas identified by the SNC for future work: 1). Action – On the Ground Activities. This includes demonstration projects. An example can be found in Placer County’s work to develop a local carbon market. Another involves the work that Sierra Business Council is doing to create carbon markets. Branham wanted to bring attention to Tom Knudson’s recent article in the Sacramento Bee and the importance of looking at projects through a “climate change lens”. 2). Creation of a Web-based information center. 3). Educate and advocate for actions within and outside of the region. 4). Play the role of a neutral convener, especially in sensitive topic areas, to ensure dialogue occurs.

Branham concluded by saying that the Governor would be commenting later this week on the efforts to be undertaken by the Conservancy. Chairman Chrisman asked for comments and reiterated that the Governor would be highlighting activities in the Sierra and suggested that SNC staff continue to have conversations with Tony Brunello.

Boardmember Kirkwood asked how outside funding plays into the budget process. Branham responded that there is a preference to keep outside money out of the State budget process. Boardmember Kirkwood mentioned that it might be timely to revisit the possibility of an SNC foundation. Chairman Chrisman requested volunteers from Board to work with staff and Boardmembers Kirkwood and Kirwan were appointed to serve on a committee of the Board.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Wilensky seconded a motion to direct the Executive Officer and staff to begin implementing actions that are consistent with the climate change initiative, using and leveraging available resources where possible and seeking additional funding to support the increased level of activity called for in the Governor’s directive. The motion passed unanimously.

After the vote Boardmember Chapel suggested forming a leadership-level body to coordinate climate change activities in California, citing that he is aware of four different existing efforts to do a web-based approach. Boardmember Whiteside

followed the comment by suggesting that the Biodiversity Council assume this responsibility. Boardmember Chapel responded that the Biodiversity Council does not have a good track record for doing this kind of activity. Chairman Chrisman interjected and said that there needs to be a discussion with the Biodiversity Council about this issue. Boardmember Kirkwood said that we need to make this into a “do tank” and not a “think tank”.

X. Draft Annual Report (ACTION)

Assistant Executive Officer Joan Keegan presented a draft of the SNC’s first Annual Report. The SNC’s enabling legislation requires it to report on expenditures, land management costs, and administrative costs annually. In order to create a more interesting and informative report, provide easy access to the report throughout the Region, and to make this a “green” report, the SNC focused on an interactive online version. Keegan showed a few short video clips of partners describing their impressions of the SNC and how the organization has already begun to make a difference in the Sierra Nevada Region. Boardmember Whiteside suggested producing hard copies of an executive summary to distribute to legislators and other key decision-makers. Boardmember Wilensky suggested a strategic distribution of the report and that staff make a presentation to each County Board of Supervisors within the SNC boundaries. Boardmembers Kirkwood suggested a Subregional format so each County Supervisor can have a copy in their office.

Action: Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Whiteside seconded a motion to approve the Annual Report with the addition of a Regional map. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. SNC Indicators Project (ACTION)

AEO Keegan reviewed the process used to develop Program Performance Measures and System Indicators, as called for in the Strategic Plan, to measure the success of SNC projects and programs and progress toward improving the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Region. She reminded the Board that the first step, approval of Program and Project Performance Measures, occurred in June 2008. The measures approved at that meeting are now being implemented with this year’s applicants and grantees.

Keegan then turned the presentation over to Steve Frisch, who served on the consultant team and was the team lead on System Indicators.

Frisch detailed the work that went into developing draft indicators. First the team developed a set of principles to guide the effort, including that the indicators be: simple, pragmatic, tell a story inside and outside the Sierra, involve innovative thought, and inform both the SNC’s and other entities’ efforts in the Region. Then, looking at other indicators – from the international World Bank to very localized efforts, like Silicon Valley – the team chose a set of 19 Core Indicators (for direct and primary use

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by the SNC in decision-making processes) and a complementary set of more Comprehensive System Indicators (to start assessing the overall sustainability of the Region including but also going beyond the SNC's mission, goals and objectives).

Proposed indicators were vetted through a set of selection criteria related to: spatial scale, time factor, credibility/reliability, their ability to be readily understood by decision-makers and the public, usefulness for decision-making, feasibility/cost to collect the data, comprehensiveness, and relationship to other SNC programs, such as the Strategic Plan or the education/communications plan.

The team developed a very rough cost estimate of between \$120,000 – 150,000 to collect, analyze and aggregate, and report data associated with the 19 Core Indicators. For the larger set of Comprehensive Indicators, the consultant team recommended that the SNC start by convening a key stakeholders group to review and refine the indicator list and to help identify potential funding sources and partnerships to share in the implementation effort.

Boardmember Kirkwood pointed out that the recommended indicators did not include social indicators. Frisch responded that, over time, the two sets of indicators – Core and Comprehensive – would work together to paint a full picture of regional sustainability, including the social element. Time and funding constraints kept the team from including more specific social indicators at this point; however, they can be added later if the SNC so desires.

The Board more generally discussed potential uses for the indicator information, including generating more funding in the Region, strategic planning, augmenting the SNC's education/communications plan, and reporting to legislators and stakeholders about successes. Stories associated with the indicators could include working landscapes, acres treated for fire risk reduction, carbon sequestration and the link between protecting land and effects on climate change in the Region, among others.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Whiteside seconded a motion to approve the 19 Core Indicators and to authorize staff to (a) make changes to the Core Indicators, if necessary, once the implementation process begins, and (b) to explore the interest in and feasibility of moving ahead on the Comprehensive Indicators with stakeholders and partners. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Review of Organizational Progress To Date (INFORMATIONAL)

Chairman Chrisman asked Boardmembers to share their thoughts on how SNC is doing now that it has been four years since the SNC's enabling legislation was signed into law.

Boardmember Whiteside said that the initial angst that accompanied the creation of the SNC has largely been dispelled. Branham agreed, citing discussions he had

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recently with local supervisors at a meeting of the Regional Council of Rural Counties. Branham said that having such strong representation from local government on the SNC Board has helped, as has the SNC's efforts to engage and partner with the landowner community. In addition, he pointed out that the projects funded by the SNC speak for themselves. Branham stated that progress has been made with the Sierra Nevada Region legislative delegation, although there is still work to do.

Boardmember Wheeler agreed that progress has been made and suggested that the SNC should do more outreach to local Boards of Supervisors using the just approved Annual Report.

Boardmember Weygandt also agreed, saying that concerns expressed by a number of constituents and groups in his county have dissipated.

Boardmember Kirkwood stated his belief that the outreach done by staff had been effective and also the fact that grants funded by the SNC have not been controversial.

Boardmember Wilensky said that he had worked with many state agencies, but that the SNC is unique. The staff has such a passion for the mission and is more connected with grassroots efforts than other agencies. He stated that the SNC needs to work toward even more collaboration and coordination, especially related to climate change and watershed efforts, and that the next stage of addressing the Region's needs will be deeper and tougher.

Chairman Chrisman commented that organizational sustainability is a challenge. Boardmember Hunt responded that it is an evolutionary process and he recommended that staff and Boardmembers engage in ongoing advocacy and education with local government leaders. He also raised a concern regarding ongoing funding for the SNC once the Proposition 84 funds are expended.

Boardmember Kirkwood said he feels the action related to reducing the threat of fire in the wildland-urban interface needs more emphasis. Branham suggested that the recent passage of SB 375 by the legislature will provide greater incentives for communities to look at this and agreed that the SNC should help address the issue through its grant program and other kinds of partnerships.

Boardmember Whiteside stated that there needs to be more data collection and modeling related to development and asked whether it might not be appropriate for the SNC to become a hub for this kind of information. She said that having a neutral party serve in this role would be helpful.

Boardmember Kirwan said that she gets asked why she is on the SNC Board given the fact that she is from Southern California and that she responds by explaining that the Region is important to Southern California and that Southern California is important to the Region. Many people in Southern California recreate in the Sierra Nevada and draw resources from it. She stated that it is important to help public

opinion makers in South California understand this because they can provide support for funding. Boardmember Kirkwood noted that the same is true for the Bay Area.

Branham said that the issue of climate change provides an additional opportunity to make a case for support outside the Region, noting that whenever anyone in California is discussing climate change, one of the first things they point to is the impact on the snow pack in the Sierra Nevada. He said that fire also provides an opportunity, because many people are touched by the negative impacts of fire. Boardmember Kirkwood stated that these important issues are coalescing and he suggested that the SNC should help facilitate a process with local communities related to reducing the risk of fire.

Boardmember Weygandt said that dealing with climate change provides an opportunity to find some common elements and create successful projects for addressing a variety of issues. Boardmember Sher commented that one aspect of that should be reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled.

Boardmember Chapel said that the SNC should continue to take on issues the way it has been doing it, through a participatory approach. He said that other government organizations operating within the Region were created a long time ago with different expectations and that SNC's participatory and trust-building model is effective.

Boardmember Tollefson commented on how much the federal land managers in the Region like working with the SNC and that the SNC should continue to share work that is state-of-the-art, like the Annual Report and System Indicators.

Boardmember Wilensky expressed his concerns about what the SNC would do for funding after the Proposition 84 funds are expended. He said that all of the money flowing into the Region—through state and federal government entities, UC's, utilities, and others—is not spent as effectively as it could be due to lack of coordination. He recommended the creation of a committee that would work with staff to consider how existing resources could be used better and to identify new resources. Chairman Chrisman concurred and appointed Boardmembers Wilensky and Sher to the committee.

XIII. Recognition of Boardmembers Whiteside and Tollefson

Chairman Chrisman thanked both Boardmembers Whiteside and Tollefson for their continued support and contributions to the Board. Chairman Chrisman asked for comments by either Boardmember.

Boardmember Whiteside stated it is always hard to say goodbye. She stated she was grateful for the even hand and leadership from Chairman Chrisman and for having Jim Branham as the Executive Officer. She was complimentary of the staff as well,

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pointing out the work that Theresa Burgess has done for the Board. Boardmember Whiteside stated it is one of her fondest memories, and will continue to treasure her experience.

Boardmember Tollefson stated it has been an honor to be a part of this Board. Noting it is an organization that people look to for guidance and leadership. He noted that he looked forward to working with the Board in the future in his new capacity.

XIV. Board Members' Comments

Boardmember Wilensky note the December Board Meeting is scheduled for Calaveras County reminding everyone to bring the hiking boots and be prepared to an exciting day.

XV. Public Comments

Joan Clayburgh, representing the Sierra Nevada Alliance, handed out copies of the Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Guide to all Boardmembers and described the educational and Region-wide benefits of the publication. She thanked the Board and staff for support of the project and their efforts to circulate and educate the communities in the Region about the importance of the sustainable practices displayed in the guide.

Hector Violonas, BLM Land Manager, works in Eastern Sierra, in Kern, Mono and Inyo Counties. The areas he is most concerned about are Sand Canyon, Shore Canyon and 80 miles of Pacific Crest Trail and multi-users. He indicated he is looking forward to working with SNC in the future.

XVI. Adjournment

Chairman Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 1:19 PM

Background

During the October meeting Boardmembers discussed the SNC organizational progress to date. Chairman Mike Chrisman appointed Boardmembers Byron Sher and Steve Wilensky to serve as members of a Future Funding Committee.

Current Status

This Board subcommittee has had one meeting to identify an approach to secure funding for the organization's long-term sustainability. The committee has identified other state and federal funding sources, non-governmental funding and the possibility of establishing a non-profit SNC partner as primary potential areas of focus.

Next Steps

The Subcommittee will continue to work with staff to develop a plan and will report back to the Board during a future meeting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board and it is recommended that the Future Funding Committee continue to work with staff in exploring potential funding opportunities.

Budget

2008-09

The SNC expenditure plan was fully funded in the State's FY 2008-09 Budget Act, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor just prior to our last Board meeting. This budget provides approximately the same level of funding as the previous year. However, we have made some adjustments to the line item allotments, based on our current operating needs and to more accurately reflect our baseline projections. Table 1 details SNC's allocation of its 2008-09 operating budget for the first four months of the current fiscal year.

The SNC's base operating budget consists of approximately \$4 million from the California Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF). In addition, \$17 million was once again appropriated from Proposition 84 funds this year for local assistance grants, as well as \$500,000 for grant administration. At the October Board meeting, the Board approved a revised spending plan calling for \$14 million to be awarded this year for local assistance grants. Under the plan the remaining \$3 million will remain available for award over the next two years without the need for reappropriation.

As a special note, because the Conservancy is a "special fund" agency—meaning we do not receive funding from the State's General Fund—the impact from the State's current fiscal crisis has been lessened, compared to General Fund agencies. This has resulted in some relief from the fiscal management actions required under the Governor's Executive Order. However, due to the extraordinary situation the State finds itself in, all state agencies are being asked to make additional sacrifices. Regardless of our funding status, the SNC recognizes the State is in a fiscal crisis and we are mindful of the need to manage our funds in a prudent manner.

Staffing

As mentioned above, because the SNC is funded through special funds, we have been given authority to fill vacant positions and rehire our part-time retired annuitants. Amy Lebak has been hired as the Procurement and Personnel Analyst, and Tristyn Armstrong has been hired as a Executive Assistant. As this report is written it appears SNC staff will be furloughed one day a month, resulting in an approximately 5% reduction in total staff time available. Currently, the SNC is nearly fully staffed.

Table 1
2008-09 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES

| State Operations | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Personal Services</i> | <i>Budgeted</i> | <i>Expended</i> | <i>Balance</i> | <i>% Spent</i> |
| SALARIES AND WAGES | 1,788,559 | 442,905 | 1,345,654 | 25% |
| SALARY SAVINGS | (45,653) | | | |
| STAFF BENEFITS | 445,652 | 141,890 | 303,762 | 32% |
| <i>Personal Services, Totals</i> | 2,188,558 | 584,795 | 1,603,763 | 27% |

| <i>Operating Expenses & Equipment</i> | <i>Budgeted</i> | <i>Expended</i> | <i>Balance</i> | <i>% Spent</i> |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| GENERAL EXPENSE | 383,642 | 61,696 | 321,946 | 16% |
| TRAVEL - IS | 152,833 | 1,450 | 151,383 | 1% |
| TRAVEL - OS | 15,000 | 0 | 15,000 | 0% |
| TRAINING | 65,230 | 1,770 | 63,460 | 3% |
| FACILITIES | 274,744 | 200,812 | 73,932 | 73% * |
| UTILITIES | 10,411 | 3,145 | 7,266 | 30% |
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY | 57,646 | 1,128 | 56,518 | 2% |
| CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL | 169,370 | 95,074 | 74,296 | 56% * |
| CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT | 1,136,878 | 901,780 | 235,098 | 79% * |
| CONSOLIDATED DATA CENTER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| EQUIPMENT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE | 25,920 | 4,361 | 21,559 | 17% |
| PRO RATA (control agency costs) | 55,767 | 13,942 | 41,825 | 25% |
| <i>Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals</i> | 2,347,441 | 1,227,834 | 1,119,607 | 52% |
| State Operations, Totals | 4,535,999 | 1,812,629 | 2,723,370 | 40% |
| Local Assistance, Totals | 17,000,000 | 0 | 17,000,000 | 0% |
| SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS | 21,535,999 | 1,812,629 | 19,723,370 | 8% |

SNC EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE

State Operations

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----|
| ENVIRONMENTAL LIC PLATE FUND | \$ 4,023,000 | \$1,749,243 | \$ 2,273,757 | 43% |
| PROPOSITION 84 | \$ 513,000 | \$ 63,386 | \$ 449,614 | 12% |

Local Assistance Grants

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------|--------------|----|
| PROPOSITION 84 | \$17,000,000 | \$ - | \$17,000,000 | 0% |
|----------------|--------------|------|--------------|----|

* Expended amounts represent not only items that have been expended through Oct, but also those contracts and leases that have already been encumbered for the year. We expect to stay within budget.

Background

Beginning in October 2006, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has taken steps towards applying to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a specialized license plate. The plate would generate additional revenue for the SNC and would help create awareness of the need for additional investment in the Region.

To date, a design has been approved and the SNC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Sierra Fund who is responsible for conducting the marketing campaign necessary to secure 7,500 prepaid applications. Following the collection of the first application, the SNC has one year to submit the 7,500 applications.

At the March 2008 Board meeting, the Board was presented with a copy of a marketing plan prepared by Velocity 7 under the direction of The Sierra Fund and SNC staff. The Board also approved the final plate design at that time.

At the June 2008 Board meeting, Boardmembers indicated the need for the fundraising efforts to be initiated and offered assistance in the process. At this point, a number of Boardmembers have been contacted for support of the fundraising efforts.

Current Status

A number of critical steps have been taken by The Sierra Fund, in consultation with the SNC, necessary to implement the marketing plan: a number of key potential donors have been identified and contacted to support this effort; a license plate Web site has been established; and the DMV has approved the official application brochure. Initial fundraising efforts will allow for the marketing effort to begin and the necessary organization to be put in place. Upon raising \$150,000, the formal campaign can begin. At this time \$5,000 has been raised, however as mentioned above a number of key solicitations are outstanding.

Next Steps

As described at the October meeting, fundraising for the license plate effort has been particularly difficult. In addition, competition from other state entities has likewise complicated the effort. Staff will continue to coordinate efforts with The Sierra Fund in regards to raising needed funds and keep the Board informed as to the progress. Boardmembers wishing to become actively involved with the effort should inform SNC staff or The Sierra Fund (Izzy Martin).

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time. Staff will continue to work with the Sierra Fund in fundraising efforts for the marketing campaign. The Board should consider next steps, based on progress to date, at the March Board meeting.

Background

The Northern Sierra Partnership (NSP) is an alliance of conservation and business organizations that describes itself as “dedicated to the region's future and committed to rapid collaborative action to plan and implement crucial conservation projects, link conservation to sustainable economies, leverage public funds with effective private fundraising, and build a firm base of local support.”

The group as initially convened by the Morgan Family Foundation, includes two local land trusts, a regional business council, a national land conservation organization, and a worldwide conservation organization. The individual organizations have agreed to pursue a strategic approach to conserving the northern Sierra's most valuable lands and waters. The founding partners are:

- Feather River Land Trust
- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Sierra Business Council
- Trust for Public Land
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Resources Legacy Fund (serves as fiscal manager and coordinator)

Current Status

At this point, the Morgan Family Foundation and the Packard Foundation have led the efforts in raising \$25 million for this initiative. The NSP's goal is to raise \$100 million in non-governmental funds and to leverage \$200 million in public funds to carry out its program.

On October 8, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger endorsed this public-private partnership saying “This public-private partnership will benefit millions of Californians, by allowing us to preserve more open space, create new recreational opportunities, protect rivers and streams, address the effects of climate change, reduce the risk of wildfire and preserve the working ranches and farms of the Sierra Nevada.” SNC Board Vice Chairman Robert Weygandt and Executive Officer Jim Branham participated in the program at the event on the shore of Donner Lake.

Next Steps

An overview will be provided at today's Board meeting by a representative of the NSP. Staff will continue to coordinate with the NSP to identify potential projects that can be mutually supported. Staff is also coordinating with the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game and other state agencies to ensure a collaborative approach in addressing this initiative.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time; staff will continue to keep Board updated.

Background

SNC Boardmembers have been briefed in the past relative to the Pacific Forest and Watersheds Land Stewardship Council (Council). Established in 2004, the Council is a private non-profit foundation with a staff of 15 professionals and a board of 18 members made up of representatives from state and federal agencies, water districts, tribal and rural interests, forest and farm industry groups, conservation organizations, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

The Council was formed as part of a PG&E settlement agreement with the CPUC — Final Order and Settlement Agreement, and the Stipulation Resolving Issues Regarding the Land Conservation Commitment (Stipulation). This agreement establishes that 140,000 acres of PG&E's watershed lands will be conserved in perpetuity for:

- outdoor recreation;
- sustainable forestry;
- agriculture;
- natural resource protection;
- open space preservation;
- protection of historic and cultural resources.

In addition to overseeing the conservation of these watershed lands, the Council was directed by the CPUC to include the creation of a Youth Investment Program. This program will provide \$30 million in funding over ten years to programs that provide outdoor opportunities for underserved youth or enhance parks and recreation resources.

Under the terms of the agreement the Council is to cease to exist upon completion of its charge.

Current Status

As pointed out at the October Board meeting, staff has had ongoing general discussions with Council staff relative to a possible role for the SNC in the disposition of the PG&E lands. Those discussions have generally consisted of ensuring a common understanding of each organization's mission, responsibilities and strategic direction. It is clear that the missions of both organizations are compatible in terms of long-term conservation of these lands. In that context, SNC staff has communicated that our strategic direction does not envision us as a land owning or managing entity, but that we are particularly interested in opportunities for research, demonstration and pilot projects on these lands and are willing to consider a possible long-term role upon the

dissolution of the Stewardship Council. However, the SNC has indicated a willingness to consider the full range of options at this time.

At the October Board meeting, staff was directed to continue these discussions to determine if there is a role for the SNC to play. A committee of Boardmembers Bill Haigh and Tom Wheeler was appointed to work with staff.

Next Steps

Staff is working with Council staff on further refining possible options for SNC involvement in the process. At this time, Council staff has asked that the SNC consider a possible, yet undefined, role for the Doyle Springs property in Tulare County and the Bucks Lake property in Plumas County, which are two of the initial four properties being considered for donation. Considering a possible role for these two projects will assist in determining an overall approach for the SNC.

It is anticipated that the Board will be provided options for SNC involvement at the March or June 2009 meeting, depending on progress on discussions with the Council and other interested parties.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time. Staff will keep members of the Board Committee informed as to new developments and policy issues and seek policy guidance as necessary. An update will provided at each Board meeting, as appropriate.

Current Status

SNC staff continues to interact with a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties. This activity includes ongoing interaction with grantees, efforts to assist potential grantees and informational opportunities with local governments and other organizations. Staff will provide a brief overview of activities at this meeting.

Next Steps

SNC staff will continue to take advantage of opportunities for attendance at meetings, site visits and other events to inform and assist stakeholders.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board; however suggestions for outreach activities are welcome.

Background

At the October Board meeting, the Board directed staff to utilize the approved Annual Report as the basis for presentations to County Boards of Supervisors in the Region. The Annual Report provides information about the Conservancy's mission, programs, jurisdictional area, progress to date, and current grants program.

Current Status

Area Managers and staff are making presentations to County Boards of Supervisors at regularly scheduled meetings throughout the Region. To date, staff has presented to the Shasta County, Alpine County and Madera County Board of Supervisors. A number of other presentations are being scheduled. The response from the Supervisors has been very positive.

Next Steps

All other counties will be scheduled over the next several months with the goal of completing these by the end of the fiscal year

Recommendation

Staff will continue giving presentations until all counties are covered.

Background

Under the Political Reform Act, each California state agency is required to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code, which consists of the regulations that delineate the required disclosure of financial interests for each designated officer or employee of the agency. (See Government Code section 87302.) In 2006 the Board adopted the conflict of interest code for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Conservancy), and it became effective after approval by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and submission to the Secretary of State. The Conservancy has grown since the initial code was adopted, and staff is proposing amendments to the Conservancy's conflict of interest code (1) to be consistent with changes in staffing and reflect titles used for staff positions, so that the code will be more understandable for the public; and (2) to reflect the Conservancy's grant issuing functions in disclosure categories.

Current Status

Staff has prepared proposed amendments to the conflict of interest code, a notice of the proposed rulemaking action, and an initial statement of reasons for the proposed amendments to the conflict of interest code of the Conservancy, and has initiated the rulemaking process with the FPPC and the OAL. See attached documents. This Board meeting provides an opportunity for public comment on the proposed amendments, and the public comment period will run until January 12, 2009.

Next Steps

After the close of the comment period, the proposed regulation language will be ready for approval by the Conservancy, followed by submission to the FPPC and the OAL. If no or few comments are received, only minor amendments may be needed, if any. In that case, if authority were delegated to the Executive Officer to make minor changes and to complete the process, then the code amendments could be completed before the next cycle for filing statements of economic disclosure (form 700).

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Public Resources Code section 33300 et seq., including section 33325:
“The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has reviewed and considered the proposed amendments to its conflict of interest code, and hereby delegates authority to the Executive Officer and authorizes the Executive Officer to approve and adopt amendments to the conflict of interest code for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in substantially the form proposed, including any necessary minor technical changes, and directs the Executive Officer to take the necessary actions to

complete the rulemaking process, including filing documents as necessary with the Fair Political Practices Commission and the Office of Administrative Law. Should substantive changes to the proposed amendments be recommended, the Executive Officer shall present the revised package to the Board for approval.”

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code, section 33300 et seq.) provides for the creation of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (“Conservancy”). The Conservancy is charged to carry out projects and activities, including awarding grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations, in the Sierra Nevada Region to further the purposes enumerated in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act, including the following: to protect, conserve and restore the Region’s physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources; to provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; to aid in the preservation of working landscapes, to reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires; and to protect and improve water and air quality.

PUBLIC PROBLEM, ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT, OR OTHER CONDITION OR CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE PROPOSED REGULATION IS INTENDED TO ADDRESS

The regulatory changes proposed by the Conservancy would amend the Conservancy’s conflict of interest code which provides for disclosure of economic interests by Conservancy board members and staff and consultants in order to comply with the requirement of the Political Reform Act. (Govt. Code, section 81000 et seq., in particular section 87300.) The amendments would update the designated employees to conform to the current titles and positions used by the Conservancy and would include disclosures of income from, or investments and business positions with non-profit entities of the type to receive grants from the Conservancy.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND NECESSITY OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

For board members and staff of the Conservancy, the conflict of interest regulations make specific the disclosure requirements to be met in filing statements of economic interests, and the requirements for disqualification from making or participating in Conservancy decisions. Government Code section 87302(a) requires each agency’s Conflict of Interest Code to contain a specific enumeration of the positions within the agency which involve the making, or participation in the making, of decisions which may foreseeably have a material effect on any financial interest, and for each such enumerated position, the specific types of investments, business positions, interests in real property and sources of income which are reportable.

The Conservancy’s staff has grown and changed since the initial adoption of the conflict of interest code. The proposed amendments to the Conflict of Interest Code revise the titles listed for staff positions required to file statements of economic interest to reflect the actual titles and positions at the Conservancy that participate in decision-making so as to be subject to economic interest disclosure requirements. The amendments would also change the interests to be disclosed listed in Category A of the conflict of interest code to reflect needed disclosures related to the Conservancy’s grant program, which has commenced operation since the initial adoption of the Conservancy’s conflict of interest code.

Government Code section 87302 sets forth the required provisions of a Conflict of Interest Code. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs., sections 18730) which contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, and which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. The Conservancy's code incorporates by reference the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission. This portion of the code would not be changed.

The Conservancy's conflict of interest code designates the positions listed below because they involve the making or participation in the making of decisions which may foreseeably have a material effect on a financial interest, and the proposed amendments bringing the staff designations up to date are listed below in underlined format, with the current language shown in strike-out format. Following each position is the disclosure category which reflects the types of financial interests that are reportable because they could foreseeably be materially affected by a decision that the employee in that designated position may make or may participate in making. Category A reflects in underlined text the new language that would be added by these amendments regarding non-profit entities of the type that may receive grants from the Conservancy.

Appendix

| Designated Employees | Disclosure Categories |
|--|-----------------------|
| Board Members and Alternates | A, B |
| Executive Officer | A, B |
| Assistant Executive Officer (CEA) | A, B |
| Staff Counsel | A, B |
| Staff Services Manager II | A, B |
| Tahoe Conservancy Program Manager and Conservancy Project Development Manager | A, B |
| Tahoe Conservancy Program Analyst II, Conservancy Project Development Analyst II, Conservancy Project Development Specialist | A, B |
| Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Procurement) | A, B |

| | |
|---|------|
| Associate Governmental Program Analysis (Contracting) | A, B |
| Consultants and Contractors paid by the Conservancy | C |

Disclosure Categories

Category A

Persons in this category must report all investments, interests in real property, income (including gifts, loans and travel payments other than travel reimbursements paid by the Conservancy), and any business position with any business entity in which the person is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Income is reportable only if it is received from a source within the region or, if that source is doing business within the Region, planning to do business within the Region, or has done business within the region during the two-year period prior to the time any statement is required under this code.
- (b) An interest in real property is reportable only if the property, or any part of it, is located within or not more than two miles outside the boundaries of the Region.
- (c) Investments are reportable only if the business entity has an interest in real property in the region, or does business, or plans to do business, in the Region, or has done business within the Region at any time during the two-year period prior to the time any statement is required under this code.
- (d) Business entities are reportable for purposes of business position disclosure only if the business entity is doing business, or plans to do business, within the Region or has done business within the Region at any time during the two years prior to the time any statement is required under these regulations.
- (e) For purposes of the above limitations the term "Region" means the Sierra Nevada Region as described by Public Resources Code section 33302(f).

Persons in this category must also report all investments, business positions and income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, or income from a non-profit organization, if the source is in the Region, as defined in subdivision (e) above, and of the type to receive grants or other monies from or through the Conservancy.

No changes are proposed to Disclosure Categories B and C. The Conflict of Interest Code also specifies procedures for the filing and handling of the statements of economic interest, and these would not be changed by the amendments. Designated employees file their statements with the Conservancy. Original statements for the Conservancy Boardmembers and their Alternates, and for the Executive Officer, are forwarded to the Fair Political Practices Commission, while the Conservancy makes and retains a copy of each of these statements in its files.

TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, OR EMPIRICAL STUDIES, REPORTS, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS

The Conservancy did not rely on technical, theoretical, or empirical studies, reports, or similar documents in proposing this regulation.

The proposed regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION/SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT

The Conservancy did not identify any alternatives that would lessen any adverse impact on small business. The Conservancy has determined that the proposed amendments will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business.

DUPLICATION OR CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The proposed regulation does not unnecessarily duplicate or conflict with federal regulations.

| | | |
|-------|------------------|---|
| NOTE: | Authority cited: | Sections 33300 and 33325(b), Public Resources Code; |
| | | Sections 87300 and 87304 Government Code |
| | Reference: | Section 87300 et seq., Government Code |

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Title 14 California Code of Regulations

Section 25231. Conflict of Interest Code of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

(a) The terms of Title 2, California Administrative Code, Section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, are hereby adopted and incorporated by this reference, and together with the attached Appendix designating officials and employees and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

(b) Designated employees shall file their statements with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy which will make the statements available for public inspection and reproduction. Upon receipt of the statements for Board Members, Alternates and the Executive Officer, the agency shall make and retain a copy and forward the original to the Fair Political Practices Commission. Statements for all other designated employees will be retained by the agency.

Appendix

| <i>Designated Employees</i> | <i>Disclosure Categories</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Board Members and Alternates | A, B |
| Executive Officer | A, B |
| Assistant Executive Officer (CEA) | A, B |
| Staff Counsel | A, B |
| Staff Services Manager II | A, B |

| | |
|---|------|
| Tahoe Conservancy Program Manager and Conservancy Project Development Manager A, B Tahoe Conservancy Program Analyst II, Conservancy Project Development Analyst II, and Conservancy Project Development Specialist | A, B |
| Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Procurement) | A, B |
| Associate Governmental Program Analysis (Contracting) | A, B |
| Consultants and Contractors paid by the Conservancy | C |

Disclosure Categories

Category A

Persons in this category must report all investments, interests in real property, income (including gifts, loans and travel payments other than travel reimbursements paid by the Conservancy), and any business position with any business entity in which the person is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Income is reportable only if it is received from a source within the region or, if that source is doing business within the region, planning to do business within the region, or has done business within the region during the two-year period prior to the time any statement is required under this code.
- (b) An interest in real property is reportable only if the property, or any part of it, is located within or not more than two miles outside the boundaries of the region.
- (c) Investments are reportable only if the business entity has an interest in real property in the region, or does business, or plans to do business, in the region, or has done business within the region at any time during the two-year period prior to the time any statement is required under this code.
- (d) Business entities are reportable for purposes of business position disclosure only if the business entity is doing business, or plans to do business, within the region or has done business within the region at any time during the two years prior to the time any statement is required under these regulations.
- (e) For purposes of the above limitations the term “region” means the Sierra Nevada Region as described by Public Resources Code section 33302(f).

Persons in this category must also report all investments, business positions and income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, or income from a nonprofit organization, if the source is in the region, as defined in subdivision (e) above, and of the type to receive grants or other monies from or through the Conservancy.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND THE CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE
OF THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, pursuant to the authority vested in it by section 87306 of the Government Code proposes amendments to its Conflict of Interest Code. The purpose of these amendments is to implement the requirements of sections 87300 through 87302, and section 87306 of the Government Code.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy proposes to amend its Conflict-of-Interest Code to include employee positions that involve the making or participation in the making of decisions that may foreseeably have a material effect on any financial interest, as set forth in subdivision (a) of section 87302 of the Government Code.

The amendments change the designation of employees to list current position titles for staff required to file statements of economic interest, consistent with the Conservancy's current organizational structure, revises disclosure Category A to reflect the Conservancy's grant activities, and makes other technical changes to refine disclosure requirements for consultants to the conservancy. Copies of the proposed amendments to the code are available and may be requested from the Contact Person set forth below.

Any interested person may submit written statements, arguments, or comments relating to the proposed amendments by submitting them in writing no later than January 12, 2009, or at the conclusion of the public hearing, if requested, whichever comes later, to the Contact Person set forth below.

The proposed amendments will be considered at a public meeting of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy on December 4, 2009. Details concerning this meeting are available on the Conservancy's Web site [www.sierranevada.ca.gov]. No further public hearing has been scheduled at this time concerning the proposed amendments. If any interested person or the person's representative requests a public hearing, he or she must do so no later than December 29, 2008, by contacting the Contact Person set forth below.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has prepared a written explanation of the reasons for the proposed amendments and has available the information on which the amendments are based. Copies of the proposed amendments, the written explanation of the reasons, and the information on which the amendments are based may be obtained by contacting the Contact Person set forth below.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has determined that the proposed amendments:

1. Impose no mandate on local agencies or school districts.
2. Impose no costs or savings on any state agency.
3. Impose no costs on any local agency or school district that are required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

4. Will not result in any nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies.
5. Will not result in any costs or savings in federal funding to the state.
6. Will not have any potential cost impact on private persons, businesses or small businesses.

In making these proposed amendments, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy must determine that no alternative considered by the agency would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the amendments are proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected persons than the proposed amendments.

All inquiries concerning this proposed amendment and any communication required by this notice should be directed to:

Christine Sproul
Office of the California Attorney General
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-5343
Christine.Sproul@doj.ca.gov

or

Joan Keegan
Assistant Executive Officer
11521 Blocker Drive
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 823-4670
jkeegan@sierranevada.ca.gov

Background

At its meeting on June 5, 2008, the SNC Board approved the *2008-09 Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines*, including minor modifications to the allocation formula for this fiscal year's Proposition 84 funds (total of \$17 million) to allow more flexibility in addressing areas of greatest need based on application submittals. This year's approved formula includes:

- o Competitive Grants – \$7 million
- o Subregional SOGs – \$6 million total (\$1 million per Subregion)
- o Region-wide SOGs – \$1 million
- o Unallocated – \$3 million

At the October 2, 2008 meeting, the Board approved a staff recommendation that the SNC award approximately \$14 million in the current fiscal year (with unallocated \$3 million remaining available for award over the next two fiscal years. This allows for the future award of approximately \$10 million per year in 2009-10 and 2010-11. With this action, the 2008-09 Expenditure Plan is identified in the table below.

| 2008-09 Expenditure Plan (amounts are approximate) | |
|--|---------------|
| 2007-08 | \$ 16 million |
| 2008-09 | \$ 14 million |
| 2009-10 | \$ 10 million |
| 2010-11 | \$ 10 million |

To date, \$34 million has been appropriated to the SNC for grant allocation, with an additional \$15.5 million anticipated for FY 2009-10 (subject to appropriation in the State budget).

Current Status

Status of 2008-09 Grant Applications

The SNC received 120 SOG applications by the September 2 deadline. A total of 32 SOGs are being recommended for approval at this meeting and 1 SOG was approved under the delegated Executive Officers authority.

(Note: ***SOG 1s are for*** smaller acquisition or site improvement/restoration projects of between \$5,000 and \$250,000; and ***SOG 2s are*** for all other projects (anything other than acquisition or site improvement/restoration) up to \$500,000 maximum).

As noted at the October Board meeting, the first round SOG applications were overwhelmingly SOG 2s (by a ratio of 5 to 1). This ratio is similar to the 2007-08 SOG

applications; however the SOG 1 grant limit was raised from \$100,000 to \$250,000 with the anticipation that we would see more SOG 1 applications, consistent with the stated preference for “on-the-ground” projects. It is possible that the requirement for having completed CEQA documentation as part of the application may have been a factor in the lack of SOG 1s. If that is the case, we hope to see more SOG 1 applications come in during the second round of SOG funding that will occur later this fiscal year.

Grant Management Workload

Based on current information, it is estimated that by the end of this fiscal year, the SNC could have between 225 and 275 active grants that will need to be managed by SNC staff. SNC management is evaluating appropriate grant-related workload for staff to ensure adequate oversight and responsiveness to current grantees. At the same time, SNC staff is also involved in assisting potential new applicants with project development and application process support, as well as a variety of other non-grant related activities, such as the annual conference, annual report, climate change initiative and other Regional programs.

Next Steps

In order to provide for the “on the ground” focus identified in the current guidelines and to address workload and effectiveness considerations, staff recommends that the Board consider a revised grant allocation plan for 2009-10. Given that changes may affect potential applicants for the current year (the possibility that certain types of grants may not be available in the next fiscal year), staff has brought the issue to the Board for discussion and direction at this time. It is also recommended that future year allocations be guided by the results of current year and 2009-10 grant allocation (on-the-ground versus other projects) and ongoing workload considerations.

One option that staff is considering would be to limit grant awards in 2009-10 to a single round, with a primary focus on projects currently provided for in Competitive and SOG 1s (acquisition and site improvement). The SNC may also consider utilizing some portion of the funds for a more focused programmatic effort (for example, assisting local governments with sustainable planning efforts). This approach would allow the SNC to focus resources on the type of projects that will result in on-the-ground results, helping to meet the direction provided by the SNC Board in June. It will also allow staff to devote adequate time for oversight and assistance relating to active projects, as well as allowing time to implement non-grant related activities being undertaken to further meet the Conservancy’s mission.

The primary impact to current operations would be that most projects currently considered under the SOG 2 category (with the possible exception of pre-project due diligence projects) would not be eligible in 2009-10. However, we believe that we have provided substantial opportunity for capacity-building and other types of grant projects in

the first two years of our grant making program, making it important to focus in the near-term on ensuring that sufficient on-the-ground benefits result from bond expenditures. Staff will also consider options for providing support for projects that would no longer be considered in the grant process through the use of the delegated Executive Officer's authority and the use of base budget funds.

Recommendation

It is recommended that staff be directed to provide the Board with a draft grant allocation plan for 2009-10 that addresses the concerns relative to “on-the-ground” projects and workload considerations as described above. Following Board review and comment, staff will develop guidelines to implement the plan, with final Board approval, following public review and comment, anticipated in June 2009.

Background

In July 2006, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board approved a Strategic Plan (Plan) for the organization, outlining guiding principles and key actions to be undertaken by the SNC. The process included substantial public interaction and input, resulting in significant changes to the original draft.

At its October 2008 meeting, the Board directed staff to provide a draft revised plan to the Board for review at the December meeting. In addition, the Board discussed some of the strategic issues facing the organization. The results of that discussion are reflected in the draft revised Strategic Plan (Attachment A).

Overview of Proposed Revisions

The draft revised plan does not propose any major revisions to the Plan adopted by the Board in 2006. Overall, the Plan continues to provide relevant strategic direction to the organization consistent with the SNC's enabling legislation and ongoing input received from the Board, partners and other stakeholders. However, a significant number of minor changes are proposed in the draft revised Plan; these generally address one of the following:

- **Bringing the content up-to-date.** At the time the Plan was initially written, the SNC had few staff, no offices, no Proposition 84 funds for grants, etc. The proposed revisions would make the content more current, reflecting the progress and changes that have occurred during the SNC's first years of operation. As discussed at the October Board meeting, this also includes updating information in the Plan regarding the issue of climate change.
- **Moving actions that have already been completed or are included in the 2008-09 Action Plan to an appendix.** A number of the actions identified in the original Plan were included in the 2006-07 or 2007-08 Action Plans and have been completed as reported to the Board at prior Board meetings. Remaining actions have been or will be included in the 2008-09 Action Plan. Progress on completing items in this current Plan will be reported to the Board at upcoming meetings.
- **Making a distinction between specific actions and more general strategies.** The original Plan identified some actions that were specific and some actions that set forth more general strategies for how to move forward in meeting our goals. As described in the second bullet, the specific actions have been completed or incorporated into the current year Action Plan and have been moved to an appendix in the draft revised Strategic Plan. The general strategies remain in the main body of the Plan and will continue to provide valuable direction to the SNC as it determines the specific actions it should undertake each year.

- **Using the Annual Report to report progress.** In addition to updating the Board on the Strategic Plan and annual Action Plans, the draft revised Plan proposes including information in the SNC's Annual Report regarding the actions we are taking to meet our Strategic Plan goals.
- **No longer identifying some of the initial project ideas in the Plan.** The SNC received numerous project ideas during the extensive public input process used to develop the original Plan. A sampling of these ideas was included in a separate section of the original Plan with all of the ideas included in Appendix C. The revised draft Plan proposes elimination of the separate section but maintains Appendix C.

Next Steps

Following Board review and input, the SNC will solicit public input on the draft Plan through an online process and discussions with key stakeholders. A final draft, along with a summary of public comments received, will be brought to the Board for approval in March.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board direct staff to make changes to the draft Plan based on Board input and then solicit public comment on the Plan before providing a final draft Revised Strategic Plan to the Board for review and approval at the March 2009 meeting.

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY



Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic Plan

Revised December 4, 2008

Draft

*“Planning without action is futile;
action without planning is fatal.”*

Unknown

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOURCES AGENCY
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC or Conservancy) is a State agency within the Resources Agency created by bi-partisan legislation, co-authored by Assembly members John Laird and Tim Leslie, and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2004. It was created with the understanding that the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the region would benefit from an organization providing a direction. The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners.

The 2006 SNC Strategic Plan will guide operations through 2010. The plan describes the vision, mission and guiding principles of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and provides a foundation for program development and activities to achieve the Conservancy's vision and mission. The plan meets the requirements of the statute creating the SNC (Public Resources Code Section 33345).

This Strategic Plan contains important information that defines the SNC and how it operates. Key information includes:

- An agency **Vision** describing the hopes and dreams of the SNC for its jurisdictional area;
- A **Mission Statement** that reflects the charge given to the SNC by the State Legislature and the Governor;
- A set of guiding **Principles** that guide the operations and interactions of the organization;
- An **assessment of the External and Internal conditions** under which the SNC will carry out its programs;
- A series of **Organizational Strategies and Goals** that describe the steps necessary to create a successful organization;
- A set of **Programmatic Goals and Actions** that create a sound foundation for the implementation of various programs the SNC is empowered to carry out; and
- A **Glossary** that defines key terms used by the SNC in this document.

This is part one of a two-phase plan. Specific timeframes for program goals, performance measures and actions and project concepts will be developed in the next phase of planning. The program areas are defined by law, as are specific duties and limitations.

This plan was created through an open and transparent process that included six public workshops (one in each Subregion). Following the workshops, the Board reviewed the plan at its June 1, 2006, meeting. Following that meeting the plan was revised and public comment was once again solicited. A final plan was approved at the July 20, 2006, board meeting. (Appendix C provides a full list of activities meeting attendees

suggested could be considered for the SNC's projects and Appendix D includes a summary of the public meetings)

The SNC will modify the plan as needed to adapt to new information, changed circumstances and unanticipated events. Any plan modifications will continue to be made through an open, public process. The plan will be reviewed annually to determine progress, with a comprehensive review occurring at least every five years.

A copy of this plan and other information about the strategic planning process and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy may be found at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. You can also request a copy on CD or hard copy by contacting the SNC at (530) 823-4670, max@sierranevada.ca.gov or pick one up in our offices located at: 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205 Auburn, CA 95603.



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ABOUT THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Thoughts about the Conservancy

The 25 million acres of the conservancy reach from Kern County to the Oregon border.

The Conservancy will not only support environmental preservation but assist the regional economy, preserve working landscapes and provide increased opportunities for tourism. It will serve as an example of economy and environment in harmony.

The 25 million acres within the new conservancy are a gift to the people of California, a gift that we have now guaranteed will keep on giving. Our children and grandchildren, visitors from far and wide, will see and enjoy the same Sierra Nevada that we value so much today.

*Governor
Arnold
Schwarzenegger
September 27, 2004*

Vision

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's vision for the future is:

The magnificent Sierra Nevada Region enjoys outstanding environmental, economic and social health with vibrant communities and landscapes sustained for future generations.

Features:

- Rich and diverse natural, physical and living resources are protected and conserved.
- Healthy, diverse and economically sustainable local communities thrive, prepared for and protected from natural disasters.
- Californians value and invest in healthy watersheds that provide high quality water, spectacular scenery and important wildlife habitat.
- Sustainable working landscapes provide environmental, economic and social benefits to the region.
- The region's cultural, archeological and historical resources are preserved, visited and treasured.
- Healthy and sustainable tourism, recreation and commercial activities are valued and encouraged.



Mission Statement

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.

Description

The SNC is a State agency within the Resources Agency. The Conservancy's service area covers approximately 25 million acres, nearly 25% of California's land area, making it the largest conservancy in the state. The SNC jurisdiction includes the mountains and foothills of the Sierra Nevada range, and certain neighboring areas including the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, the Modoc Plateau and a part of the southern Cascade region including the Pit River watershed.

For purposes of this plan, the terms "Sierra Nevada Region" and "region" includes all of these areas.

The service area covers all or portions of 22 counties, from Modoc County in the north to Kern County in the south. It is one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions (with related socio-economic benefits) in the world.

Governance

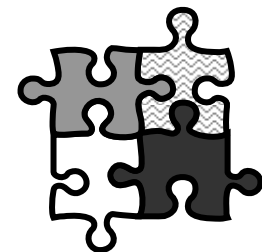
The Conservancy is governed by a 16-member board, including 13 voting members and 3 nonvoting liaison advisers, appointed under Public Resources Code section 33321. Members include:

- State Secretary for Resources (or his/her designee)
- State Director of Finance (or his/her designee)
- Three members of the public appointed by the Governor
- Two members of the public, one each appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee
- Six county supervisors whose districts are within the region, each representing one of the six Sierra Nevada Subregions
- Three non-voting Federal liaison advisers, one each from the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Things the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Can Do:

- Award grants and loans;
- Develop projects and programs designed to further its purpose;
- Facilitate collaborative planning efforts;
- Enter into agreements and contracts with willing participants;
- Encourage and initiate coordination, collaboration and cooperation among interested parties; and
- Provide technical information, expertise, program and project development and other non-financial assistance.

(For more detail on Conservancy authority see Appendix B)



Program Description

The law creating the SNC outlines its mission. All the SNC activities are based on the principles of balance, cooperation and equity. The SNC will:

- Support efforts that advance environmental preservation, and the economic and social well-being of Sierra residents in a complementary manner;
- Work in collaboration and cooperation with local governments and interested parties in carrying out the SNC's mission;
- Make every effort to ensure that, over time, Conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various Subregions and among the program areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects; and
- Inform and educate all Californians as to the substantial benefits they enjoy from the Region and the importance of the environmental and economic well-being of the Region.

Program Areas

The statute creating the SNC provides for seven specific program objectives (using the precise language from the statute and not in priority order):

- 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 Conservancy's program;
- Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

This Strategic Plan guides programs, activities and projects necessary to achieve these goals.

Decision-Making and Monitoring

The Conservancy will use the best available information and science in decision making and will frequently assess the effectiveness of its programs. The SNC will build upon existing information and identify where key gaps or weaknesses may exist. Information useful in decision making will be collected and made available for use by others.

The SNC will provide for research and monitoring activities in support of its mission. Monitoring will allow the Conservancy to refine or modify programs and promote adaptive management based on the results.

Agency Funding Sources

The SNC's base budget¹ currently consists of funding from the California Environmental License Plate Fund. Additional funding for the implementation of the Conservancy's programs comes from Proposition 84 bonds. Proposition 84 allocated \$54 million in bond funds to the SNC, of which \$51 million will be used to fund local assistance grants, with the remainder used to pay administrative costs. The SNC may also receive funds and interests in real or personal property by gifts, bequests or grants.

¹ The state authorized budget for basic operational needs.

AGENCY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The SNC has a number of principles that serve to guide the organization’s operation into the future:

How We Operate

- The SNC conducts operations openly. Decision making will be transparent, and we always strive to improve communications throughout the region.
- The SNC strives to maintain neutrality so all interested parties are provided an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the SNC’s activities.

Our Key Objectives

- The SNC seeks to “add value” and build upon existing community and regional efforts.
- The SNC brings a regional focus to the issues of the Sierra Nevada, collecting and sharing information across the region and communicating the benefits and contributions of the region.
- The SNC encourages community-based solutions and will assist communities with technical expertise, information and resources necessary to achieve local solutions.
- The SNC uses the best available information and science in making decisions, identifying opportunities to fill information and technical gaps and building on and expanding community information.
- The SNC informs and educates the public throughout the Region and the State about the important contributions the Sierra Nevada provides to all Californians, including providing clean water for many uses outside the Sierra, access to world-class recreation and tourism and the production of a variety of important commodities.
- The SNC strives to identify and implement activities that result in integrated environmental, economic and social benefits rather than “either or” outcomes.

Implementing Our Programs

- The SNC develops program priorities considering the input received through community outreach efforts and seeks to meet community needs, recognizing local and regional differences, through

program and organizational flexibility.

- The SNC gives priority to multi-benefit projects and integrated activities (those that address more than one of the SNC's program objectives).
- The SNC encourages projects and activities that leverage other organizations' (government, private and non-profit) competencies and funding.
- The SNC evaluates projects considering what is occurring on surrounding lands, cognizant of potential impacts to those landscapes.
- The SNC purchases and/or creates incentives for the purchase, where practical, of resources for goods and services within the Sierra Nevada Region. We diligently seek opportunities to improve the economic well-being of communities in the region.

Working with Others

- The SNC emphasizes cooperation with local governments and other governmental, tribal and non-governmental partners in providing information, technical assistance and financial support to assist in meeting mutual goals.
- The SNC coordinates and collaborates with all partners to achieve research, project funding and program goals.
- The SNC convenes and facilitates interested parties to seek solutions for difficult problems to achieve environmental, economic and social benefits.
- The SNC respects the mission, responsibilities and obligations of other agencies and organizations.

AGENCY ASSESSMENT

As a new organization, the SNC needs to create strategies and actions that recognize the many factors supporting or creating barriers to effectiveness. The assessment below, based on a review of existing information from numerous sources and public input, summarizes key factors.

External Assessment

One of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions in the world, the Sierra Nevada Region constitutes about 25% of California's land area. It serves as home to over 600,000 Californians, and provides recreational opportunities for millions (nearly 4 million Californians live within 30 minutes of the Region). The region also:

1. Provides more than 60% of California's most valuable commodity - water, the vast majority of which is used for residential, agricultural and environmental uses outside of the region;
2. Supports 212 communities dependent upon natural resources for jobs, recreation, and community character;
3. Sustains a growing tourism industry involving more than 50 million recreation visit days a year;
4. Supports half of all plant species found in California;
5. Provides habitats for 66% of the bird and mammal species and about 50% of the reptile and amphibian species in California;
6. Is home to more than 400 species of terrestrial vertebrates and in excess of 320 species of aquatic invertebrates (the region contains more endemic aquatic invertebrates than any other ecological region in the world);
7. Produces from 33% to 50% of the State's annual timber supply;
8. Provides solace and vacation opportunities for all.

Key Sierra Nevada Facts

- The Sierra Nevada is the third fastest growing region in California. Some estimates predict the population will triple by 2040. The area is experiencing rapid retiree and commuter resident growth, and large intermittent recreational populations that increase resource pressures.
- For some time, the Sierra Nevada's economy has been diversifying from primarily a resource-based economy to one increasingly dependent on tourism and related services specialized goods and services tied to the state economy, and health, financial, and other services needed by the growing population.
- Many parts of the region face significant threats from natural disaster, in particular the risk of catastrophic fire.
- There is increasing conflict over various land use decisions in certain portions of the region and over regional resource conservation strategies.
- In some Sierra communities there is a lack of affordable housing, declining personal income, low literacy rates, and outdated communications infrastructure.
- In some subregions there are a growing number of children living in poverty.

Environmental, Economic, and Social Challenges

In recent years, a great deal of attention has been focused on the significant environmental, economic and social challenges facing the region. In fact, the creation of the SNC was largely a product of this recognition.

The scale, scope and complexity of resources, funding and institutional needs exceed the current capacity of the existing public programs and private nonprofit sector. The current situation presents many challenges to Sierra communities in addressing natural resource and community needs and has resulted, or could result, in the following:

| Institutional Challenges | Resource Challenges |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relative lack of public funding committed to the Sierra Nevada Region; the area received only about 1% of all State bond funds designated for conservation purposes from 1996-2001(excluding Lake Tahoe); 2. Lack of institutional and funding capacity to deal with the region's issues. Many local and State agencies have difficulty meeting basic needs because of budgetary shortfalls. Many local governments and organizations in the region need technical assistance and funding to develop and implement projects; 3. Lack of cohesive and comprehensive State policy on investment objectives for acquisition, restoration, economic development, recreation and tourism, and resource management activities within the region; and 4. Lack of knowledge about the importance of the Sierra Nevada Region by a majority of Californians living outside the area. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rapid population growth in some areas breaks up the ecosystem and working landscapes and increases the risk of wildfire along the wildland-urban interface; 2. Job losses in industries such as timber, agricultural and ranching, along with the reduction in mining activity, place additional economic burdens on many communities that are distant from the metropolitan economies on either side of the region; 3. Impaired water quality in many of the Sierra Nevada's rivers; 4. Adverse effects on land and water species and their habitat, many of which already face declining health and numbers; 5. Approximately 70% of the forest and rangelands and 75% of the homes in the Region are at significant risk of fire (FRAP Assessment for Sierra and Modoc bioregions). 6. Lack of affordable housing in many communities, particularly workforce housing; 7. Reduced access to quality health care; 8. Loss of historical and cultural character of communities; and 9. Lack of needed community infrastructure and public services such as roads, quality health care transportation systems, wastewater treatment, and storm water management. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | 10. Adverse impacts of climate change on natural resources, watersheds and local economies in the Sierra. |
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Positive Signs

Even with these significant challenges, progress is being made within the region. The past decade has seen a substantial increase in collaborative planning efforts by government agencies and the non- governmental community. There are a substantial number of public and private groups, (representing business, the environment, tourism, healthcare, cultural efforts such as music, arts and crafts, ranching, and agriculture), governments, and other sectors, working collaboratively to come up with sustainable solutions. There are a number of local government efforts taking this approach to address complex resource and infrastructure issues.

Many groups have focused on watershed management, community planning, reducing the risk of catastrophic fire, preserving working landscapes and protection of critical habitat. In addition, many traditional land management practices have been modified to reduce the impact on the environment.

A 2002 survey recorded the following groups within the Sierra Nevada Region:

- **More than 22 operating land trusts and support organizations**
- **More than 20 Coordinated Resource Management Planning groups**
- **18 active resource conservation districts**
- **Approximately 75 community Fire Safe Councils**

These efforts provide the SNC opportunities to partner, facilitate and collaborate, as well as leverage funds and resources to achieve common goals.

Internal Assessment

The SNC serves a broad range of purposes. In order to develop effective programs and set priorities, it must continue to actively engage the public, government agencies, non-governmental partners and other interested parties with a particular focus on Subregional outreach. This approach allows input on the strategic program planning, program guidelines and development, and provides important information as to changes occurring in the region.

In order to be successful, the SNC must constantly determine where it can add value, building upon and enhancing community efforts while respecting the responsibilities of other government agencies.

Large Area

The Conservancy's service area includes approximately 25 million acres and all or part of 22 counties. This area creates significant transportation, communication and operational challenges. An effective organizational response requires strategic deployment of the SNC's

resources and effective communication with the public and all partners.

Complex Institutional Setting

The SNC operates in a complex institutional setting. The Board includes representatives of the Executive Branch (Resources Agency, Department of Finance and 3 gubernatorial appointees), the Legislature (Speaker of the Assembly and Senate Rules Committee appointees), representatives from 22 counties, and 3 federal agencies (the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management). There are over 200 communities (more than 20 incorporated cities), 30-40 special districts and dozens of local non-governmental organizations within the region.

Program Diversity

Rather than patching together separate agency programs, the SNC will continue to use a comprehensive and integrated approach to address regional and Subregional needs. This approach necessarily results in program diversity and complexity. As noted earlier, the SNC is charged with seven distinct program areas that must be integrated in order to achieve the mission of the organization. There are a wide variety of tools available to address each area, recognizing the diversity that exists throughout the region. The SNC's program complexity is magnified by rapid regional

change, which is driven, in part, by population growth within and immediately adjacent to the region. Some estimates predict the population is expected to triple in the next 30-40 years. As the economic structure of the region diversifies from one primarily dependent on commodity-based industries to one driven by new services, the SNC's charge will require new approaches. For example, the potential conversion of working landscapes to residential and commercial uses would lead to increased demand for stewardship on remaining lands in order to receive the environmental, economic and social benefits these lands provide. The Conservancy must continue to be responsive and take advantage of opportunities resulting from various planning efforts.

An Emphasis on Consultation and Collaboration

The SNC is committed to working collaboratively and cooperatively with all levels of government, and a wide variety of partners, including non-governmental organizations and private landowners, in developing and implementing its programs. It cooperates and consults with the city or county wherever a real property interest is being acquired, and

with public water. Additionally, it is necessary to closely monitor a host of Federal, State and local planning processes, as well as to coordinate activities with other State agencies.

Complexity of Program Development and Implementation

The SNC is managed in accordance with Program Guidelines adopted by the Board in July 2007. These guidelines create a “level playing field,” (fair and even access to the SNC processes) for all interests. The guidelines identify program objectives and the procedures and processes used to carry out the programs. They reflect analysis of program (resource) requirements at the regional and Subregional levels; institutional capacities; funding needs for each program; and an

systems where a project assessment of Federal, State and local plans for each program objective.

In order to carry out its activities consistent with the guidelines, Conservancy personnel:

- Develop and analyze regional, Subregional and community information;
- Engage in required consultative and Subregional liaison processes to determine needs and priorities;
- Review existing and potential funding programs affecting the region;
- Review and analyze project proposals;
- Provide technical assistance to local governments and non-governmental organizations; and
- Convene and facilitate willing parties with diverse interests and perspectives.

The Conservancy relies on communication and data systems to achieve program objectives, improve community capacity and

may affect the system. provide for maximum public participation in Conservancy meetings and workshops and is continuously trying to improve its ability to communicate and manage information effectively.

Critical to the Conservancy’s success is the implementation of an Education and Communication Plan adopted by the Board in December 2007. The purpose of the plan is to support increased understanding of the region and Subregions by all parties. By educating California citizens about the many benefits of the Sierra Nevada Region, the resource challenges and opportunities that exist and the need for their involvement, the public can assist in supporting efforts to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the region.

AGENCY FIVE YEAR ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIC GOALS

During the next two-and-a-half years the SNC will continue to build an effective infrastructure to implement its charter, develop strategies, and set priorities for decision making on projects and site-specific activities. In order to carry out its mission, the SNC will focus on five key organizational areas:

- **Create an Effective Organization**
- **Use and Share Best available Information**
- **Increase Knowledge and Capacity**
- **Ensure a Balanced Portfolio**
- **Identify Funding Needs**

I. Create an Effective Organization

In its initial years the SNC defined key purposes, functions and project goals and created an organizational structure to support them. It hired staff; adopted rules, regulations and guidelines for the SNC's operations; designed organizational

management structures; completed required reports and plans; and established the organization's facilities.

The SNC organizational structure emphasizes flexibility and recognize the Sierra Nevada's differences and similarities. It addresses challenges of serving an area as large and diverse as the Sierra Nevada Region by focusing on its core mission and

forming partnerships with other governmental agencies and a wide variety of partners and interested parties.

The SNC does not supersede local efforts. Instead its efforts emphasize community interaction and build on and enhance the existing infrastructure.

Strategies to support Organizational Goal 1

Strategy 1.1: Ensure an open and transparent decision-making process by adopting understandable rules, guidelines, and procedures for the SNC's business.

Strategy 1.2: Conduct a robust public outreach and feedback program within the region and in the state's metropolitan areas important to the success of the program.

II. Use and Share Best Available Information

The SNC will continue to base decisions on best available information by engaging in data collection, analysis and sharing.

Numerous governmental agencies, non-governmental entities, educational institutions, and individuals maintain information to make daily decisions affecting the region. However, for a variety of reasons, the information is not always easily available to others. The SNC will collaborate with

local decision makers to determine information needs and define ways to make the best available information readily available.

A number of entities have developed a significant amount of high quality regional research and information. The SNC will continue to identify and incorporate as much existing data as possible into its information collection and dissemination efforts.

In addition to acquiring best available and necessary information, the SNC proposes to engage community leaders and others in defining information priorities, data

gaps and dissemination methods.

The SNC will continue to make information widely available for use by others using multiple strategies and tools with an emphasis on internet and other emerging technologies.

Beyond acquiring information and making it available, the SNC will focus on means to improve the overall capacity of communication systems in the region. For example, some areas in the Sierra Nevada Region do not have access to high-speed internet, or even basic internet service, at reasonable rates.

Strategies to support Organizational Goal 2

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| Strategy 2.1: | Work with governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, private landowners, educational institutions, and other interested parties, to determine existing relevant information relating to the SNC's mission, significant information gaps and potential sources of new information. In doing so, build upon and enhance existing information infrastructure. |
| Strategy 2.2: | Assess preferred dissemination methods, technological needs and data limitations of the SNC's partners. Develop overall data acquisition and dissemination requirements and a strategy to address the SNC statutory and organizational needs, with an emphasis on improving communities' ability to access and use information. |
| Strategy 2.3: | Identify and make available access to key federal, State and local plans and other documents affecting the regions to be considered in the development of the program guidelines and priorities (PRC 33345) |

III. Increase Knowledge and Capacity

The Sierra communities have a rich history of self-sufficiency and resourcefulness. Currently, many local activities, consistent with the SNC’s mission, are underway. The SNC will continue to build upon these efforts and assist communities with building and creating capacity by providing information,

technical assistance, financial, and other resources.

The SNC recognizes goals and activities must be flexible enough to address the wide variety of regional issues and concerns and to adapt to new information or situations. Neither “one

size fits all,” nor will static programs be effective.

Education efforts, demonstration projects, and research and monitoring activities designed to increase knowledge will continue to be encouraged and supported.

Strategies to support Organizational Goal 3

Strategy 3.1: Determine existing and potential regional and community education, shared learning and research projects that the SNC can support and enhance.

Strategy 3.2: , Work with communities to meet their technological, communication, and technical assistance needs.

Strategy 3.3: Support integrated regional, Subregional and local planning efforts, consistent with the SNC’s mission.

IV. Implement a Balanced Program

The SNC places a priority on projects and activities that provide multiple benefits consistent with program goals. The integration of environmental, economic and social aspects is encouraged and supported.

The SNC will make every effort to, over time, allocate resources and activities equitably across

the Subregions and program areas. Even so, in the initial years of operations, the diversity, complexity and uniqueness of the region and the Subregions may create challenges in achieving this objective. Funding limitations and restrictions may also present challenges in achieving this objective. Compounding that challenge will be a desire to invest in

projects that also provide statewide benefits.

The SNC will continue to identify efforts and activities with region-wide application and benefit. This may include communication efforts, enhancement of information technology infrastructure and information collection and dissemination.

Strategies to support Organizational Goal 4

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| Strategy 4:1: | Recognize the need to act based on opportunity, available funding and regional differences and statewide interest. |
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V. Identify Funding Needs

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| <p>Adequate funds are essential to fully implement this Strategic Plan. The SNC recognizes that funding may be limited, inconsistent and targeted to certain program areas, depending on funding sources and appropriation by the Legislature. The SNC will continue to fund essential activities and</p> | <p>implement this plan consistent with available funding and statutory requirements.</p> <p>The California Environmental License Plate Fund and Proposition 84 bond funds are the current sources of the SNC budget. The SNC will continue to engage in a number of important</p> | <p>activities using base funding including gathering and disseminating important information and providing technical assistance. Funds for grants come from Proposition 84 bonds. The SNC may also receive resources from gifts, bequests or donations.</p> |
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Strategies to support Organizational Goal 5

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| <p>Strategy 5.1:</p> | <p>Develop and communicate funding needs of the region to the public, the SNC partners, and decision makers at all levels.</p> |
| <p>Strategy 5.2:</p> | <p>Leverage and improve funding options and opportunities by identifying and communicating potential funding sources to those engaged in project activities consistent with the SNC's mission.</p> |
| <p>Strategy 5.3:</p> | <p>Identify and secure additional opportunities for stable funding sources for the SNC.</p> |

AGENCY FIVE YEAR PROGRAMMATIC GOALS

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Program Goals

(These goals are listed as they appear in the statute and do not necessarily reflect a priority order.)

- 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 Conservancy's program
- Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public

The statute creating the SNC charged the organization with seven program goals (see box on this page). This Strategic Plan identifies a set of strategies in support of each goal. The Conservancy develops an Action Plan each year, which identifies the specific actions the Conservancy will undertake in that fiscal year to carry out these strategies and further the program goals. Conservancy staff report regularly to the Board regarding the contents and status of the Action Plan and includes information regarding program accomplishments in its Annual Report. . The SNC ensures that strategies and actions are integrated across program areas.

Ongoing development of the Conservancy's plans is done using an open process, utilizing information gained from public input and other information gathering, development and analysis. All of the Conservancy's efforts recognize and address Subregional differences and priorities.

Following are the program goals as identified in statute, with ongoing activities identified.

Program Goal 1: Tourism and Recreation

Provide Increased Opportunities for Tourism and Recreation

Californians enjoy numerous recreational opportunities in the Sierra and the statute creating the SNC positions it as an advocate for increasing and improving those opportunities.

The Conservancy's mandate to provide increasing opportunities for tourism and recreation is a clear recognition of the major economic contribution of these activities to the region and its communities.

Tourism and recreational opportunities are essential to the Sierra Nevada's changing economy and major contributors to economic growth. In 1999, overnight campers spent over \$560 million for use of private and public campgrounds, more than a sixth of such expenditures statewide.² These sectors continue to grow and provide more jobs and wages than many other sectors combined.

Between 1992 and 1998 the jobs generated by travel spending alone grew from about 6,500 to over 9,000.³

The growth is driven by the creation of new businesses and the expansion of existing ones, based on providing value-added services on both public and private lands.

Recreational opportunities in the Sierra Nevada offer nearly every type of outdoor activity for visitors and residents (both full and part-time) from camping to snowshoeing, hunting to bird watching, and rock climbing to motorized sports. In fact, some estimates indicate that as many as 50 million visitor days are spent on public lands a year.

At the same time, it is important to note that some forms of recreation can create impacts on natural resources, especially use that is inconsistent with prescribed rules and restrictions. Likewise, increased tourism could create stress to existing infrastructure in many Sierra communities.

Many communities have developed or are exploring "non traditional"

opportunities, such as eco-tourism, agri-tourism and heritage related tourism. Also the opportunity for additional recreational activities in the non-peak or "shoulder" seasons present viable options in many areas.

The SNC will continue to work with communities on identifying opportunities that increase tourism and recreation consistent with sustainable practices and in recognition of community infrastructure needs. The SNC will also continue to encourage and support efforts that teach visitors how to be good stewards of local resources.

² Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Assessment, Socio-Economic Assessment, Wildland Outdoor Recreation Assessment. p. 31

³ FRAP, Assessment, Socio-Economic Assessment, Wildland Outdoor Recreation Assessment, p. 29

Strategies to support program goal 1

- Strategy 1.1: Identify top priority tourism and recreational opportunities for all, including those in non-traditional activities such as eco-tourism, agri-tourism and heritage related tourism. Promote opportunities consistent with the integration of environmental, economic and social benefits.
- Strategy 1.2: Identify funding sources relative to tourism and recreation that may be utilized to complement the SNC activities in order to achieve objectives.
- Strategy 1.3 Identify and promote opportunities to enhance recreational and tourism activities in the non-peak and “shoulder” seasons.
- Strategy 1.4: Provide opportunities on public lands through increased management, improved access and new trails.
- Strategy 1.5: Promote opportunities on private land by supporting resource and amenity conservation and restoration projects associated with private creation of recreational use.

Program Goal 2: Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical, and Living Resources

Protect, Conserve, and Restore the Region's Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical, and Living Resources

The Sierra Nevada is a special place with many areas of interest. The extraordinary landscape draws residents and visitors. Few places on the planet have such beauty, ecological diversity, archaeological, cultural and historical assets.

Humans have lived in the Sierra for about 10,000 years, and have been a factor in the regional ecology for 3,000 to 5,000 years. Early people used fire to improve the land for food, hunting and gathering and to generate plants to make baskets and serve other needs. Today, the Sierra Region continues to be home to numerous tribes.

Later, the Sierra hosted California's famous gold rush, which marked a turning point in the Sierra's cultural, economic and natural history. During that period, a large number of people came to the Sierra to pursue their fortunes and built many of today's communities.

During this time, the practices employed by the miners severely degraded the Sierra's waterways and landscape. The results of these practices are still problems in many areas.

Increasing pressures including growth, economic decline, the risk of catastrophic fire, climate change and decreasing water and air quality put these important features at risk.

By 2040, almost 20 percent of the Sierra's current private forests and rangelands could be affected by projected development.⁴ Such conversion would put at risk, among other things, the Sierra Nevada's wildlife and ecosystem health and its rich cultural and historic treasures.

In addition, nearly 70 percent of the Region's forests and rangelands are ecologically at risk from wildfire.⁵

Catastrophic fire would have profound environmental, economic and social impacts.

Climatic changes also present significant potential impacts to the Sierra's physical and living resources. Currently, even conservative projections of warming temperatures suggest a significant decrease in the Sierra snowpack and changes in precipitation patterns, which must be considered in planning processes.

In order to protect, conserve and restore the region's living resources, it is essential to promote ecosystem and watershed health. This requires an integrated approach recognizing the importance of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and the activities and conditions that may threaten their health.

Collaborative, integrated watershed planning efforts that address a wide range of issues are encouraged and supported.

⁴ FRAP Assessment Summary, p. 89

⁵ FRAP Assessment Chapter 3, Health - Wildfire Risks to Assets, p. 12

Strategies to support program goal 2

- Strategy 2.1: Identify priority projects, partners and mechanisms, that protect, conserve and restore physical and natural resources, watersheds, wildlife habitat and other living resources.
- Strategy 2.2: Identify priority projects, partners and mechanisms that protect, conserve and restore cultural, archaeological and historical resources.
- Strategy 2.3: Identify specific funding sources that may complement the SNC activities in order to achieve program objectives.
- Strategy 2.4: Work in partnership with other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to identify information, assistance and resources needed to support community projects consistent with SNC's mission.
- Strategy 2.5: Partner with local governments to identify information, technical assistance and resources that would be of value in local land-use decision-making.
- Strategy 2.6: Facilitate and foster good planning and education efforts (including those aimed particularly at students) to protect and enhance ecosystem and watershed health, sustainable working landscapes and economically viable communities.

Program Goal 3: Working Landscapes

Aid in the Preservation of Working Landscapes

Working landscapes are lands managed to produce goods and commodities from the natural environment (most commonly farms, ranches, forests, and watersheds). These lands often provide important contributions to habitat, biodiversity, water quality, air quality and open space that benefit everyone. Based on landowner skills, resources, and voluntary conservation and restoration actions, the benefits can be substantial.

Although management responsibilities and costs rest with the landowner, in many communities these lands are an important part of the local economy, culture and

social fabric. Working landscapes represent a scenic and historic asset for the region, covering approximately 36 percent of California's forests and rangelands.⁶

Many of these working landscapes are at risk because landowners have difficulty keeping their businesses economically viable. In many places, development pressure is strong and the potential economic gain for converting the lands to other uses is substantial. The resulting conversion of use is often detrimental to natural resource values that remain.

In some instances the management of public

lands in the area affect private landowners. Many are dependent on availability of government lands to create a scale of operation to make their own endeavors profitable. For example, in the Eastern Sierra 95 percent of land ownership is held by federal and other governments, 2.5 percent in ranches, and 2.5 percent in other private ownership.⁷ In this area many private enterprises rely on these public lands for ranching, recreation, etc. In addition, government policies designed to respond to other resource issues can have unintended consequences and destabilize private working landscapes dependent on a mix of resources.

Strategies to support Program Goal 3

- Strategy 3.1: Collaborate with governmental and non-governmental partners in identifying willing landowners interested in preserving their working landscapes through conservation easements and similar mechanisms.
- Strategy 3.2: Identify voluntary incentive-based programs (including those complementing and enhancing regulatory efforts) to assist in preserving working landscapes consistent with achieving sustainable environmental protection, natural resource conservation and watershed management objectives.
- Strategy 3.3: Identify opportunities for more cohesive public and private land management, including "checkerboard" ownership patterns, by identifying and facilitating potential voluntary land exchanges.
- Strategy 3.4: Identify voluntary incentives to private and public landowners to manage the

⁶ FRAP Assessment Summary, p. 75

⁷ FRAP Report to the California Biodiversity Council, September 18, 1997

upper watershed to increase natural water storage and groundwater recharge.

Strategy 3.5: Facilitate local, regional and State planning to encourage upper watershed conservation efforts that result in increased natural water storage, groundwater recharge and habitat improvement.

Strategy 3.6: Provide regional perspective and coordination expertise to help local planning efforts consistent with working landscape goals; assist communities in minimizing adverse impacts of public land management on private working landscapes.

Program Goal 4: Natural Disaster Risks

Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters, such as Wildfires

The Sierra Nevada geography, geology, climate and vegetation make it particularly susceptible to natural disasters, particularly wildfires, floods, landslides, avalanches, and volcanic events. Effective fire suppression efforts in recent decades have increased fuel build-up in many areas. At the same time active public land forest management (timber harvesting and fuels management) has also been reduced.

As this occurred, substantial residential and commercial growth occurred in historic wildlands. Increased length of the wildland-urban interfaces increase natural disaster risks. The existence of thousands of presently undeveloped parcels of land extending randomly into wildlands has the potential of exacerbating that latent risk.

For example, 79 percent of housing units in the Sierra wildland-urban interface are at significant risk from wildfire (Very High or Extreme fire threat).⁸ Collaboration among local jurisdictions and local landowners may help affect future land-use decisions that could exacerbate the problem.

In addition, significant management challenges have increased fire risk on many publicly held lands. The proximity of these lands to developed areas creates additional threats.

In recent years, there has been an increase in efforts to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire on public and private lands. Substantial federal funding has been allocated to many of the Sierra Nevada's National Forests. Local Fire Safe Councils have been formed in many communities and there is a

growing awareness of the fire problem among local decision-makers.

Similar investments are made for landslides and floods, but often after a fire event. Due to changing land-use patterns, official floodplain and other geographic hazard mapping are not always up to date and new construction sometimes occurs in those areas.

Some areas in the region face the risk of avalanche during the winter. In addition, volcanic hazards are of particular concern to some parts of the region.

Sierra communities must also determine the potential effects of climate change and develop strategies to deal with those changes.

Strategies to support Program Goal 4

- Strategy 4.1: Collaborate with State and federal land managers to identify projects and activities that will reduce risks of, and prepare for, natural disasters on public lands.
- Strategy 4.2: Assist communities in the development and implementation of firesafe community plans, flood prevention and other natural disaster prevention and response community-based plans. Collaborate with local governments and

⁸ FRAP Assessment Summary, p. 102)

- community-based organizations to create incentives for hazard mitigation and disaster planning.
- Strategy 4.3: Collaborate with federal, State and local fire agencies to identify opportunities for the SNC to assist in risk reduction efforts on private lands.
- Strategy 4.4: In cooperation with local governments, identify strategies to reduce the wildland-urban interface fire risk created by building structures that are within or encroach into wildlands.⁹
- Strategy 4.5: Provide assistance to the Region in the development and implementation of alternative, multi-benefit natural disaster risk reduction programs such as bio-fuel creation.

⁹ Where houses and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland vegetation and wildfire poses a significant risk to human lives and structures.

Program Goal 5: Water and Air Quality

Protect and improve water and air quality.

Water

The Sierra Nevada Region has numerous major rivers, hundreds of lakes, and thousands of miles of streams that form 31 watersheds. These watersheds are the lifeblood of California as they contribute over 60% of California's water needs, (primarily to areas outside of the Sierra Nevada) and substantial hydro-electric power.

Many watersheds retain negative impacts from historic land uses, ongoing land-use changes, and episodic, intense wildfires that have degraded water and air quality and aquatic habitat conditions. Historic mining activities also have significant water quality impacts, from both sediment and heavy metals. In addition some forms of recreation can create impacts on water resources, especially if not conducted consistent with prescribed rules, regulations and restrictions.

Today, new construction, mining, timber and range management, residential and commercial land use, and road construction are all activities that are regulated to address impacts on water quality. Planning and regulation takes place at the State, regional and local

levels. In addition, communities are facing issues such as wastewater treatment and storm water runoff that can affect water quality. At the same time, many Sierra dams are in the process (or will be in the near future) of being relicensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The outcomes of these efforts will have important consequences in many communities.

The SNC will continue to work with these regulatory agencies and the communities to determine efforts that will contribute to improving water quality and will continue to fund efforts to improve watershed health through its Proposition 84 grant program.

Air

While California faces some of the nation's most difficult air quality challenges, some Sierra communities enjoy some of the state's cleanest air.

However, in the more urbanized areas of the Sierra Nevada, as in other parts of California, motor vehicles are significant contributors to air pollution. Some areas, most particularly in the foothill region, receive substantial additional negative impacts from urban pollution carried by wind.

Air quality issues in the Sierra are further complicated by the role of fire. Catastrophic fires

can create substantial amounts of pollution and can be particularly intense during active burning. At the same time, land managers use fire as a tool to reduce the risk of wildfire through prescribed burns. Reconciling land management activities and air quality standards continues to be a challenge.

Climate Change

Issues involving climate change are especially relevant to the Sierra Nevada's water and air quality. Governor's Executive Order (S-3-05) notes increased temperatures threaten to greatly reduce the Sierra snowpack, one of the State's primary sources of water; and increased temperatures also threaten to further exacerbate California's air quality problems with adverse effects on human health. New approaches such as carbon sequestration hold great promise for the region and carbon emission offsets created by Sierra land management and other practices could enhance overall statewide goals.

Even under lower emissions scenarios, the Sierra snowpack is projected to face significant decline in the coming years. A regional approach on how to adapt to climate change is

necessary to protect our natural resources and local economies. That is why the Administration has

developed a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Initiative, to be led by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in partnership

with the California Tahoe Conservancy and other state and federal entities.

Strategies to support Program Goal 5

- Strategy 5.1: Identify and support voluntary incentive-based programs that complement and enhance regulatory efforts to achieve environmental protection and sustainability goals.
- Strategy 5.2: Identify and support priority projects aimed at assessing, protecting, and improving watershed health, particularly those that provide multiple benefits.
- Strategy 5.3: Provide incentives for watershed restoration projects resulting in upper watershed health, water quality improvement and water source conservation efforts.
- Strategy 5.4: Engage in cooperative efforts with agencies and other partners aimed at educating the public about, planning for, and monitoring the effects of climate change on the Sierra Nevada Region, as well as the impact that actions taken within the Sierra Nevada have on mitigation of climate change throughout the State. For example, investigate technology and program options for carbon sequestration.
- Strategy 5.5: Work with local governments, air quality organizations, and other stakeholders to encourage efforts to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire through increased biomass energy production, thereby reducing open burning and associated negative impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Program Goal 6: Regional Economy

Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy's program.

The Sierra Nevada economy is rooted in its natural environment by tourism, recreation, sustainable resource management, the production of agricultural products and the extraction of valuable minerals and building materials.

Many Sierra Nevada communities face ongoing economic challenges. At the same time, the changing local economies described earlier in this document present opportunities for greater diversification. Many communities are in need of assistance in developing efforts to attract diverse, sustainable economic activity. California as a whole will benefit from

greater economic vitality within the Sierra.

In carrying out its programs, the SNC will support developing the needed information technology and other communications infrastructure that will help attract economic activity, particularly activity that reinvests in the region.

Population and economic growth constitute a dilemma for various parts of the region. Some seek and benefit from expansion while others prefer less development. SNC will continue to take these differences into consideration in project planning.

The SNC will continue to carry out its operations with an emphasis on providing economic benefits for Sierra communities. This includes being a consumer in the local economy by purchasing goods and services locally, conducting meetings and events in the region and assisting local businesses in gaining more State business opportunities. SNC will also continue to invest in program areas in ways that enhance the economy of the Sierra.

The Conservancy will also play a role in fostering collaboration and cooperation among producers of regional goods and services to improve markets.

Strategies to support Program Goal 6

- Strategy 6.1: To the maximum extent feasible, focus the SNC's expenditures and conduct activities within the region, utilizing community businesses.
- Strategy 6.2: When investing in the SNC's information technology system and other infrastructure, factor in approaches to increase value to the region.
- Strategy 6.3: Identify resources and assistance that will benefit communities in efforts to improve their economic well-being.
- Strategy 6.4: Assist in growing and diversifying local economies that are compatible with the area's natural resources, through innovative investments and economic development that are regionally distinctive.

Program Goal 7: Public Lands

Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

Over 60 percent of the Sierra Nevada Region is owned by the public, with the federal government being the single largest land manager. These lands provide substantial recreational opportunities for Sierra residents and visitors and simultaneously provide for the protection of significant natural resources. The use of

public lands for recreation and tourism provides substantial economic benefits for many communities. Just as significantly, those spending time on them, receive hours of enjoyment and fond memories.

However, with public use come management challenges relating to law

enforcement, resource protection and development and maintenance of facilities. The SNC will continue to work collaboratively with land management agencies and others to address these challenges and to increase the quality and diversity of use and enjoyment of public lands.

Strategies to Support Program Goal 7

- Strategy 7.1: Support community efforts to identify specific opportunities for sustainable public use and enjoyment of public lands. This includes conservation and restoration projects that result in public use.
- Strategy 7.2: Develop and support, in consultation with State and federal land managers, sustainable projects that meet this objective, consistent with the land management agencies' objectives and responsibilities.

NEXT STEPS

This Strategic Plan will be comprehensively reviewed within five years by the Board, although adjustments to the plan will continue to occur prior to that if warranted because of new information or changing conditions. The Board will also review progress on implementing the plan and the annual action plan to determine appropriate program adjustments. All changes to the plan will be made through an open, public process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The SNC is greatly appreciative of the many individuals, organizations, and governmental agencies that played a role in the development of this plan. The input, support, and public involvement was invaluable.

Board members John Brissenden and B.J. Kirwan who served as members of the Boards sub committee, spent numerous hours attending workshops and providing guidance and support in development of this plan.

The services of Lisa Buetler and her team at the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University Sacramento, Sherry Bartolucci of Synergistica Consulting (compliments of the Resources Legacy Foundation Fund) and a team of volunteer facilitators were likewise essential to the creation of a strong plan through a no bust public process. Finally, the work of the SNC staff and the Board have created a Strategic Plan that will ably guide the organization for the next five years.

GLOSSARY

For the purposes of this plan, the following terms have the following meanings:

Adaptive management: design and implement programs in a highly flexible manner, and revise management strategies depending on information gained from continuous monitoring to achieve desired outcomes.

Biofuel: gas or liquid fuel made from plant material (biomass). Includes wood, wood waste, wood liquors, peat, railroad ties, wood sludge, spent sulfite liquors, agricultural waste, straw, tires, fish oils, tall oil, sludge waste, waste alcohol, municipal solid waste, landfill gases, other waste, and ethanol blended into motor gasoline.

Board: governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Capacity Building: increasing the ability of a community, local government, or organization, to design, develop and carry out programs or projects.

Carbon sequestration: refers to the provision of long-term storage of carbon in the terrestrial biosphere, underground, or the oceans so that the buildup of carbon dioxide (the principal greenhouse gas) concentration in the atmosphere will reduce or slow. In some cases, this is accomplished by maintaining or enhancing natural processes; in other cases, novel techniques are developed to dispose of carbon.

Conservancy: Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Ecosystem: abbreviation of the term, ecological system; a collection of plants, animals and other living organisms, living together with their environment (including land, water and air) function as a loose unit, a dynamic and complex whole, interacting as an ecological unit.

Fee interest, fee title, fee estate, or fee simple: outright title to, and dominion over, a parcel of land.

Fund: the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Fund, a special fund within the State Treasury for the exclusive use of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Interested Parties: all parties engaged in, interested in, affected by, and/or potential parties to activities of the Conservancy and region including, tribal people, governments, people of all regions, states and nations, private land owners, businesses, watershed councils, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, social and cultural organizations, advocacy groups, fire safe councils, land holding bodies, private associations, educational institutions and others.

Less-than-fee interest in land: an interest in land -- such as an easement, right-of-way, or leasehold -- which is less than the fee title, transferred by the owner of the fee title (or a predecessor) to another party (e.g., an individual, corporation, public entity, etc.).

Living Resources: biological resources, including plants, aquatic life, micro-organisms, birds, reptiles, animals and humans.

Local government: a city, county, district (including fire, water, recreation, park, sanitation, waste disposal and resource conservation districts), or joint powers authority.

Non-profit organization (Non Governmental Organization): "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 as set forth in this division.

Region or Sierra Nevada Region: 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, which is more specifically described in Public Resources Code section 33302(f), and excluding both of the following: (1) The Lake Tahoe Region, as described in Section 66905.5 of the Government Code (2) The San Joaquin River Parkway, as described in Public Resources Code section 32510. The region includes the mountains and foothills of the Sierra Nevada range, and certain neighboring areas including the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, the Modoc Plateau and a part of the southern Cascade region including the Pit River watershed.

Riparian: areas adjacent to rivers and streams. Usually referred to when discussing animals and plants that requires this type of environment to survive.

Shoulder Season: refers to seasons on either side of high visitation seasons in communities with a strong tourism economy.

Subregions: the six Subregions of the Sierra Nevada Region, described as follows:

- (1) The North Sierra Subregion, comprising the Counties of Lassen, Modoc, and Shasta.
- (2) The North Central Sierra Subregion, comprising the Counties of Butte, Plumas, Sierra, and Tehama.
- (3) The Central Sierra Subregion, comprising the Counties of El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, and Yuba.
- (4) The South Central Sierra Subregion, comprising the Counties of Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne.
- (5) The East Sierra Subregion, comprising the Counties of Alpine, Inyo, and Mono.
- (6) The South Sierra Subregion, comprising the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Madera, and Tulare.

Sustainable: an activity that can be repeated over a long period of time without causing damage to the environment or the community.

Sustainable Development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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 52829 to 52835, inclusive, of Number 250 of Volume 53 (December 29, 1988) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time.

Watershed: an area of land that is drained by a single stream or river. Smaller stream-based watersheds nest within larger river-based watersheds.

Wildland-Urban Interface: where houses and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland vegetation and wildfire poses a significant risk to human lives and structures.

Working landscapes: lands producing goods and commodities from the natural environment (most commonly farms, ranches and forests). For many communities, these lands are an important part of the local economy, culture and social fabric.

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Methodology Statement – Internal Planning Process

Appendix B: Summary of Agency Duties and Authorities

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Appendix D: Summary of 2006 Community Meetings

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Appendix A: Methodology Statement – Internal Planning Process

As a new organization the Conservancy was fortunate to receive information from a variety of government agencies, nonprofit organizations and businesses. Many of the materials provided were incorporated in part or in whole in the Organizational Assessment and to prepare the program and goal statements. Where direct quotes were used we attempted to provide the source document and also wish to acknowledge the many approaches and concepts graciously provided for this review by others.

The general public provided ideas for use in developing a plan during testimony at Conservancy Board meetings, with written submissions, and during public workshops conducted in the region in 2005. This document incorporates information gathered from those meetings and submissions and additional input generated at public meetings held in the region during April and May 2006, written submissions on the April and June 2006 drafts, and direction from the Board provided at the June 1, 2006, meeting. It also includes additional input provided by the Board and the public during the revision process which occurred between December 2008 and March 2009.

Appendix B: Summary of Agency Duties and Authorities

Overview

The Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act authorizes the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to “carry out projects and activities to further the purposes of this [Act] throughout the [Sierra Nevada] Region.” The Act directs the Conservancy to “make every effort to ensure that, over time, Conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably among each of the various Subregions and among the stated goal areas.” (Section 33341).¹⁰

The Act envisions the Conservancy will conduct its program “in cooperation with local governments, private business, nonprofit organizations, and the public” (Section 33301(d)).

Under the Act, the Conservancy has been given various powers and authority in order that it may carry out programs. Some key ones are:

- (1) Grants or loans to eligible entities (people, incorporated business and organizations, etc.);
- (2) Conservancy acquisition of an interest in land from a willing seller;
- (3) Restoration, enhancement, or improvement of land;
- (4) Transfer of an interest in land, e.g., for long-term management; and
- (5) Funding and facilitating collaborative planning efforts which involve interested entities and groups within the region.

In addition, the Conservancy is authorized:

- to provide technical assistance to eligible entities to support program and project development and implementation; and
- to conduct research and monitoring in connection with the development and implementation of the Conservancy’s program.

The Act also contains specific powers and authority relating to Conservancy income and revenue.

The Conservancy’s powers and authority are set forth in Division 23.3 of the California Public Resources Code, and are discussed in more detail below.

Summary by topic

Grants and Loans (Sections 33343-33344)

The Conservancy may make grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations, in order to carry out the purposes of the Act. Conservancy grants or loans may be awarded for such purposes as:

- Developing projects and programs which are designed to further the purposes of the Act;

¹⁰ All section references are to the California Public Resources Code.

- Acquiring interests in real property, including both fee interests (absolute title) and less-than-fee-interests (e.g., conservation easements);
- Planning and designing the restoration, enhancement, or improvement of land;
- Carrying out the restoration, enhancement, or improvement of land;
- Conducting collaborative planning efforts.

Funds may be distributed only after the intended recipient enters into an agreement with the Conservancy. The Conservancy may require repayment of grant or loan funds and outlined conditions as appropriate. After approving a grant, the Conservancy may assist the grantee in carrying out the purposes of the grant.

Grants for acquisition of real property, and applications for such grants, are subject to various conditions. An entity that receives a grant or loan for acquisition of real property must provide for management of the acquired property.

Acquisition and Management of Interests in Land (Sections 33347 and 33349(a))

The Conservancy is authorized to acquire – but only from willing sellers or transferors – an interest in land, in order to carry out the purposes of the Act. However, the Conservancy may not purchase a fee interest (absolute title) in land, and it may not exercise the power of eminent domain (condemnation). If the Conservancy plans to buy an interest in a lot or parcel of land and it is appraised at more than a set amount (currently \$250,000), the acquisition must be reviewed by the State Public Works Board.

The Conservancy must “take whatever actions are reasonably necessary and incidental to the management of lands or interests in lands under its ownership or control.” For that reason the Conservancy is allowed to make management agreements for the lands with public agencies as well as private parties.

Restoration, Enhancement, or Improvement of Land (Section 33349(b))

The Conservancy may “improve, restore, or enhance lands for the purpose of protecting the natural environment, improving public enjoyment of or public access to public lands, or to otherwise meet the objectives of this [Act],” and to “carry out the planning and design of those improvements or other measures.”

Transfer of Interests in Land (Section 33348)

The Conservancy may “lease, rent, sell, exchange, or otherwise transfer” interests in real property including vested rights which are severable from the property (sometimes known as “transferable development rights”).

Funding / Facilitating Collaborative Planning Efforts (Section 33346(a))

The Conservancy may provide funds to facilitate collaborative planning efforts within the region.

Other Activities (Sections 33346(b) and 33351)

The Conservancy “may provide and make available technical information, expertise, and other non-financial assistance to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations as it relates to its mission.

The Conservancy may also expend funds to conduct research and monitoring, in connection with the development and implementation of its program.

Consultation and Coordination (Section 33342)

The Conservancy shall cooperate and consult with the city or county, as the case may be, where a grant is proposed or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired, and, as necessary and appropriate with a public water system. The Conservancy must also coordinate its efforts, as necessary or appropriate, with those of other State agencies,

Income and Revenue (Sections 33346.5 and 33352-33355)

The Conservancy may receive gifts, donations, bequests, subventions, grants, rents, royalties, and other assistance and funds from public and private sources. Assistance received in this manner may include interests in real and personal property. SNC may also fix and collect fees for direct services which it renders, provided that the service is rendered at the request of the individual or entity receiving the service. The Conservancy may not charge more than the reasonable cost of providing the service.

All income from any source (including the proceeds from the transfer of any interest in land) is to be deposited in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Fund, a separate fund within the State Treasury. The Legislature must authorize all expenditures from the Fund. The Fund can only be used for the purposes of the Act.

Specifically Prohibited Activities (Sections 33347(c) and 33356)

The Conservancy may not exercise any of the following powers:

- Powers of a city or county to regulate land use.
- Any other powers to regulate activities on land (except when acting as the owner of an interest in the land, or under an agreement or other grant of authority from the owner of an interest in the land).
- Any powers over water rights held by others.
- Power of eminent domain (condemnation).

Appendix C: Project Suggestions from 2005 Community Meetings.

Community Well-being

- Funding for easements
- Housing affordability/availability
- Need for community centers
- Access to Information Technology/Communications (high-speed internet, teleconferencing, etc.)
- Access to health care, improve health care
- Public transportation
- Preservation of cultural resources
- Preservation of historical buildings and settings
- Resource related activities/jobs creation (e.g.: biomass)
- Retaining community/historic character
- Encouraging of the arts in the region
- Assist local governments in land use planning efforts
- Assist communities with infrastructure needs (e.g.: water and wastewater systems)
- SNC to “buy local”
- Tribal rights and tourism
- Economic development for youth
- Promote small businesses
- Planning for new airport
- Preserve small communities

Tourism/Recreation

- Agricultural tourism
- Assist businesses and community in promotion of tourism
- Working landscapes tourism
- Historical tourism
- Ecotourism
- ADA compliant facilities
- Hunting and fishing opportunities
- Interpretative scenic byways
- Internet access to tourism/recreation opportunities in region
- Conversion of older infrastructure for recreational opportunities
- Assist State and federal agencies in increasing public access
- Develop visitor centers
- Balance recreational opportunities and resource development
- Assist with railroad trails, bike and walking trails

Resource Protection

- Assist in land use planning efforts of local governments
- Promote forest health
- Sustainable forestry
- Fuels reduction/fire safe activities
- Technical assistance and scientific data
- Land swap opportunities
- Environmental education
- Critical acquisitions
- Use of conservation easements for habitat protection and open space preservation
- Funding for public lands maintenance and improvements
- Water quality projects - build and clean community water systems
- Watershed management and river restoration
- Air quality projects

Education, Communication, Data Acquisition and Dissemination

- ID Native American archeological and cultural resources
- Compile project examples from other conservancies
- Provide technical assistance for grant writing, etc.
- Provide a neutral forum for policy discussions
- Facilitate necessary research and monitoring

Appendix D: Summaries from 2006 Strategic Plan Community Meetings

Introduction

In early 2006, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiated a strategic planning process. The preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan incorporated elements required by statute, as well as input received through numerous letters, reports and Community Forums conducted in 2005. Following the release of the preliminary draft plan, region-wide workshops were conducted to collect input and comments on refining specific elements of the Strategic Plan. These were held in each of the Conservancy six sub-regions during April and May of 2006. Participants were asked to comment on:

- Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles
- Organizational Goals
- Program Areas

An overview of the meeting highlights from each session follows. The summaries provide an overview of issues discussed at the session. The section captioned “new insights” within each section summarizes concepts and issues expanded or articulated differently than in other subregional meetings.

| |
|--|
| Jackson Workshop – April 25, 2006 |
|--|

Vision, Mission, Principles

- **Vision**
 - a. Add “natural resources” (“living resources” is not clear)
 - b. Make more active, less passive; more motivating, less abstract
 - c. Add “economic vitality” to last sentence
- **Mission**
 - a. Create/maintain balance between multiple (potentially competing) objectives
 - b. Identify who “other interested parties” are – State and federal agencies, non-government organizations, and the public (throughout entire Strategic Plan)
 - c. Make more active, the mission should include “protect”
- **Principles**
 - a. Be clear about SNC’s role and how it relates to local organizations and communities (regulatory v. advisory; does it own or manage land?)
 - b. Working with Others – add NGOs, private interests, and the public
 - c. Grassroots/local approach emphasized

II. Organizational Goals

- **Effective Organization**
 - a. Coordination across regions, agencies, and organizations is important
 - b. Local liaison/presence/contact is needed
 - c. Empower and work with local efforts
- **Use and Share Reliable Information**
 - a. SNC as clearinghouse
 - b. Set standards for data reliability; standardize data collection
- **Increase Knowledge and Capacity**
 - a. Use and develop models based on actual data to make projections
- **Balanced Portfolio**

- a. Change this title to something about Measuring and Monitoring
- b. Emphasize public and private organizations
- c. Make sure that indicators are “measurable and appropriate”

- **Funding**

- a. Grant programs and applications should be user-friendly, easy to understand

III. Program Goals

- **Priorities**

- a. Some advocated economic goals (new business and new dam construction), others advocated environmental goals (resource protection, rural quality of life)
- b. Working landscapes, tourism and recreation, and the regional economy are all connected to protection of natural resources.

- **Program Actions and Approach**

- a. Focus on community priorities and specific opportunities
- b. Provide greater detail about programs – make goals stronger
- c. Include public education and awareness as a goal (out of classroom educational opportunities for children, more interpretive spots for adults, convey local history to visitors)
- d. Tourism and recreation goals need to address more than increasing visitor use (assess recreation assets, needs, and current level of use; increase the quality and variety of experiences; better manage current recreational use and public lands)
- e. Link regional economy and tourism opportunities (agri-tourism and environmental tourism; commercially-based recreation access projects)

New Insights

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- a. Vision: energize vision with a kick-off demonstration project
- b. Mission: local government includes school districts

II. Organizational Goals

- a. Organization: Some goals are long-term, some already completed – create a timeline
- b. Data: Use and develop models based on actual data to make projections
- c. Data: Indicators of well-being index should track jobs, housing balance, oak woodlands conversion
- d. Data: Need more information about groundwater in foothills

III. Program Goals

- a. Discuss quality of life in local communities – health and fitness (including addressing childhood obesity), safe places for recreation, and work/home settings
- b. Link land use planning to working landscapes and natural hazard areas

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Exeter Workshop – April 26, 2006 |
|----------------------------------|

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- **Vision**

- a. Add “natural resources”, emphasize wildlife and wildlife habitat
- b. Add “working waterscape”
- c. Stronger language on protection and importance of resources for the State

- **Mission**

- a. “Other interested parties” seems to ignore the importance of NGOs, community organizations, and private interests in resource conservation – call out
- b. Facilitate collaboration and improved relations among Sierra Nevada stakeholders for seamless management and regional approaches

■ **Principles**

- d. Create effective network to collect and share information
- e. Emphasize involvement of local groups acting in concert with government. agencies
- f. Specify how public participates in process, seek out input and information
- g. Education is important – interpretive signs and outreach to public and youth

II. Organizational Goals

■ **Effective Organization**

- a. Need to have a local presence, be innovative – use existing organizations to augment SNC resources; need reliable 2-way communication
- b. Significant community involvement in setting priorities, create a very transparent culture built on equity and collaboration; continually seek public input
- c. Provide definition of terms used in the Strategic Plan

■ **Use and Share Reliable Information**

- a. Improve uniformity of data collection, create effective network to collect and share information (consolidate data within a single clearinghouse)
- b. Define terms and what is included in various assessments; define “better” decision-making – what decisions?

■ **Increase Knowledge and Capacity**

- a. Create/maintain a database to catalogue all trails, improvements, unique locations to track progress/useful application of program

■ **Balanced Portfolio**

- a. Clarify purpose and content of index, include a full spectrum of indicators

■ **Funding**

- a. Grant guidelines should be simple, transparent, and equitable

III. Program Goals

■ **Priorities**

- a. Air and water are most important

■ **Program Actions and Approach**

- a. Work with local groups, help organize and facilitate better relations of agencies and community groups; local input into federal plans
- b. Education on the value and conservation of resources and public land; discuss threats – loss of working lands, habitat; use interactive websites; educate visitors
- c. Goals 2.4, 2.5 – Include communities and non-profit organizations (NGOs, local conservation groups, community economic development councils, etc.)
- d. Goal 4 – Funds should go more to on-the-ground efforts (treat landscape and vegetation to reduce fire hazards) and less to research
- e. Protect working landscapes and unique business community that exists in region; natural resources are basis for regional economy

New Insights

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- a. Make vision and mission shorter, more personal; should be easy to memorize and quote
- b. Include soil, along with air and water in the vision
- c. Collaboration across management boundaries to create “green infrastructure”
- d. Look at other conservancies (e.g. Appalachian Conservancy) for models

- e. Consider aesthetic quality along with economic and environmental goals
- f. Remove “sound” from sound science

II. Organizational Goals

- a. Include education and preservation regarding cultural resources
- b. Goal 1.1 – Would be good to use “green” building accessible by public transportation, biking, foot

III. Program Goals

- a. Program Priorities – Recognize unique differences and values of valley, foothills, and mountains for all sub-regions
- b. Anticipate and respond to climate change and changing conditions
- c. Add goal directed at maintaining a healthy ecosystem and wildlife habitat; prevent introduction of invasive, non-native species
- d. Add program goal to preserve “Working Waterscapes”
- e. Include land use planning for Goals 3 and 4.2
- f. Assist communities with visioning; promote clean transportation, reduction of sprawl, and other methods for cleaner air and healthier, more walkable development
- g. Goal 1 – Reach out to non-traditional groups; emphasize diversity of users

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| Nevada City Workshop – May 10, 2006 |
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I. Vision, Mission, Principles

■ Vision

- a. Add “natural resources” (“living resources” is not clear)
- b. Make more active, less passive; more motivating, less abstract
- c. Add “economic vitality” to last sentence

■ Mission

- a. Create/maintain balance between multiple (potentially competing) objectives
- b. Identify who “other interested parties” are – State and federal agencies, non-government organizations, and the public (throughout entire Strategic Plan)
- c. Make more active, the mission should include “protect”

■ Principles

- a. Be clear about SNC’s role and how it relates to local organizations and communities (regulatory v. advisory; does it own or manage land?)
- b. Working with Others – add NGOs, private interests, and the public
- c. Grassroots/local approach emphasized

II. Organizational Goals

■ Effective Organization

- a. Coordination across regions, agencies, and organizations is important
- b. Local liaison/presence/contact is needed
- c. Empower and work with local efforts

■ Use and Share Reliable Information

- a. SNC as clearinghouse
- b. Set standards for data reliability; standardize data collection

■ Increase Knowledge and Capacity

- a. Use and develop models based on actual data to make projections

■ Balanced Portfolio

- a. Change this title to something about Measuring and Monitoring
- b. Emphasize public and private organizations

- c. Make sure that indicators are “measurable and appropriate”

- **Funding**

- a. Grant programs and applications should be user-friendly, easy to understand

III. Program Goals

- **Priorities**

- a. Some advocated economic goals (new business and new dam construction), others advocated environmental goals (resource protection, rural quality of life)
- b. Working landscapes, tourism and recreation, and the regional economy are all connected to protection of natural resources.

- **Program Actions and Approach**

- a. Focus on community priorities and specific opportunities
- b. Provide greater detail about programs – make goals stronger
- c. Include public education and awareness as a goal (out of classroom educational opportunities for children, more interpretive spots for adults, convey local history to visitors)
- d. Tourism and recreation goals need to address more than increasing visitor use (assess recreation assets, needs, and current level of use; increase the quality and variety of experiences; better manage current recreational use and public lands)
- e. Link regional economy and tourism opportunities (agri-tourism and environmental tourism; commercially-based recreation access projects)

New Insights

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- a. Vision: energize vision with a kick-off demonstration project
- b. Mission: local government includes school districts

II. Organizational Goals

- a. Organization: Some goals are long-term, some already completed – create a timeline
- b. Data: Use and develop models based on actual data to make projections
- c. Data: Indicators of well-being index should track jobs, housing balance, oak woodlands conversion
- d. Data: Need more information about groundwater in foothills

III. Program Goals

- a. Discuss quality of life in local communities – health and fitness (including addressing childhood obesity), safe places for recreation, and work/home settings
- b. Link land use planning to working landscapes and natural hazard areas

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| Paradise Workshop – May 11, 2006 |
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I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- **Vision**

- a. Add “natural resources” (“living resources” is not clear)
- b. “thriving places” should say “thriving environment”
- c. include employment opportunities

- **Principles**

- a. Working with Others – add NGOs, private interests, and the public
- b. Change “sound science” to “peer reviewed science,” science should be credible

II. Organizational Goals

■ Effective Organization

- a. Actively interact and participate with local agencies and programs (county councils, fire safe programs, NEPA/CEQA processes)
- b. Hire exceptionally competent staff

■ Use and Share Reliable Information

- a. Proactive outreach and communication; don't rely on web and mail

■ Increase Knowledge and Capacity

- a. Reach out to existing organizations for information gathering and assistance

■ Balanced Portfolio

- a. Develop benchmarks; third-party monitoring

■ Funding

- a. Continuously expand reliable funding sources
- b. Clearing house for grants; streamline the funding and application process

III. Program Goals

- a. Work with existing organizations and local landowners
- b. Goal 1: Tourism should be sustainable, low impact (non-degrading)
- c. Goal 2 and 5: Include watershed education; develop a management policy for water
- d. Goal 6: include private sector encouragement (marketing, tax incentives, startup); need economic reason for project success; need infrastructure to buy local

New Insights

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- a. Vision: energize vision with a kick-off demonstration project
- b. Vision: "sustainable natural processes" instead of "well managed public lands"
- c. Mission: local government includes school districts
- d. Principles: Some regions have little political clout; often impacted by the choices of others; have been short-changed on past bonds – help balance

II. Organizational Goals

- a. Organization: need balance of input from private industry and business – reach out to overlooked organizations (e.g., Christmas tree association)
- b. Data: assessments will be defined by resources and problems of interest – define boundaries for regional assessments
- c. Data: effective and cost-efficient technical review of proposals and information is critical – include citizens and staff on technical review board

III. Program Goals

- a. Develop short-term and long-term strategy for program goals
- b. Assist agencies in implementation of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act
- c. Coordinate public and private fire plans with county fire plans

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| <h2>Mammoth Workshop – May 23, 2006</h2> |
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I. Vision, Mission, Principles

■ Vision

- a. Replace generic language by describing what makes the Sierra different, unique
- b. Use stronger verbs throughout, refer to sustainable ecosystems throughout
- c. Add "economic vitality" to last sentence

■ Mission

- a. Include references to cultural resources
- b. Identify “other interested parties,” add NGOs throughout
- c. Focus on measurable and tangible results

- **Principles**

- a. Funding system should create collaboration and not a competitive system
- b. Keep it simple

II. Organizational Goals

- **Effective Organization**

- a. Need project goals within first 2 years, not just staff and office
- b. Determine staffing and volunteer needs

- **Use and Share Reliable Information**

- a. Terms need definition throughout, be more specific

- **Increase Knowledge and Capacity**

- a. Education component should include outreach to all ages
- b. Education and advocacy to areas outside of the Sierra, where votes and money are
- c. Add economic, cultural, historical to list in index

- **Balanced Portfolio**

- a. Define “fair” distribution
- b. Provide a strong element of accountability back to communities

- **Funding**

- a. Get information out to public
- b. Collaborate to advocate for funding for the Sierras

III. Program Goals

- **Priorities**

- a. Tourism, protection of resources, and public lands are interrelated

- **Program Actions and Approach**

- a. Integrating all program areas is what is going to work – generate creative synergy
- b. Tourism infrastructure needs to meet existing (then future) demand
- c. Focus tourism on place-based activities that are true to environment, history and culture; promote education and visitor stewardship
- d. Preserve wetlands and water resources
- e. Enhance access, as well as use, to public lands
- f. Streamline permitting for project and enhance planning
- g. Shift from extraction-based to sustainable economy; nurture local entrepreneurs

New Insights

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- a. Healthy communities tie to the concepts of sustainability and diversity
- b. Communities “prepared for” natural disasters, instead of “protected from”
- c. Include workforce housing
- d. Collaboration and cooperation with “and among”
- e. Residents take leadership, accountability and participate

II. Organizational Goals

- a. Outreach: Need outreach to different cultures and communities
- b. Build creative tension to break down “silo” (separate interest) thinking
- c. Decisions and information in a timely manner; short deadlines are difficult in rural areas

III. Program Goals

- a. Do No Harm – no implementation of one program to detriment of others
- b. Global warming should be woven throughout program goals
- c. Restoration projects should have stand alone priorities (e.g.. invasive weeds)

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| Alturas Workshop – May 25, 2006 |
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I. Vision, Mission, Principles

■ Vision

- a. Integrate environment and economy – create balance between protection, enhancement and use of resources
- b. Add: healthy and diverse landscapes that are sustained over time; protected wildlife habitat and ecosystems; recreational diversity
- c. Need better words than “thriving place” and “living resources”

■ Mission

- a. After local government, add “Tribes” and “other resource agencies”
- b. Say “support AND COMMUNICATE efforts...”

■ Principles

- a. Clarify that “local governments” includes governments besides counties
- b. Include NGOs
- c. Stress the statewide value of the Conservancy

II. Organizational Goals

■ Effective Organization

- a. Finalize staffing and hiring to implement other organizational goals
- b. Maintain strong local presence in communities
- c. Need effective organization; improve public outreach through multiple media

■ Use and Share Reliable Information

- a. Utilize existing information already developed, so that funds go to projects
- b. Improve existing information on state of Sierra water

■ Increase Knowledge and Capacity

- a. Instead of new assessment, look at SNEP and how it may assist SNC

■ Balanced Portfolio

- a. Need guidelines for equitable distribution of funds
- b. Be inclusive in developing index – include a broad range of associations, groups, and others

■ Funding

- a. Accountability – maintain open financial records
- b. Create database of grant sources to match with projects
- c. Establish a permanent funding source (legislative guarantee)

III. Program Goals

■ Priorities

- a. Priorities for this area emphasize working landscapes, preparedness for natural disasters, and regional economies
- b. Priorities for the overall region are smart growth, air quality and water supply

■ Program Actions and Approach

- a. More than protection from natural disasters – preparedness; include county government and local landowners; use local wildfire protection plans

- b. An economic foundation is needed to support tourism; work to attract clean, outside industries
- c. Regional economy needs to address community infrastructure (education, health care); transportation access for all, including elderly and handicapped
- d. Include public education and awareness as a goal (for public, kids, visitors) convey local history to visitors)
- e. Look at programs that would enhance storage and supply of water (e.g. dams) – water supply is a crucial issue
- f. Explore non-traditional economic opportunities from working landscapes, find an economic use for juniper (ethanol, furniture, etc.)
- g. Add “provide services in collaboration, dispute resolution, etc. so that work can get done on the ground to meet vision”

New Insights

I. Vision, Mission, Principles

- a. Include social aspects of communities (education, healthcare, transportation)
- b. For implementation, weigh the value of single-benefit projects so that they can be a program priority

II. Organizational Goals

- a. Need project and program monitoring:
 - Was environment enhanced?
 - Did tourism spending increase?
- b. Look at historical funding statewide over the last 10 years and distribute new funding to under-funded areas.

III. Program Goals

- a. Need different approach to wildfire management on east side of region (different ecosystem); wildfire results in ecosystem being replaced by different plant species
- b. Electronic bulletin board with notification of Sierra activities (festivals, Creek Days, etc.)

Appendix E: Actions That Have Been Completed or Incorporated into 2008-09 Action Plan

Introduction

Each year the SNC develops an Action Plan that describes the key actions the organization plans to take in that year to further its mission and goals. A number of the actions identified in the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board in 2006 were included in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 Action Plans and have been completed. Remaining specific actions included in the original plan are included in the 2008-09 Action Plan. The listing below includes all of these specific actions, which have been removed from the main body of the Strategic Plan, along with information regarding when the action was completed or will be completed.

Note that the original plan identified some actions that were specific and some actions that set forth more general strategies for how to move forward in meeting the SNC's goals. While the specific actions are being addressed as described above, the general strategies are ongoing and remain in the main body of the plan. These strategies will continue to provide valuable direction to the SNC as it determines the specific actions it should undertake each year.

Organizational Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Create an Effective Organization

- Establish the SNC interim headquarters in Auburn. (April 2006)
 - Determine location of a permanent headquarters location that will meet the SNC's needs and add economic value to the community. (June 2008)
 - Establish satellite office locations based on available staff and resources and operational needs. (December 2007)
-

Strategic Goal 3: Increase Knowledge and Capacity

- Develop an education and communications plan to support increased understanding of the importance of the Sierra Nevada within the region and throughout the state. (December 2007)
-

Strategic Goal 4: Implement a Balanced Program

- Develop, in collaboration with other organizations, environmental, economic and social well-being indices to monitor the progress in the various program and geographic areas. The indices will identify the key indicators to be monitored and measured and clearly identify performance standards. (Part of 2008-09 Action Plan)
 - Develop a program activity tracking system to ensure equitable distribution, over time, of resources across the region, subregions and programs. (Part of 2008-09 Action Plan)
-

- Create a subregional and region wide priority setting process, consistent with the statute, to guide staff and the Board in decision making. (July 2007)
-

Programmatic Goals

Program Goal 1: Provide Increased Opportunities for Tourism and Recreation

- Develop and make available a comprehensive guide to recreational and tourism opportunities in the Sierra, in cooperation with other organizations within the region. (Part of 2008-09 Action Plan)
 - Develop and make available a list of resources, consultants, organizations, etc. with skills, expertise and knowledge to assist communities with projects consistent with this goal. (December 2008)
-

Program Goal 5: Protect and improve water and air quality

- Develop and make available a list of funding sources, resources, consultants, and organizations with skills, expertise and knowledge to assist communities with projects consistent with this goal. (December 2008)
-

Background

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, which included an allocation of \$54 million in bond funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). This funding is slated for distribution to eligible government agencies, non-profit organizations and tribal entities for projects that meet Proposition 84's goals of protecting or restoring rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources.

The SNC Proposition 84 Grant program offers grants in two categories: **Competitive**, for larger-dollar-amount projects involving acquisition or site improvement/restoration work, and **Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs)**, for smaller-dollar-amount projects of various types, including acquisition, restoration, pre-project due diligence, planning, research, outreach/education, etc.

The SOG category is further broken down into two types:

- **SOG 1** – for smaller acquisition or site improvement/restoration projects of between \$5,000 and \$250,000, which must be authorized by the SNC Board; and
- **SOG 2** – for all other projects (anything other than acquisition or site improvement/restoration) up to \$500,000 maximum, which are authorized by the SNC Board in most cases. In certain circumstances, where an applicant can show that time is of the essence, the Executive Officer is authorized to approve applications of up to \$50,000 each, for a total of no more than \$150,000 between Board meetings.

FY 07-08 Grant Program

In the SNC's first year of grantmaking (FY 2007-08), the Governor and Legislature allocated \$17 million of the \$54 million for distribution by the SNC. The SNC Board authorized 128 Strategic Opportunity Grants for a total of \$8,620,233. In addition, the Executive Officer authorized six grants for a total of \$188,495 over the course of the year.

FY 08-09 Grant Program

In September 2008, the Governor and Legislature approved a second allocation of \$17 million for FY 2008-09. The SNC Board in June set the grant fund allocations at \$7 million for the Competitive Grants Program and \$7 million for Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs). Of the \$7 million in SOG funding, \$1 million was allocated to each of the six SNC Subregions and \$1 million was set for projects of Region-wide significance. The remaining \$3 million was held for future allocation by the Board.

The Board also made a number of revisions to the Grants Guidelines for FY 08-09, including:

- Adding a stated preference for on-the-ground projects (e.g. SOG 1s and Competitive grants for site improvement/restoration or acquisition) to ensure that SNC-funded projects result in measurable benefits, to the extent possible, while still recognizing the value of planning, outreach and other project types represented in the SOG 2 category;
- increasing the upper dollar limit for SOG 1 applications from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in the hopes of generating more SOG 1 applications; and
- direction to authorize roughly half of each Subregional allocation in the first round of SOGs so that funds would remain to take advantage of opportunities in the second round.

The Competitive Grant program has one deadline – this year it was September 15, 2008. We received 30 applications with requests totaling almost \$22 million by the deadline. Of those, 27 applications totaling \$20.8 million were deemed to be eligible for further evaluation. The SNC staff is in the process of evaluating the Competitive applications received and will come back to the Board with recommendations at the March 2009 Board meeting.

The Strategic Opportunity Grant program has two deadlines – the first was September 2, 2008, and the second is February 27, 2009. SNC staff is presenting its recommendations for the first round of SOGs at this Board meeting; and will come back with another set of recommendations for the second round at the June 2009 Board meeting.

Current Status

The SNC opened its 2008-09 application process in early July. We received a total of 120 SOG applications by the September 2nd deadline, requesting a total of \$15,588,607 in project support.

Unfortunately, despite the stated preference for on-the-ground projects and the efforts to increase the number of SOG 1 applications by allowing for larger projects up to \$250,000, we didn't receive nearly as many SOG 1 applications as we did SOG 2s. The lack of SOG 1 applications in this first round has influenced the recommendations in certain Subregions, where staff is recommending substantially less than half of each of those Subregional pots in the hopes that we can generate more SOG 1 applications for the second round. This also led staff to give preference to SOG 2s requesting pre-project due diligence support, such as appraisal funding or support to complete

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which would potentially lead to a future on-the-ground project.

We also received fewer applications for on-the-ground fire and fuel reduction projects this round. We believe this was due, at least in part, to the fact that we were unable to establish a relationship with the statewide Fire Safe Council to serve as a pass-through block grantor to local Fire Safe Councils. As a result, we had to ask local Fire Safe Councils to apply to us individually within a compressed time period to meet the Round one deadline.

Staff is unsure at this point why we received so few SOG 1 applications, unless it had to do with the requirement to have all CEQA and appraisal work completed at the time of application. But Program staff will be working proactively with applicants to improve deferred applications and to generate new site improvement, restoration, fire/fuels and other on-the-ground applications for the next round.

As part of the application intake process, Program and Grants Administration staff reviewed all applications for completeness and applicant eligibility. Eight applications totaling \$843,192 were deemed to be ineligible or incomplete at this stage, leaving a total of 112 eligible and complete SOG applications requesting \$14,745,415 in funding from the SNC.

We provided counties, cities, and water agencies with summaries of the eligible projects proposed within their jurisdictions. The Subregional representatives on the SNC Board were also notified so they could communicate about proposed projects with local government representatives and/or water agencies, as well.

SNC worked with the Department of General Services' (DGS) Environmental Services Branch and the State Attorney General's office to review project proposals for compliance with CEQA requirements and real estate appraisal evaluations, where appropriate. These reviews resulted in one project being found ineligible for further consideration this round due to CEQA compliance issues.

For SOG 1 applications, which are typically more technically challenging, the SNC employed a five-member review panel to conduct an initial screening, which was followed by further staff evaluation and ranking. The panel consisted of State agency personnel and other specialists in the fields of land conservation and management, water quality and watershed health, and fire and fuels management.

For SOG 2 applications, SNC Program staff conducted the full evaluation using the criteria contained in the Guidelines (e.g. contribution to Proposition 84 goals, contribution SNC program goals, and demonstrated cooperation, community support and leveraging). In a few cases SOG 2 applications contained technical components,

as well. These applications were submitted to technical experts from Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Department of Fish & Game (DFG) for additional input and comment.

All applications were required to provide evidence of their ability to implement the project and meet environmental requirements. Through the course of the evaluation, staff interacted with applicants to gather additional information and resolve outstanding issues. Project proposals were reviewed with the Board's Subregional subcommittees in early November regarding Subregional priorities and any issues or concerns related to specific project recommendations.

Projects Recommended for Funding

The resulting list of 32 recommended projects totaling \$2,627,832 is shown in spreadsheet format in Exhibit A to this staff report. The attachment also includes individual project summaries showing deliverables, timeline and budget for the 32 projects being recommended for Board authorization at this meeting.

The projects being recommended to the Board were ranked "High," meaning they most strongly met the evaluation criteria described above, were judged able to be implemented on a timely basis, and met all environmental review and documentation requirements outlined in the SNC's Proposition 84 Grant Guidelines.

In some cases the recommended grant amount is less than the amount requested by the applicant. This is usually the result either of finding a proposed expenditure to be ineligible or identifying elements of a project that need refinement before being funded.

The 32 applications recommended for funding in this round of Strategic Opportunity Grants will contribute to the completion of seven site improvement/restoration projects to restore or protect 798 acres, three pre-project due diligence project to appraise 4,180 acres and one 976 acre acquisition project. Other applications will complete environmental review for future fire/fuels reduction and other projects, pre-project planning, monitoring and research, and natural resource education.

Together, the recommended projects leverage \$2,463,355 in additional funding and in-kind contributions being committed by applicants and/or other funding sources.

Table 1: Staff recommendations by Subregion

| Subregion | Recommended Projects | Total Recommended |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Region-wide | 2 | \$346,900 |
| East | 4 | \$265,446 |
| South | 4 | \$254,951 |
| South Central | 5 | \$345,100 |
| Central | 7 | \$572,636 |
| North | 5 | \$408,580 |
| North Central | 5 | \$434,219 |
| TOTAL | 32 | \$2,627,832 |

Regionwide: \$346,900

Two projects of Region-wide significance are being recommended for funding in this round to one non-profit organization and one water agency. Projects will include the implementation of the "Great Sierra River Clean-Up" and develop a model for Regional water reuse in the Sierra.

East Subregion: \$265,446

Four projects are being recommended for funding in the East Subregion to one non-profit organization, two federal agencies, and one local government agency. The projects will provide watershed education opportunities to 20 classrooms, complete environmental review for the restoration of 52 stream-miles of the East Carson River riparian area, complete environmental review for the Mammoth Lakes trail system master plan, and conduct monitoring on key watershed lands recently impacted by wildfire.

South Subregion: \$254,951

Four projects are being recommended for funding in the South Subregion to one land trust, one non-profit organization, and two federal agencies. Projects will construct fencing around a riparian corridor to support sustainable grazing, conduct environmental review in support of a sensitive species habitat restoration effort in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, develop a strategic plan to protect and restore an 18 acre wetland preserve in the Kern River Valley, and implement the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program in eastern Kern County.

South Central Subregion: \$345,100

Five projects are being recommended for funding in the South Central Subregion to four non-profit organizations and one utility district. Projects will conduct invasive species removal along the Wild and Scenic Merced River, develop plans and secure permits for the restoration of Phoenix Lake in Tuolumne County, provide outdoor education opportunities to 10,000 students in Amador, Calaveras

and Tuolumne Counties, implement 40 home yard audits in the Consumnes River watershed to educate landowners on best-management practices, and conduct pre-project due diligence on a 2,000 acre parcel of key watershed land in Mariposa County, in partnership with the landowner. In addition, one project for \$49,000 was authorized by the Executive Officer in this Subregion, as described in the Executive Officer Authorizations section below.

Central Subregion: \$572,636

Seven projects are being recommended for funding in the Central Subregion to five non-profit organizations, an irrigation district and a Resource Conservation and Development Council. The projects will construct a boardwalk over a sensitive wetland area near Jenkinson Lake to reduce user impacts, stabilization and construction of one mile of trail in the Deer Creek watershed to reduce sediment transport into the creek, complete designs for two creek restoration and protection projects in Bear Valley Meadow and Truckee, complete environmental compliance for a 631 acre fuel break project in Forbestown, pre-acquisition activities for a conservation easement on 330 acres of working landscape, and construction of interpretive improvements on the South Fork of the American River in Coloma.

North Subregion: \$408,580

Five projects are being recommended for funding in the North Subregion to two non-profit organizations and two Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), including one RCD that is being recommended for two separate projects. Projects will restore up to 6,500 feet of degraded streambanks and 35 acres of wetlands in the Pit River Watershed, provide for completion of pre-acquisition activities for 2,318 acres of working landscape and develop restoration plans for implementation along Lower Beaver Creek.

North Central Subregion: \$434,219

Five projects are being recommended for funding in the North Central Subregion to five non-profit organizations to complete acquisition of 976 acres of sensitive working lands and complete pre-acquisition activities on 627 acres near Greenville, complete pre-project coordination for fuel reduction activities on up to 472 acres of high-hazard forest in the Upper Feather River Watershed, and implement an experiential environmental education program involving K-12 grade students, educators, community members, and visitors to Plumas County focused on stewardship of the Upper Feather River Watershed.

Executive Officer Authorizations: \$49,000

The SNC processed four applications requesting Executive Officer approval since the beginning of the fiscal year. Consistent with the SNC Board Resolution 2007-001 and the Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines, a project in the South Central Subregion, shown

in Table 2, is one that was authorized by the Executive Officer based on the time-sensitive nature of the project. The other Executive Officer requests did not meet the urgency test and were considered as part of the regular Round 1 SOG evaluation process. Of those, one is being recommended for Board authorization as part of the East Subregion recommendations described above.

Table 2: Executive Officer Authorization

| Project Name | Project # | Grantee | Dollar Amount |
|--|------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Mariposa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Launch Project | SNC 080198 | Mariposa County RCD | \$49,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$49,000 |

Projects Not Recommended for Funding this Round

At the Board’s request, we’ve included a separate listing of eligible projects that were not recommended for funding in this first round in Exhibit B. Applications on this list are broken down into two ranking categories: *Medium* and *Low*, and are ordered within each rank by SNC application number for easy reference.

The applications listed under the **Medium** ranking generally met Proposition 84 objectives and contributed to the mission of SNC, but either didn’t rank as high on other criteria or are being held back for consideration in the second round because they didn’t address on-the-ground projects. Applications in the **Low** ranking generally did not exhibit as strong a tie to Proposition 84 or the SNC mission or didn’t compete as successfully on other fundamental evaluation criteria. SOG applications that were not recommended for funding in this first round remain active for the second round, with projects in the *Medium* category having the highest potential for possible funding depending on mix of new applications received.

A note about Region-wide projects: as a whole, Region-wide projects tend to be in the SOG 2 category based on the requirement to demonstrate Region-wide significance. It is hard for a site specific on-the-ground project to meet that requirement. For this reason, we anticipate that Region-wide projects will likely represent more of the planning, research, and tool development kinds of SOG 2 activities both now and in the future.

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

A total of 19 projects being recommended do not require California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation due to the nature of the activities being

recommended. These projects have been included in a memo analyzing their CEQA status.

Eleven projects being recommended require the Conservancy to complete a Notice of Exemption (NOE) and file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse. A NOE has been prepared for each of these projects and will be filed upon Board authorization.

The Nevada City Environs Trail and Restoration Project (SNC 080092), requires the Conservancy to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and file a Notice of Determination (NOD). The Hazel Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 080149), requires the Conservancy to adopt an Environmental Impact Report and file an NOD. In both of these cases the Conservancy is assuming the position of Responsible Agency in accordance with CEQA Guidelines.

These environmental documents are on file at the offices of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board, adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and file a Notice of Determination (NOD) for project SNC 080092, the Nevada City Environs Trail and Restoration Project; adopt an Environmental Impact Report and file an NOD for SNC 080149, the Hazel Creek Meadow Restoration Project; and authorize the Strategic Opportunity Grants listed in Agenda Item XIII, Exhibit A and direct staff to enter into all necessary agreements and file the appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse for all authorized projects.

Agenda Item XIII Exhibit A
 RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS
 December 4, 2008

| Subregion | Reference # | County | Project Title | Grantee Organization | Amount Recommended |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Region-wide | SNC 080082 | Region-wide | The Great Sierra River Clean Up | South Yuba River Citizens League | \$76,900 |
| | SNC 080207 | Region-wide | Regional Approach for Water Reuse | Amador Water Agency | \$270,000 |
| Region-Wide Sum | | | | | \$346,900 |
| East | SNC 080119 | Alpine | East Carson River Riparian Restoration Project | USFS - Humboldt-Toiyabe NF | \$35,000 |
| | SNC 080181 | Inyo | Inyo Complex Post-Fire Watershed Recovery | Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office | \$34,300 |
| | SNC 080185 | Mono | Parks and Recreation and Trail System Master Plans Program Environmental Impact Report | Town of Mammoth Lakes | \$185,535 |
| | SNC 080210 | Inyo | Jack Laws in Eastern Sierra Classrooms | Friends of the Inyo | \$10,611 |
| East Sum | | | | | \$265,446 |
| South | SNC 080109 | Kern | Bob Powers Gateway Preserve Strategic Plan | Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation | \$71,000 |
| | SNC 080116 | Kern | Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program | Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$34,051 |
| | SNC 080189 | Madera | Fine Gold Creek Riparian Fencing | Sierra Foothill Conservancy | \$100,000 |
| | SNC 080226 | Tulare | Restoration of Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs in SEKI: Pre-Project Due Diligence | Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks | \$49,900 |
| South Sum | | | | | \$254,951 |
| South Central | SNC 080029 | Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne | Central Sierra Watershed Education Program | Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$98,700 |
| | SNC 080101 | Tuolumne | Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration | Tuolumne Utilities District | \$100,000 |
| | SNC 080193 | Mariposa | Mariposa School Forest Project | Mariposa County Economic Development Corporation | \$50,000 |
| | SNC 080199 | Amador, El Dorado | Cosumnes Watershed Home Yard Audits | California Association of Resource Conservation Districts | \$35,900 |
| | SNC 080205 | Mariposa | Post-Fire Invasive Weed Management in the Upper Merced River Watershed | Upper Merced River Watershed Council | \$60,500 |
| South Central Sum | | | | | \$345,100 |
| Central | SNC 080012 | Nevada, Placer | Bear Valley Meadow: Restoring Cultural and Ecological Integrity | American Rivers | \$107,000 |
| | SNC 080081 | Yuba | Forbestown Fuel Break Environmental Compliance | High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$22,000 |
| | SNC 080087 | El Dorado | Watersheds: Human Connections | American River Conservancy | \$65,000 |
| | SNC 080092 | Nevada | Nevada City Environs Trail and Restoration Project | Friends of Deer Creek | \$207,345 |
| | SNC 080149 | El Dorado | Hazel Meadow Restoration Project | El Dorado Irrigation District | \$66,116 |
| | SNC 080170 | Nevada | Final Planning and Design for the Trout Creek Pocket Park Restoration Project | Mountain Area Preservation Foundation | \$93,500 |
| | SNC 080163B | El Dorado | Sierra Nevada Rangeland 2008 Pre-Project Due Diligence Tasks Penobscot Ranch | California Rangeland Trust | \$11,675 |
| Central Sum | | | | | \$572,636 |
| North | SNC 080151 | Lassen | 101 Ranch Conservation Easement | Lassen Land & Trails Trust | \$40,000 |
| | SNC 080213 | Lassen | South Ash Valley Riparian Monitoring Project | Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. | \$50,000 |
| | SNC 080220 | Lassen, Shasta | Lower Beaver Creek Planning Project | Fall River Resource Conservation District | \$82,700 |
| | SNC 080222 | Modoc | Lower Rose Creek Restoration Project | Pit Resource Conservation District | \$47,490 |
| | SNC 080223 | Modoc | Mason/Monchamp/Balcom Streambank Stabilization and Floodplain Enhancement Project | Pit Resource Conservation District | \$188,390 |
| North Sum | | | | | \$408,580 |
| North Central | SNC 080041 | Plumas | Plumas County Fire Safe Council Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction Planning | Plumas County Fire Safe Council | \$72,000 |
| | SNC 080131 | Sierra | Jamison Ranch Conservation Easement | The Pacific Forest Trust | \$50,000 |
| | SNC 080156 | Sierra | Dotta Property Fee Title Acquisition | Feather River Land Trust | \$200,000 |
| | SNC 080165 | Plumas | Feather River Watershed Stewardship and Education | Plumas Corporation - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management | \$99,544 |
| | SNC 080163A | Plumas | Sierra Nevada Rangeland 2008 Pre-Project Due Diligence Tasks Key Brand Ranch | California Rangeland Trust | \$12,675 |
| North Central Sum | | | | | \$434,219 |
| Grand Total | | | | | \$2,627,832 |

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

Project Title: THE GREAT SIERRA RIVER CLEANUP

Application Number: SNC 080082

PROJECT SCOPE

This program will expand the activities of the Coastal Commission’s “Coastal Cleanup Day” program by introducing coordinated annual Sierra Nevada river cleanups in each Sierra county. In partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Coastal Commission, the South Yuba River Citizens League will:

- Enlist and train river cleanup coordinators in each Sierra Nevada county
- Hold 2 training conferences for coordinators with step-by-step workshops on recruiting volunteers, establishing cleanup sites, project publicity and promotion, and program monitoring and reporting
- Develop training materials, a region-wide media plan, publicity templates, and sponsorship materials for annual Sierra River Cleanup Days
- Secure region-wide sponsors for annual Cleanup Day events from 2010 onwards
- Act as the region-wide coordinator for the September 19, 2009 Great Sierra River Cleanup

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|--------------------------|
| Complete workplan, outreach plan and media plan | February – March 2009 |
| Develop public outreach materials, training materials, and sponsorship materials | May 2009 |
| Hold 2 training workshops and finalize list of participating cleanup groups | May 2009 |
| Six month progress report | July 2009 |
| Develop Cleanup Day data collection and reporting protocols | August 2009 |
| First Annual Great Sierra River Cleanup Day | September 19, 2009 |
| Finalize list of sponsors approached and secured, program power point presentation, and online survey results | December 2009 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | February 27, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Program coordination (Including project management, training and recruiting of program leads, public outreach, and program monitoring and reporting) | \$61,400 |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Outreach and public relations materials | 5,500 |
| Direct administrative costs | 10,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$76,900 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Eben Schwartz Outreach Manager, California Coastal Commission
- Lisa Wallace Executive Director, Truckee River Watershed Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant: AMADOR WATER AGENCY
Project Title: REGIONAL APPROACH FOR WATER REUSE
Application Number: SNC 080207

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will develop a Recycled Water Facility Model and Master Plan to serve as a functional and guiding document for the Agency, while at the same time being made available to similar entities for use in other areas of the region as a baseline to formulate a comparable planning document. The impacts of climate change, projected growth in the area and limited available water for industrial, agricultural and commercial purposes highlights the need for water conservation. The recycled water plan addresses water quality by diverting effluent from surface water discharge to agricultural and industrial applications.

The project will institute an outreach plan to support the development of a strategic water reuse plan for Amador County. The outreach efforts will provide a firm basis for the development of the Recycled Water Strategic Facility Model and Master Plan (Plan). The outreach activities associated with the project will also serve as a regional model which other agencies throughout the Sierra Nevada can apply toward more localized efforts to develop a recycled-water distribution system.

Specifically, the Agency will:

- Utilize and adhere to the previously developed Regional Wastewater Management Plan in formulating the deliverables for the project
- Utilize and adhere to the previously developed Recycled Water Feasibility Studies in formulating the deliverables of the project
- Execute the Strategic Outreach Plan throughout Amador County, including:
 - Identifying stakeholders and participants and identifying their needs
 - Identifying Values and Benefits associated with project
 - Research technologies related to operating a wastewater reuse project
 - Provide opportunities for public interaction and involvement
 - Formulate concepts based on stakeholder input and feedback
 - Formalize all necessary agreements, define roles, and delineate responsibilities
- Develop the Recycled Water Strategic Facility Model and Master Plan, including:
 - Conduct a recycled water market assessment for Amador County to identify potential users and forecast demand
 - Identify, research and analyze project alternatives relative to placement of facilities and alignments of transmission infrastructure

- Develop a Construction Financing Plan to support future investments in treatment and transmission
- Develop a Facilities Planning Report for use in siting and designing treatment and transmission infrastructure.
- Conduct follow-up public outreach and solicit feedback on the draft plan
- Finalize and publish the Master Plan and make available to comparable entities throughout the SNC area of operation
- Make staff available to potential users of the plan to provide insight relative to the plan serving as a model for other Sierra Nevada Communities.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Identify stakeholders and participants | February 2009 |
| Identify participant needs | March 2009 |
| Identify values and benefits to be communicated to stakeholders and participants | April 2009 |
| Research technologies related to operating a reclaimed wastewater | March 2009 – April 2009 |
| Initiate efforts to solicit for public involvement and interaction | May 2009 – November 2009 |
| Formulate concepts based on stakeholder input and feedback | May 2009 – August 2009 |
| Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC | September 2009 |
| Formalize all necessary agreements, define roles and delineate responsibilities | September 2009 – November 2009 |
| Conduct recycled water market assessment | December 2009 – February 2010 |
| Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC | February 2010 |
| Identify, research and analyze project alternatives | February 2010 – April 2010 |
| Develop a Construction Financing Plan | April 2010 – May 2010 |
| Develop a Facilities Planning Report | May 2010 – August 2010 |
| Conduct public outreach and solicit feedback on the draft plan | May 2010 – August 2010 |
| Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC | September 2010 |
| Finalize and publish the Master Plan and make available to comparable entities throughout the SNC area of operation | September 2010 |
| Make staff available to potential users of the plan to use as an applicable model for other Sierra Nevada Communities | October 2010 – January 2011 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | February 25, 2011 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Development and implementation of Strategic Outreach Plan | \$90,000 |
| Recycled Water Market Assessment | 30,000 |
| Alternatives Analysis | 50,000 |
| Construction Financing Plan | 15,000 |
| Facilities Planning Report | 40,000 |
| Public Outreach (specific to Master Plan) | 15,000 |
| Project Management and Progress Reporting | 30,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$270,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Amador County Board of Supervisors
- Amador Fire Protection District
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)
- Senator Dave Cox, 1st Senate District

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number and Diversity of People Reached
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: US FOREST SERVICE, CARSON RANGER DISTRICT
Project Title: EAST CARSON RIVER RIPARIAN RESTORATION
Application Number: SNC 080119

PROJECT SCOPE

The US Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Assessment and a joint CEQA – NEPA document on a project which encompasses a fifty-two mile corridor of the East Carson River from its headwaters near Sonora Peak in Alpine County. The outcome would be a fully supported decision specifying on-the-ground implementation projects to restore ecosystem conditions and enhance recreational opportunities along the river. Examples of implementation projects which may result are: native plant restoration, noxious weed eradication, trails realignment, easement acquisitions, and campsite re-designations. The USFS and California Department of Fish and Game are partnering on this project.

Anticipated deliverables for this project using SNC funds will include:

- Environmental Assessments
- CEQA Document
- NEPA Environmental Assessment
- NEPA Document
- Decision Notice

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|---------------------------|
| Complete State Historic Preservation Office compliance | March 2009 |
| Complete Endangered Species Act compliance | March 2009 |
| Complete Clean Water Act compliance | March 2009 |
| Complete Environmental Assessment | April 2009 |
| Complete CEQA document | July 2009 |
| Prepare NEPA document | July 2009 |
| Prepare Decision Record | July 2009 |
| | |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT | September 30, 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Salaries – Recreation Specialist, Archeologist, GIS Support, Watershed Specialist, Project Manager | \$30,240 |
| Prepare NEPA/CEQA document | 4,760 |
| | |
| | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$35,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Alpine County Board of Supervisors
- Friends of Hope Valley

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Project Title: INYO COMPLEX POST-FIRE WATERSHED RECOVERY
Application Number: SNC 080181

PROJECT SCOPE

The Bureau of Land Management will conduct various studies on portions of 35,000 acres in Inyo County which were burned in 2007. Pre-fire baseline data for stream conditions, wildlife, and plant populations in this area has been established and will be compared to post-fire conditions. Knowledge gained from this integrated report will be used by the BLM and Forest Service in subsequent wildfire management and restoration plans. This multi-aspect study and report will include:

- intensive stream monitoring
- water quality and aquatic invertebrate sampling
- small mammal and reptile observations
- rangeland vegetation monitoring
- riparian songbird population and habitat study

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|--|
| Commence studies | March 2009 |
| Conduct point county census of riparian songbirds and habitat assessments on burned streams years 2 and 3 – Conduct habitat assessment on unburned streams, year 2-3 | July 2009 & 2010 Sept 2009 & 2010 |
| Prepare and submit 6 month progress report | Sept 2009 |
| Complete intensive stream monitoring, include water monitoring measurements | Oct 2009 & 2010 |
| Complete annual small mammal and reptile trapping | Oct 2009 & 2010 |
| Complete vegetation and livestock range monitoring | Oct 2009 & 2010 |
| Complete aquatic invertebrate and water quality sampling | Oct 2009 & 2010 |
| Prepare and submit 12 month progress report Prepare and submit 18 month progress report Prepare and submit 24 month progress report Prepare and submit 30 moth progress report | March 2010 Sept 2010 March 2011 Sept 2011 |
| Complete data analysis, habitat relationships and management recommendations and submit in report form | June 2011 |
| Complete integrated report relating stream condition, water quality, aquatic invertebrates, range condition, riparian songbirds, small mammal, and reptile populations comparing | December 2011 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| burned and unburned areas and pre and post fire. Report to include specific management recommendations for wildfire and restoration plans. | |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT | February 29, 2012 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Salaries – agency personnel | \$15,600 |
| Contract – Field Biologist, Project Lead and Riparian Songbird work | 13,984 |
| Travel | 3,400 |
| Supplies /Equipment | 200 |
| Housing/Utilities | 580 |
| Administration | 636 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$34,400 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- California Department of Fish and Game
- Eastern Sierra Audubon
- Inyo National Forest

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES
Project Title: PARKS AND RECREATION AND TRAIL SYSTEM MASTER PLANS PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)
Application Number: SNC 080185

PROJECT SCOPE

The Town of Mammoth Lakes will coordinate the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and supporting technical studies for the Town's Parks and Recreation and Trail System Master Plans which correlates with the MLTPA Implementation project. These Plans contain goals which include protecting riparian areas, minimizing soil erosion by reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled and keeping recreationalists on trails, maintaining open space, improving walkability, and utilizing alternative energy sources for facilities, while providing recreation and public access for increasing numbers of visitors and residents. An increase in sales tax was recently approved by the voters in Mammoth Lakes for the sole purpose of funding recreation, parks, open space, and trails projects. SNC funding will be solely used to complete the Trails System Master Plan portion of this EIR as it has a clear link to Prop.84 and watershed protection and restoration. The Town has committed funds to complete the parks and recreation portion of the plan.

The following steps will be completed:

- Soliciting and contracting with an Environmental Consultant
- Reviewing issues, constraints, and opportunities
- Preparing of an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation
- Preparing an Administrative Draft EIR
- Conducting Scoping meetings, reviewing Administrative Draft EIR, seeking public comments
- Completing Draft EIR, publishing and circulating, holding public hearings to seek public comments
- Preparing responses to comments and Town review
- Preparing Final EIR
- Publishing and circulating Final EIR
- Holding Certification Hearings and Adopting Final EIR

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|------------------------|
| Solicit and contract with Environmental Consultant | Feb-July 2009 |
| Review and prepare Initial Study and Notice of Preparation | April – September 2009 |
| Prepare Administrative Draft EIR | April – December 2009 |

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Conduct Scoping meetings, Town review | May – December 2009 |
| Complete Preliminary Draft EIR, publish and circulate, hold public hearings | Aug – Feb 2010 |
| Prepare and submit six-month progress report | December 2009 |
| Prepare responses to comments, Town review | Nov – April 2010 |
| Prepare and submit twelve-month progress report | Feb 2010 |
| Prepare Final EIR, publish and circulate | Dec 2009-June 2010 |
| Hold Certification Hearings and Adopt Final EIR | July 2010 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT | August 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Environmental Consultant | \$154,700 |
| Coordination and Meetings | 24,035 |
| Administrative Expenses | 6,800 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$185,535 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Inyo National Forest
- Mammoth Community Water District
- Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
- Mono County

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Implemented

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: FRIENDS OF THE INYO
Project Title: JACK LAWS IN EASTERN SIERRA CLASSROOMS
Application Number: SNC 080210

PROJECT SCOPE

Friends of the Inyo and the Eastern Sierra Audubon will provide in-school programs to approximately 400 students in Inyo and Mono Counties on watershed ecology with an emphasis on biodiversity. These will be facilitated by naturalist, author, and artist Jack Muir Laws and each participating school will also receive a copy of The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada.

The following steps will be completed:

- Finalizing classroom program schedules
- Distributing pre-program curriculum and materials
- Holding classroom presentations and distributing field guides
- Conducting evaluation interviews with teachers and students
- Identifying a minimum of two schools to conduct natural resource outreach programs in the following school year

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|--------------------------|
| Finalize program schedules with schools | Jan – Feb 2009 |
| Distribute pre-program curriculum and materials | Jan – Feb 2009 |
| Hold classroom programs and distribute field guides | Mar – April 2009 |
| Conduct evaluations with teachers and students | April – May 2009 |
| Identify and begin working with two schools to incorporate a natural resource outreach program into the following years curriculum | May –June 2009 |
| Prepare and submit six-month progress report | June 2009 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT | December 30, 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Contractor – conduct classroom presentations | \$8,000 |
| Purchase field guides | 411 |
| Coordination and evaluation | 1,200 |
| Administration | 1,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$10,611 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Alden Nash, Inyo County Board of Education-Board Member Bishop Union Elementary School
- Eastern Sierra Audubon
- Mary Canada, Mammoth Unified School District Board Member

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant: KERN RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Project Title: BOB POWERS GATEWAY PRESERVE STRATEGIC PLAN

Application Number: SNC 080109

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will develop a Strategic Plan to provide a road map and integrate the vision for the protection, development, management, and operation of the Bob Powers Gateway Preserve (Preserve). The Preserve is predominantly composed of an alkaline marsh/meadow wetland habitat, which is a rare wetland type in the Sierra Nevada. Since its acquisition in 2001, development of the Preserve has been relatively straight forward consisting of biological inventories, maintenance, fencing and adding native plants, with no general public access. The Strategic Plan will provide a framework that assures the integrity of the wetlands as the Preserve transitions to its role as a resource available to the public.

It will take into consideration the history of the Preserve, the present condition of the Preserve and contemplated improvements, such as the creation of a nature trail, wildlife garden and visitor/interpretive center. Future functions such as outreach and educational activities and these potential impacts on wetlands and other resources in the vicinity, will be included in the plan as well. The plan will deal with these elements via feasibility analysis by identifying the scope, timing, cost, priorities and resource availability. The deliverable of this project is to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan for the Preserve. The components of the Plan will include the following:

- (1) Vision/Mission Statement
- (2) Existing Site Conditions
- (3) Strategic Plan Elements:

Identification, Prioritization and Stewardship Strategy (including all site improvements made to date, as well as the plan elements needed to implement the mission/ vision statement)

i. Conceptual plans include a nature trail, wildlife garden, and the visitor/interpretive center. These proposed elements will involve educating the public about the ecosystem and water quality benefits that a health, functioning wetland such as an alkaline marsh provides.

ii. Implementation Strategy to carry-out each Element including identifying the permitting and infrastructure requirements needed for each Element,

iv. Stewardship Strategy that will identify the tasks necessary for the long-term stewardship of the Preserve, Included will be things such as the type and frequency of habitat surveys and a strategy for monitoring and evaluating those water resources, which impact the Preserve, and

v. Facility Management will delineate the volunteers and/or staff commitment required for implementing the Plan as well as other agencies

and organizations interested in the long-term success of the Preserve,
and
vi. Preserve Documentation to assure that documents and information
pertaining to the Preserve are collected and retained.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-------------------------|
| Initiate development of the Preserve Strategic Plan | March 2009 |
| Complete the vision and mission statements | June 2009 |
| Six month progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | September 2009 |
| Complete conceptual plans for nature trail & wildlife garden | November 2009 |
| Complete conceptual plan for visitor and interpretive center | February 2010 |
| One year (12 month) progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | March 2010 |
| Complete stewardship strategy | May 2010 |
| Complete the Preserve Strategic Plan | October 2010 |
| Final Report | December 2010 |
| FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | January 31, 2011 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Contract professional planning firm to develop strategic plan | \$63,000 |
| Engineering consultant | 3,500 |
| Document reproduction | 1,000 |
| Performance measure reporting | 500 |
| Administration | 3,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$71,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Audubon Society
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Kern County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Kern River Valley Beautification Group
- Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Kern River Valley Revitalization Inc
- Mt. Mesa Corporation
- Senator Roy Ashburn
- Supervisor Jon McQuiston, 1st District Kern County

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: MOJAVE DESERT-MOUNTAIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Project Title: SAND CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Application Number: SNC 080116

PROJECT SCOPE

The project goal is to expand and enhance the environmental education program. The Sand Canyon Environmental Education (SEEP) provides classroom and field environmental education programs for fourth and fifth grade students in the Indian Wells Valley and surrounding communities. The SEEP contributes to the protection and the understanding of the importance of water resources in the watershed and the groundwater basin. In the fall, students learn about the water cycle and living in the rain shadow. In the spring, the educational program is held in the field where groups of students rotate through five outdoor stations where they learn basic principles about hydrology, plant adaptations to water availability, animals, archaeology. Coordinating with Sierra Sands Unified School District, all materials are developed to support and meet the school curriculum framework. The program is also available to private schools, charter schools and home school students. Funding from this grant will provide the educational resources for SEEP to continue to reach 400-500 students annually. Over 1,000 hours of volunteer time are contributed to the program annually. The program has been maintained for fourteen years and is now in need of updated equipment. This funding will provide:

- (1) Equipment for the SEEP program:
 - a. 15 stereoscopes,
 - b. tabletop watershed and groundwater models,
 - c. computer software,
 - d. flat screen monitors,
 - e. a 6'x10' covered trailer, and
 - f. museum specimens
- (2) Replication and reproduction of environmental education outreach materials,
- (3) Staff time, and
- (4) Updating the website

Finally, the success of the SEEP program will be measured using the Conservancy's performance measures including evaluating measurable changes in knowledge regarding improved understanding of stewardship on public lands; improved understanding of watershed health issues; understanding of recreational impacts on

wildlife and habitats; and improved understanding of groundwater issues and potential contamination of groundwater.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|--------------------------|
| Purchase equipment | March 2009-May 2009 |
| Replicate and reproduce outreach materials | April 2009-June 2009 |
| Update website | May 2009-August 2009 |
| Quantify and report performance measures | May 2009-August 2009 |
| Final Report | October 2009 |
| FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | November 30, 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|-------------------|
| Equipment | \$17,051 |
| Taxidermy services to prepare museum specimens | 5,000 |
| Outreach materials reproduction | 2,500 |
| Website update production and maintenance costs | 5,000 |
| Staff time | 1,000 |
| Administration | 3,500 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$34,051 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Bureau of Land Management
- Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District
- Maturango Museum

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY
Project Title: FINE GOLD CREEK RIPARIAN FENCING
Application Number: SNC 080189

PROJECT SCOPE

The 718 acre Fine Gold Preserve includes 1.5 miles of lower Fine Gold Creek just before the creek empties into Millerton Lake. This project will construct two miles of wildlife friendly fence along a mile of Creek and develop two water sources for cattle away from the Creek. The goal of this project is to implement a new system of grazing management on the property to protect the Creek and its riparian habitat. SFC will monitor the levels of Residual Dry Matter in the riparian area before and after the fencing to document the range and vegetation conditions.

This project will be used as a model for local cattlemen on riparian care and rotational grazing benefits. Vegetation conditions around the creek will be measured before and after to document the changes inside and outside the fenced area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|--------------------------|
| Document initial range/vegetation conditions | March-April 2009 |
| Mark proposed fencing area | March-April 2009 |
| Initiate and implement the water development project | March-June 2009 |
| Initiate and construct the fence | March-June 2009 |
| Initiate and construct the cattle guard | June 2009 |
| Initiate and implement the rotational grazing; document the vegetation/range conditions; and maintain the fencing | June 2009-February 2013 |
| Six month progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | September 2009 |
| Provide outreach to local ranchers (Madera, Fresno or Tulare Counties) regarding the project through website and/or newsletter or on-site demonstrations | March 2010-February 2013 |
| One year (12 month) progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | March 2010 |
| Eighteen month progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | September 2010 |
| Two year (24 month) progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | March 2011 |
| 30 month progress report including quantification and | September 2011 |

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| reporting of performance measures | |
| Three year (36 month) progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | March 2012 |
| 42 month progress report including quantification and reporting of performance measures | September 2012 |
| Final Report | March 1, 2013 |
| FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | March 15, 2013 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Wildlife Friendly Fence | \$58,170 |
| Water Development Materials | 19,000 |
| Water Development Labor | 4,800 |
| Water Development Equipment Rental | 3,600 |
| Vegetation/Range Condition Monitoring | 4,800 |
| Outreach Materials, Website Update, or Staffing for Open House Days | 600 |
| Administrative Costs | 9,030 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$100,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- California Department of Fish and Game

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Project Title: RESTORATION OF MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROGS AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS IN SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS (SEKI): PRE-PROJECT DUE DILIGENCE

Application Number: SNC 080226

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will support Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) in gaining critical years of restoration toward recovery of the rapidly declining mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF) and the aquatic ecosystem on which it depends. Although a once-common inhabitant of high elevation Sierra Nevada lakes and streams, it has disappeared from 94% of sites in its historic range, largely due to predation by non-native trout, and very recently due to an emerging infectious disease. In 2001 SEKI began to eradicate non-native trout from eleven lakes and adjacent streams located near reproducing frog populations, and surveys were conducted in restoration lakes to measure changes in frog abundance as an indicator of project success. By the end of 2008 nearly 24,000 trout had been removed, including complete eradication from three lakes and significant progress toward eradication from eight lakes. These eleven lakes showed an average 16-fold increase in the densities of frogs and tadpoles detected, while one lake showed a 72-fold increase.

Due to this success, SEKI recently initiated planning to expand restoration to approximately 73 additional lakes and adjacent streams across these Parks., which comprehensively addresses the habitat of the MYLF in the Parks. SEKI will provide in-kind support for 55% of the project cost, requesting the remaining funds to implement pre-project due diligence for long-term restoration of MYLFs and aquatic ecosystems. The funds will support approximately one year of staff time for a lead aquatic technician to assist SEKI staff in completing this pre-project due diligence. The specific tasks include:

- (1) completing environmental documents,
- (2) conducting field assessments,
- (3) developing restoration prescriptions, and
- (4) creating a detailed implementation plan.

This grant will not only improve watershed health, but also implements a critical step outlined in the State's Wildlife Action Plan, which is the restoration of MYLFs. In implementing the goals of this grant, SEKI would be assisting in the achievement of one of the most critical State identified, conservation objectives for the Sierra Nevada.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|--------------------------|
| Complete planning, NEPA, and CEQA environmental documents which includes a comprehensive, scientifically defensible, environmental document that addresses all alternatives for long-term restoration and protection of MYLFs and aquatic ecosystems | March 2009 – March 2010 |
| Conduct field assessments on the highest-priority, long-term restoration sites to support development of detailed restoration prescriptions for each location | May 2009 – October 2009 |
| Write and submit six-month progress report to SNC | September 2009 |
| Process field assessment data to develop detailed restoration prescriptions for the highest-priority sites; create a detailed, overall implementation plan for long-term restoration of MYLFs and aquatic ecosystems | October 2009 – July 2010 |
| Final report to SNC | October 2010 |
| FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | December 31, 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|-------------------|
| Complete planning, NEPA, and CEQA environmental documents | \$14,970 |
| Conduct field assessments | 17,465 |
| Process field assessment data to develop restoration prescriptions and develop the long-term restoration plan | 17,465 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$49,900 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- California Department of Fish and Game

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: CENTRAL SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Project Title: CENTRAL SIERRA WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Application Number: SNC 080029

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will develop young watershed stewards in four Central Sierra Watersheds (Calaveras River, Stanislaus River, Sutter Creek and Tuolumne River) by providing hands-on watershed educational resources and experiences for nearly 10,000 elementary, middle and high school students at up to 25 different schools in the area. Watershed education opportunities will be provided twice annually for three years under the scope of this project.

Specifically, the Council will:

- Develop Cycles and Circles Guide for Tuolumne County. This guide will include lessons to help students map their own water supply, understand water and wastewater treatment, learn native plants and their historical uses, and study life-cycles of aquatic invertebrates and salmon.
- Conduct biannual watershed activities including 20 field-trips to sites within the multi-county area which incorporate and support the curriculum being used.
- Conduct pre- and post-field trip classroom lessons, including tests, to reinforce outdoor learning for each student that participates and gather information for reporting out on performance measures.
- Partner with the established Stewardship Through Education program for support with field activities in Tuolumne, Calaveras and Amador Counties
- Utilize standards-based curriculum for elementary students, including "Watersheds Alive" and other curriculum-based watershed field days
- Utilize the Circles and Cycles Guide during project
- Utilize the Watershed Science Service Learning Curriculum
- Utilize curriculum and students to assess the level of success on previously implemented restoration programs

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-----------------------|
| Teacher training – Amador and Calaveras | May 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Initiate development of the <i>Circle and Cycles</i> Guide for Tuolumne County | June 2009 |
| Spring Watersheds Alive! Program and Pre- and Post-Field Trip Testing | June 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Institute Restoration Monitoring Curriculum | July 2009 |

| | |
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| In-service training for Tuolumne teachers | July 2010 – June 2012 |
| Annual Implementation of <i>Circles and Cycles</i> Guide for Tuolumne County | June 2010, 2011, 2012 |
| Complete and submit progress reports to SNC | August 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Teacher training – Amador and Calaveras | October 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Fall Watersheds Alive! Program and Pre- and Post-Field Trip Testing | November 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Complete and submit progress reports to SNC | February 2010, 2011, 2012 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | August 30, 2012 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|-------------------|
| Project Management & support staff | \$9,500 |
| Management and implementation of the Regional Watershed Service Learning Program in Amador and Calaveras (contract) | 49,000 |
| Development, Printing and Distribution of Tuolumne/Stanislaus Watershed Guide (contract) | 27,300 |
| Indirect Administration | 12,900 |
| SNC GRANT TOTAL | \$98,700 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Amador County Recreation Agency
- Calaveras County Office of Education
- Calaveras Public Utility District
- City of Sutter Creek
- Groveland Community Services District
- Lone Elementary School
- Mountain Oaks School
- Performing Animal Welfare Society
- Stanislaus National Forest
- Tuolumne Utilities District
- Twain Harte Community Services District
- Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT
Project Title: PHOENIX LAKE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION
Application Number: SNC 080101

PROJECT SCOPE

The Phoenix Lake Preservation and Restoration Project will result in a Preliminary Design Plan to restore and enhance this vital water resource. The Plan will:

- Identify methods for providing sediment control upstream of the lake.
- Determine how to manage existing wetland areas to restore lake storage capacity, enhance wetlands functionality, reduce wildfire risk, and improve fisheries and aquatic and wetland habitat quality.
- Identify sediment removal needs to restore the lake storage capacity, by implementing survey transects and computing the estimated volume of sediment entering the lake. Include approaches that have no adverse effects to the environment and comply with regulations.
- Identify a preferred approach for providing public access to the lake, including conceptual design/schematics of how the different access points could be utilized. This task also includes close coordination with potentially affected property owners.
- Develop a Phoenix Lake property owner education and outreach program to describe desirable property management practices around the lake.
- Survey public workshops participants to gauge the measurable changes in knowledge and behavior.

Firm outcomes of this project, based on the above, will include:

- Sediment Control Technical Memorandum
- Enhanced Wetlands Technical Memorandum
- Lake Capacity Restoration Technical Memorandum
- Public Access Technical Memorandum
- Public Workshops and Outreach Materials.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|---------------------|
| Prepare hydrologic model to compute required capacity of sediment basins; prepare Sediment Control Technical Memorandum | March – August 2009 |
| Prepare conceptual design of constructed wetlands prior to discharge to Phoenix Lake; prepare Conceptual Design Technical Memorandum: Determine location and cross section of wetland channels by field locating natural channels | March – August 2009 |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| and reviewing Phoenix Lake fire history. | |
| Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Survey three transects and compute volume of sediment that needs to be removed from the lake. | September 2009 |
| Prepare Lake Capacity Restoration Technical Memorandum: develop plan for how to remove sediment from the lake bottom and potential capacity increase. | September 2009 |
| Prepare public access technical memorandum | October 2009 |
| Prepare and distribute outreach materials for the public | November 2009 – February 2010 |
| Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC | February 2010 |
| Hold public workshops on property management practices | March – July 2010 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL REQUEST FOR PAYMENT | August 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|-------------------|
| Sediment Control Technical Memo | \$35,000 |
| Wetlands Enhancement Technical Memo | 35,000 |
| Lake Capacity Restoration Technical Memo | 10,000 |
| Public Access Technical Memo | 10,000 |
| Property Owner Education and Outreach | 10,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ 100,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Assemblymember Tom Berryhill, 25th District
- Building Industry Association of Central California
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)
- Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
- City of Sonora
- Jamestown Sanitary District
- Phoenix Lake Homeowners Association
- Senator Dave Cogdill, 14th District
- Sonora Regional Medical Center
- Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors
- Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce
- Tuolumne County Farm Bureau
- Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge and Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF MARIPOSA COUNTY
Project Title: MARIPOSA SCHOOL FOREST PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 080193

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will assist in the development of a plan to protect key portions of a watershed that provides drinking water to the Town of Mariposa. Project will gather factual data about the project site in order to formulate the plan. The project will consider potential uses for the property, including a residential subdivision, working forest, working rangeland, and outdoor educational venue. Stakeholders and residents of the community will be included through facilitated meetings to identify components of the plan and provide input on the overall project.

This project will assess opportunities to provide educational activities on a portion of the land proposed for conservation easement. This land is adjacent to Mariposa High School, and will be targeted for educational use.

Specifically, the Economic Development Corporation of Mariposa County will:

- Utilize matching funds from the landowner to complete the project
- Conduct a survey of hydrogeology on the project site
- Conduct a survey of archaeological resources on the project site
- Conduct a survey of biological resources on the project site
- Coordinate a series of facilitated meetings for members of the community
- Coordinate with the landowner and local educators on an educational component for the anticipated conservation easement.
- Finalize a Mariposa County Specific Plan for review and adoption by Mariposa County relative to improvements on the property.

Upon completion of this project, it is the grantee's intent to work with the landowner on placing a conservation easement on the portion of the property to be protected. This easement would be made available for various educational and community activities.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|------------------------|
| Initiate community collaborative planning process | March 2009 |
| Conduct Hydrogeological survey | March 2009 – July 2009 |
| Conduct Archaeological Survey | March 2009 – July 2009 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Conduct Biological Survey | March 2009 – July 2009 |
| Conduct community meetings on design elements | June 2009 – August 2009 |
| Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Complete community collaborative process | November 2009 |
| Finalize Mariposa County Specific Plan | November 2009 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | December 31, 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hydrogeology Survey | \$8,000 |
| Biological Survey | 3,750 |
| Archaeological Survey | 3,250 |
| Plan Development | 23,500 |
| Collaborative process and design | 9,000 |
| Administrative Costs | 2,500 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$50,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Gerald Fischer, Landowner
- Mariposa County Unified School District
- Mariposa Public Utility District
- Yosemite Management Group LLC

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Project Title: COSUMNES WATERSHED HOME YARD AUDITS

Application Number: SNC 080199

PROJECT SCOPE

Project will provide information, technical assistance, and build community support around water use efficiency sufficient enough to significantly change water use patterns in the watershed. The primary methods are conducting home and yard audits to advise property owners on best management practices relative to fire safety, water use efficiency, storm water pollution, and habitat values.

The project will conduct a total of 40 home yard audits in El Dorado and Amador Counties and make recommendations to property owners that will include simple, cost-effective ways to reduce the negative factors on their properties.

Once landowners have received the information and taken recommended actions, the project will conduct outreach to landowners in the watershed and coordinate a tour of the project sites.

Specifically, the Association will:

- Provide educational opportunities to both homeowners participating in the audits and those with an interest in the practices being presented.
- Conduct pre- and post-assessments of recommended improvements to demonstrate positive changes for other landowners in the watershed.
- Utilize the "Livestock and Land" model rangeland management practices as a means of educating landowners
- Initiate a peer leader program tasked with expanding awareness in the watershed and carrying the project beyond the scope of the grant-funded area of operation
- Host a series of public events at project sites to educate the general community about watershed health and techniques to reduce environmental impacts
- Develop and distribute informational material about the project to landowners throughout the watershed
- Conduct pre- and post-project photo monitoring
- Disseminate information on the project to local and state elected officials and other key stakeholders through direct mailings and local media.
- Survey participants to define measureable changes in knowledge and behavior.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Develop evaluation materials (pre and post surveys, evaluation templates, outreach and educational materials) | March 2009 – June 2009 |
| Initiate home yard audit Program (work with other entities to utilize resources efficiently, develop a targeted property list, develop and distribute informational fliers, prioritize potential participants, establish a schedule for audits) | June 2009 – August 2009 |
| Initiate a peer leader program (recruit participants from the pilot project, recruit other community leaders, train peer leaders, create signs to be placed on peer leaders properties) | June 2009 – August 2009 |
| Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Continue home yard audit program (hold a kick-off event, conduct evaluations, follow-up with landowners 1 and 3 months after initial evaluation) | September 2009 – February 2010 |
| Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC | February 2010 |
| Continue home yard audit and peer leader programs | March 2010 |
| Demonstrate the Accomplishments (closing event, tour of properties) | March 2010 - May 2010 |
| Summarize the Program (create a report and distribute widely) | June 2010 - July 2010 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | August 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Staff | \$22,400 |
| Advertising | 4,300 |
| Training | 300 |
| Tour | 500 |
| Events | 2,100 |
| Travel | 1,100 |
| Supplies | 500 |
| Administration | 4,700 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$35,900 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- El Dorado County Firesafe Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: UPPER MERCED RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
**Project Title: POST-FIRE INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT IN THE UPPER
MERCED RIVER WATERSHED**
Application Number: SNC 080205

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Merced River Watershed Council (Council) will conduct invasive species removal work in the Briceburg area, adjacent to the Wild and Scenic Merced River. Eradication efforts will focus on Yellow Starthistle and Italian Thistle on seven stream-miles, translating to roughly 45 acres, including a section of the Merced River Trail which follows the river.

Specifically, the Council will:

- Survey and map affected areas within the project boundaries
- Develop maps and establish transects
- Develop treatment plan to eradicate targeted species
- Hire hand-crews for removal of targeted species for two seasons
- Manage previous invasive eradication on a trail section within the project area
- Provide educational opportunities relative to invasive species management at the Merced River Center and document participation
- Conduct photo-monitoring of project, including pre and post project photos
- Make information on the project available through public media outlets such as the Mariposa Gazette and the Council Newsletter.
- Recruit and train volunteers to assist in eradication effort
- Participate in local and statewide meetings on invasive species
- Attend and participate in events and conferences relating to invasive plants in order to build capacity in the area relative to invasive plant management.

The Council will conduct these activities in collaboration with key partners, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other interested parties.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-----------------|
| Begin to Hire and train hand crews | February 2009 |
| Begin recruitment and training of volunteers | February 2009 |
| Initiate mapping of treatment areas | March 2009 |
| Establish Transects | April 2009 |
| Initiate photo documentation | April 2009 |
| Begin First-year Italian Thistle Treatment | April 2009 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Complete First-year Italian Thistle Treatment | May 2009 |
| Initiate educational outreach efforts at Merced River Center | May 2009 |
| Begin First-year Yellow Star Thistle Treatment | June 2009 |
| Complete First-year Yellow Star Thistle Treatment | July 2009 |
| Continue photo documentation post-treatment | August 2009 |
| Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Continue educational and outreach efforts at the Merced River Center | September 2009 – February 2010 |
| Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC | February 2010 |
| Continue educational and outreach efforts | March 2009 |
| Initiate second-year mapping of targeted species | March 2010 |
| Continue photo documentation | April 2010 |
| Begin second-year Italian Thistle Treatment | April 2010 |
| Complete second-year Italian Thistle Treatment | May 2010 |
| Begin second-year Yellow Star Thistle treatment | June 2010 |
| Complete second-year Yellow Star Thistle Treatment | July 2010 |
| Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC | August 2010 |
| Complete educational and outreach efforts | September 2010 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | October 31, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Staff salary (mapping, outreach and education, volunteer recruitment, photo-monitoring, project reporting, project management, partner coordination) | \$40,800 |
| Invasive Species Control Crews | 9,100 |
| Equipment and Displays | 2,000 |
| Administration | 8,600 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$60,500 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Bureau of Land Management
- Central Sierra Watershed Committee
- Mountain Meadows Farms
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Sierra National Forest
- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Yosemite Area Audubon Society

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: AMERICAN RIVERS
Project Title: BEAR VALLEY MEADOW: RESTORING CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY
Application Number: SNC 080012

PROJECT SCOPE

The Bear Valley Meadow project is a concerted effort among a diverse and strong partnership to restore both the cultural and ecological integrity of a critical Sierra meadow system. The project goals are to:

- Design and implement a meadow restoration plan that is resilient in the face of climate change, and that is integrated with a cultural resources plan.
- Increase the capacity of tribal elders to mentor tribal youth in restoration research, monitoring, and implementation.
- Provide solid and quantifiable results of meadow restoration that document the ability of restored meadows to act as “natural reservoirs” increasing water storage capacity, and “natural filters” increasing water quality.
- Provide a widely accessible demonstration site for integrated restoration to inspire and inform other such actions throughout the Sierra.

Firm outcomes that will be delivered through the SNC grant include:

- Outreach and development of performance measures
- Geological and hydrological studies incorporating climate change
- Technical restoration design
- Cultural resources management plan
- Tribal youth involvement program
- Integrated monitoring

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-----------------|
| Restoration and Climate Change Technical Memo (Task 3) | May 2009 |
| New PG&E Research License (Task 7) | May 2009 |
| Bear Valley Monitoring Plan and QAPP (Task 7) | July 2009 |
| Tribal Youth Curriculum (Task 6) | August 2009 |
| Six Month Progress Report | August 2009 |
| Stream Management Plan (Task 2) | October 2009 |
| Project vicinity, contour, and aerial maps (Task 4) | October 2009 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Schematic level plan, sections, profile drawings and finalized project maps (Task 4) | February 2010 |
| One Year Progress Report | February 2010 |
| Final Integrated Monitoring Protocol Memo (Task 7) | June 2010 |
| Eighteen month Progress Report | August 2010 |
| Final Cultural Resource Management Plan (Task 5) | September 2010 |
| Tribal Youth Program Assessment (Task 6) | January 2011 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | February 28, 2011 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Project Administration | \$13,350 |
| Task 1: Management, Outreach and Performance Measures | 10,850 |
| Task 2: Geologic and Hydrologic Studies | 5,200 |
| Task 3: Incorporating Climate Change | 2,800 |
| Task 4: Technical Restoration Design | 23,500 |
| Task 5: Cultural Resource Management Plan | 19,900 |
| Task 6: Tribal Youth Involvement | 19,000 |
| Task 7: Integrated Monitoring | 12,400 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$107,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Cosumnes, American, Bear & Yuba River Integrated Regional Water Management
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Restoration Design Group, LLC
- South Yuba River Citizens League
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe
- Yuba Watershed Institute

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Applicant: HIGH SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, INC**

**Project Title: FORBESTOWN SHADED FUEL BREAK ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE**

Application Number: SNC 080081

PROJECT SCOPE

The Yuba and Butte Fire Safe Councils will work with the U.S. Forest Service to complete the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental compliance review for a 2.5 mile long fuel break on a ridgeline between Yuba and Butte Counties. The majority of the project area is located within Butte County. Butte County will serve as lead agency for the CEQA document. Yuba County will participate as a responsible agency. The fuel break will provide watershed protection for two sub-watersheds of the Feather River.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-------------------------|
| Develop the scope of work for advertising for consultant to complete CEQA/NEPA documents and select consultant | May 2009 |
| Six Month Progress Report | August 2009 |
| 1 Year Progress Report | March 2010 |
| Consultant completes work and presents documentation to Butte County for approval | September 2010 |
| COMPLETE FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | October 31, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Advertising and hiring Consultant to complete CEQA/NEPA document | \$20,000 |
| Grant Administration | \$2,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$22,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Tim Bradley, Fire Management Officer, Redding Field Office, BLM
- Browns Valley Irrigation District
- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Camptonville Community Services District
- Robert and Ethel Cermak
- The CHY Company
- Colgate Powerhouse
- Bill Connelly, First District Supervisor, County of Butte
- Camptonville Community Services District
- Dobbins/Oregon House Action Committee
- Foothill Fire Protection District
- Karen Hayden, District Ranger, Feather River Ranger District, Plumas National Forest
- Lake Francis Grange #745
- Daniels Logue, Chairman, Yuba County Board of Supervisors
- Loma Rica/Browns Valley Community Services District
- North Yuba Water District
- Elizabeth Fletcher and W. Merle Russell
- Leland Russell
- Michael Shorrock, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE
- Smartsville Fire Protection District
- South Feather Water & Power Agency
- Soper-Wheeler Co.
- David and Aris Whittier
- Yuba Feather Historical Association
- Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant: AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY
Project Title: WATERSHEDS; HUMAN CONNECTIONS
Application Number: SNC 080087

PROJECT SCOPE

This project is an education/Interpretation project that will provide a state-of-the-art interactive interpretive exhibit expansion for the American River Nature Center in Coloma. This project will educate visitors about the watershed ecology by integrating interpretive exhibits exploring the critical human component in watershed protection. The project will include new interpretive electronic panels with hands-on maps and exhibits of two Sierra watersheds, the American and Cosumnes. The project will complete all necessary steps of project design and the construction of the exhibits, curriculum, and materials to complete the project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Design, construction and installation of electronic exhibit detailing two watersheds. | February 2009-October 2010 |
| Design, construction and installation of interactive exhibit on California's plumbing – including Sierra watershed sources, the Delta, aqueducts and canals, and end users | February 2009 – October 2010 |
| Design, construction and installation of interactive exhibit on daily human consumption of water | August 2009 – September 2011 |
| 6 MONTH PROGRESS REPORT | November 2009 |
| Write text and create interpretive panels focusing on ARC's role in watershed protection. | January 2009 – September 2010 |
| Design, construction and installation of interactive stream table | February 2009 – October 2009 |
| Complete curriculum development, create promotional materials for the "Water as new California Gold" program – promote to schools within California | February 2009 – August 2009 |
| 2 nd PROGRESS REPORT | May 2010 |
| 3 rd PROGRESS REPORT | December 2010 |
| 4 th Progress Report | March 2011 |
| FINAL REPORT/ PERFORMANCE MEASURES | September 2011 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | November 30, 2011 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| American and Cosumnes watershed relief maps | \$18,000 |
| State of California watershed panel | 18,000 |
| Human consumption electronic exhibit panel | 7,500 |
| ARC interpretive panel and signs | 3,000 |
| DVD/videos for lending library | 2,500 |
| Curriculum development for California Gold Program | 500 |
| Materials (brochures/fliers) and supplies for California Gold Program, | 2,000 |
| Staff coordination | 6,800 |
| Stream Table | 2,500 |
| Video Equipment, Dissecting Microscopes | 3,200 |
| Reports | 1,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$65,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Elizabeth Bettencourt, El Dorado Irrigation District
- Kate Doyle, El Dorado County Office of Education

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: FRIENDS OF DEER CREEK

Project Title: NEVADA CITY ENVIRONS TRAIL AND RESTORATION PROJECT

Application Number: SNC 080092

PROJECT SCOPE

The Nevada City Environs Trail and Restoration Project is the next phase of the larger, previously-funded Deer Creek Tribute Trail Project. The project site is located a short walk from the historic downtown area of Nevada City. The Nevada City Tribute Trail and Restoration project will:

- Improve water quality in Deer Creek through planned recreation, restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and monitoring
- Improve public access to the Nevada City Environs property by increasing the extent of the trail system, connecting existing trails to the downtown area, and establishing three new trailheads
- Restore ¼ mile of existing trail and construct one mile of new trail along Deer Creek
- Reduce wildfire risk through the removal of non-native species, and restore habitat to its natural state with the replacement of native species on 8.4 acres
- In cooperation with the Tsi-Akim Maidu, install educational signage on the natural and cultural history of the area
- Introduce local school children to trail building and restoration through educational materials and field trips
- Establish and implement a project monitoring plan including monthly and storm water testing and analysis

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, monitoring plan, and project assessment and evaluation plan | February 2009 – April 2009 |
| ¼ mile of existing trail restored | February 2009 – October 2009 |
| Six month progress report | July 2009 |
| 12 month progress report | January 2010 |
| Trail survey and design, 1 mile of new trail constructed, 3 new access points created | February 2010 – December 2010 |
| 18 month progress report | July 2010 |
| Published trail map, interpretive signs installed, and public outreach | February 2011 – December 2011 |
| 24 month progress report | January 2012 |

| Ongoing items | |
|--|---|
| Invasive plant removal and native vegetation planting on 8.4 acres | February 2009 – December 2010 |
| Educational materials for local schools including workplan, curriculum, community course catalog, and program evaluation | February 2009 – February 2012 |
| Monitoring plan data analysis memos | Monthly between February 2009 – February 2012 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | May 31, 2012 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Monitoring | \$18,500 |
| Trail restoration and construction | 95,800 |
| Outreach and interpretive signage | 14,000 |
| Invasives removal and native vegetation planting | 28,000 |
| Educational materials | 15,500 |
| Reporting | 8,500 |
| Direct administration | 27,045 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$207,343 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Gene Albaugh City Manager, City of Nevada City
- Don Ryberg, Tribal Chairman, Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of New Recreation Access Points
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Project Title: HAZEL MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 080149

PROJECT SCOPE

As a component of El Dorado Irrigation District's larger restoration efforts at Jenkinson Lake, the Hazel Meadow Restoration Project will provide for the repair and improvement of recreation infrastructure along Hazel Meadow, a natural drainage to Jenkinson Lake. Previous land uses such as equestrian and hiking trails in Hazel Meadow have degraded the meadow's habitat and impacted water quality entering the lake, which serves as a public water supply for most of El Dorado County. New infrastructure will allow visitors to appreciate the increased and improved meadow habitat without affecting the vegetation, soil, species or water quality. This project will:

- Construct an ADA accessible boardwalk and viewing platform over existing compacted pathway through the meadow to the shoreline of Jenkinson Lake, a major recreational amenity, fishery, and drinking water supply for El Dorado County.

Because the boardwalk and platform will provide access through the meadow to the lake shore without damaging the restored meadow habitat, they are essential to maintaining the sustainability of the restored meadow, water quality, habitat diversity, recreation, and educational benefits of the project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|------------------------|
| Construct boardwalk and platform | April 2009 – June 2009 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | September 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Materials | \$34,116 |
| Labor – EID construction and recreational staff | 32,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$66,116 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Stephen L. Edinger Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved
- Number of New Recreation Access Points

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: MOUNTAIN AREA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
Project Title: FINAL PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR THE TROUT CREEK
POCKET PARK RESTORATION PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 080170

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete the planning and design necessary to complete CEQA and permitting for the protection of a portion of Trout Creek and development of the Trout Creek Pocket Park. Restoration of this park, located in Truckee's historic downtown, will utilize "Sustainable Sites Initiative" green building techniques, improve the water quality of Trout Creek through urban snow management, reduced erosion, run-off management, and revitalize an underused area of downtown Truckee. The project will also provide educational opportunities on the Trout Creek ecosystem, wise water use, and sustainability.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|--------------------------|
| Site reconnaissance and initial community coordination and outreach | March 2009 |
| Schematic design and review | July 2009 |
| Six month progress report | August 2009 |
| Complete 80% Design Documents with details and specifications to support final completion of CEQA documentation. | September 2009 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | December 31, 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Site reconnaissance and initial community coordination and outreach | \$10,000 |
| Complete 80% Design Documents with details and specifications to support final completion of CEQA documentation. | \$75,000 |
| Direct administration | 8,500 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$93,500 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Pat Davison, Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe Community Project
- Steven Frisch, President, Sierra Business Council
- John Svahn, Executive Director, Truckee Trails Foundation
- Truckee Downtown Merchants Association
- Town of Truckee
- Lisa Wallace, Executive Director, Truckee River Watershed Council

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST
Project Title: SIERRA NEVADA RANGELAND 2008 PRE-PROJECT DUE DILLIGENCE TASKS – PENOBSCOT RANCH
Application Number: SNC 080163B

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will provide the appraisal and Phase I Environmental Assessment Report for the purpose of obtaining a conservation easement for the 330 acre Penobscot Ranch, a working cattle ranch, in the South Fork American River watershed near Cool in El Dorado County. Pigs, chickens, goats, and horses are also raised on the ranch. The ranch lies in the Penobscot Creek watershed, a perennial stream. There are also two ponds on the property, and a total of 8 acres of riparian habitat.

This property was identified as one of the highest priority sites for protection by the applicant's Rangeland Assessment Grant that was funding by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The easement will protect water and watershed, wildlife habitat, rangeland, and cultural/historical resources.

The applicant intends to submit a grant for acquisition in 2009 following the completion of the due-diligence.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|----------------------|
| Order appraisal and Phase I ESA reports | February 2009 |
| Receive appraisal and ESA reports | June 2009 |
| Review and finalize appraisal and ESA reports | August 2009 |
| Submit 6 month report | August 2009 |
| Submit reports along with GAPs to SNC | November 2009 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | December 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Appraisal Summary Report | \$6,500 |
| Phase I ESA Report | 3,500 |
| Administrative costs, performance measures and reporting | 1,500 |
| Hard costs | 175 |
| | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$11,675 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Ron Briggs, Supervisor, County of El Dorado
- William J. Bennett, Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: LASSEN LAND AND TRAILS TRUST
Project Title: 101 RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT
Application Number: SNC 080151

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will allow the Lassen Land and Trails Trust (LLTT) to facilitate the negotiation and legal review for a conservation easement on 2310 acres of the 101 Ranch in Lassen County, (APN:113-070-07;113-070-08;113-100-02,113-100-03,113-100-05,113-100-07,113-100-08;115-070-20,115-070-11,115-070-15,115-070-16;115-120-02 and 115-120-05,-- 1841.6 acres and APN 115-070-12,115-070-13,115-070-14; 115-120-06, 115-120-31 and 115-120-34 -- 468.4 acres) The LLTT will also purchase an easement appraisal and title work; complete a draft grazing plan and create a baseline report and monitoring plan. This due diligence will allow the LLTT to apply to the Wildlife Conservation Board during their 2009 schedule for purchase of the easement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|------------------------------|
| Negotiate the terms for the conservation easement, grazing plan, monitoring plan and prepare baseline report. | February – June 2009 |
| Contract Appraisal | June - August 2009 |
| Six month Progress Report | September 2009 |
| Title Report/Review | June 2009 |
| Apply for acquisition funding with WCB | November 2009 |
| Coordination/Administration of Grant | February 2009 - January 2010 |
| Final Report – Complete Performance Measure | January 2010 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | January 31, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Easement Negotiation | \$15,000 |
| Grazing Plan | 5,000 |
| Title Report/Appraisal | 10,000 |
| Complete Baseline Documentation Report | 5,000 |
| Grant Administration | 4,000 |
| Performance Measures Reporting | 1,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$40,000 |

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.
Project Title: SOUTH ASH VALLEY RIPARIAN MONITORING PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 080213

PROJECT SCOPE

There is a significant amount of anecdotal evidence indicating that removal of western juniper from the sagebrush steppe habitat results in increased water availability, expansion of riparian/meadow habitats, and increased vegetative productivity. This pilot project will result in scientific data that can be used to assess soil moisture and vegetative response following western juniper removal in Lassen County. Data analysis will be used by LCFSC and shared with local, state, and federal land managers to improve prescriptions and management plans for future juniper removal projects.

Lassen County Fire Safe Council will collect data, analyze data, and report results for three riparian/meadow monitoring sites in South Ash Valley over a three-year period using methods developed by the University of California, Cooperative Extension in Lassen County and UC Davis. Each of the three riparian monitoring sites will include:

- Six soil moisture transects using soil sensors and data loggers to monitor volumetric water content of the soil
- 18 cages to monitor vegetative productivity in treated versus untreated areas
- Six line transects to monitor plant composition and to analyze whether riparian areas expand into upland areas post treatment
- Rain gauges at each monitoring site and temperature data collected from the three closest weather stations

At each site, half of the transects and cages will be in areas that receive treatments and half will be in untreated areas, with the first year's data to be collected prior to treatment. Data will be analyzed to see whether soil moisture increases and/or is available for a longer period of time in treated versus untreated areas.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-----------------|
| Six soil moisture transects, 18 cages, six line transects, and rain gauges set up at three riparian monitoring sites | March 2009 |
| Six month progress report | August 2009 |
| 1 st Annual Preliminary Data Report | February 2010 |
| Six month progress report | August 2010 |
| 2 nd Annual Preliminary Data Report | February 2011 |
| Six month progress report | August 2011 |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Final annual report with scientific report and poster presentation discussing the results of monitoring/research | February 2012 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | June 30, 2012 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Travel to and from project site (5640 miles @ \$.585/mile) | \$2,300 |
| Equipment | 19,800 |
| Project management | 2,500 |
| Project site set-up, data collection, Annual Preliminary Data Reports, and Final Scientific Report | 23,000 |
| Direct administration | 2,400 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$50,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- David Lile, County Director UC Cooperative Extension, Lassen County

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: FALL RIVER RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Project Title: LOWER BEAVER CREEK PLANNING PROJECT

Application Number: SNC 080220

PROJECT SCOPE

This planning project would address restoration and enhancement needs along lower Beaver Creek, one of two major tributaries to the Pit River in the Fall River Valley. Total project area is about 190 acres consisting of roughly 19,000 linear feet of stream. Restoration efforts would improve overall water quality and stream function. The project would complete all necessary design steps to make the project ready for implementation including environmental assessment, stakeholder coordination, and design details, monitoring methods, CEQA compliance and permitting.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|--------------------------|
| Coordination with landowners/oversight | March 2009-March 2011 |
| Restoration Design and Detail Report | May-July, 2009 |
| Resource Assessments and Permitting | May 2009 – December 2010 |
| 6 Month Progress Report | November 2009 |
| Reports and Outreach Efforts | March 2009 – March 2011 |
| 2 nd Progress Report | May 2010 |
| 3 rd Progress Report | December 2010 |
| Final Reports/Performance Measures | March 2011 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | April 30, 2011 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| CEQA, Review and Permitting | \$ 3,000 |
| Resource Assessments, Design, Reports and Outreach | 46,400 |
| Coordination and Oversight | 26,000 |
| Administrative Costs | 3,600 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$82,700 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Russell Turner, Ed DeVaul, Bill Buchanan and Doyle Williams, Fall River RCD Landowners

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: PIT RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Project Title: LOWER ROSE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 080222

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will restore eroding stream banks and degraded riparian and floodplain conditions along the lower portion of Rose Creek leading into the Pit River near Lookout in Modoc County. The total project area is about 20 acres and consists of approximately 4,000 linear feet of stream course. The project adds to the restoration efforts of the Pit River watershed and ties in with meadow restoration, stream bank restoration, and floodplain enhancement projects that were completed in 2005-2007.

The restoration design includes the installation of grade control structures to stop head cutting, and the placement of junipers (locally extracted specimens installed as dead biomass cribbing) and gravel to revet eroding banks and raise the elevation of Rose Creek to near historic levels. Completion of the project will reconnect the creek to its floodplain, and result in improved water quality, in-stream habitat diversity, and riparian and meadow habitat. Additionally, livestock improvements (e.g. fencing and watering structures) will allow landowners the ability to ensure that project goals are met.

The project will be highlighted in the local newspaper, RCD newsletter, and presented at local stakeholder meetings to raise awareness of local resource management problems and solutions.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|------------------------|
| Pre-construction activities, advertise bid, surveying | March 2009 – July 2009 |
| Construction | July 2009 – Dec. 2009 |
| Submit first six month progress report | September 2009 |
| Submit second six month report | March 2010 |
| Reports, Monitoring and Outreach | July 2009 – June 2010 |
| FINAL REPORT / FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | June 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Administrative costs | \$4,500 |
| Publications and advertising | 700 |
| Materials (rock, fencing) | 10,000 |
| GIS service | 2,000 |
| Pit RCD watershed coordination (pre- and post-construction, monitoring, reports) | 12,740 |
| Construction contract | 17,550 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$47,490 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Modoc County Board of Supervisors

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: PIT RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Project Title: MASON/MONCHAMP/BALSOM STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AND FLOODPLAIN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
Application Number: SNC 080223

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will address eroding stream banks and degraded riparian and floodplain conditions along the Pit River near Lookout in the Big Valley of Modoc County. The total project area is about 15 acres and consists of approximately 3,000 linear feet of stream course. The project area was originally identified as part of the RCD Watershed Management Strategy, and was later included in a larger planning effort to explore restoration/enhancement techniques at representative sites along the Pit River in Big Valley. This planning effort was funded by an earlier grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

The dominant feature of this project site is the severely incised banks and deeply inset river within in the floodplain. The project design includes:

- Installation of rock vanes (approximately 20) at the outward bends of the river to re-route water flow
- Re-sloping and re-vegetation of slopes
- Re-sloping of higher elevation areas within the floodplain
- Livestock improvements (e.g. fencing and watering structures) to allow landowners the ability to ensure project goals are met

The project will be highlighted in the local newspaper, RCD newsletter, and presented at local stakeholder meetings, to raise awareness of local resource management problems and solutions.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|------------------------|
| Pre-construction activities | March 2009 – July 2009 |
| Construction | July 2009 – Dec. 2009 |
| Submit first six month progress report | September 2009 |
| Submit second six month report | March 2010 |
| Reports, Monitoring and Outreach | July 2009 – June 2010 |
| FINAL REPORT / FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | June 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Administrative costs (book-keeping, billing) | \$3,600 |
| Office expenses | 600 |
| Publications and advertising | 700 |
| Materials – rock for vanes | 50,000 |
| Materials – fencing | 6,000 |
| GIS service | 500 |
| Pit RCD watershed coordination (pre- and post-construction, monitoring, reports) | 15,340 |
| Construction contracts | 111,650 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$188,390 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Gordon Mason (project site landowner)
- Gary Monchamp (project site landowner)
- Modoc County Board of Supervisors

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: PLUMAS COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL
Project Title: COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PLANNING
Application Number: SNC 080041

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would continue preparing and implementing Hazardous Fuel Reduction projects to protect Upper Feather River watershed resources within Plumas County's communities at risk, as part of implementing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The project will continue to assist in meeting the Plumas County FSC mission to reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfire through pre-fire fuels reduction activities. The intent of HFR projects is to reduce estimated flame lengths on treated acres and bring crown fires to the ground or inhibit the initiation of crown fires.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|----------------------|
| Retain qualified resource professionals to review potential projects | March 2009 |
| Initiate community outreach to obtain community coordination and obtain necessary landowner agreements to treat up to 470 acres. | June 2009 |
| 6-month Progress Report | July 2009 |
| Develop fuel reduction prescriptions; delineate treatment area by delineating trees or vegetation to be removed, including assessment of commercial value of forest products. | September 2009 |
| Prepare appropriate CEQA and/or timber harvest plan or permits. | December 2009 |
| Prepare RFP for solicitation of HFR contractors | December 2009 |
| 2 nd 6-month Progress Report | January 2010 |
| Establish monitoring plots | January 2010 |
| Collect pre-assessment information to prepare treatment funding requests | January 30, 2010 |
| Seek Implementation Funding | February 2010 |
| Complete final reports | May 2010 |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | June 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Contracting, fiscal and grant management, Administrative | \$6,500 |
| Registered Professional Forester to develop treatment prescriptions, including delineation of area and vegetation, THP as required, CEQA and permitting | 52,500 |
| Establish monitoring plots | 6,500 |
| Community Outreach | 6,500 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$72,000 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- John Sheehan, Plumas Corporation
- Brain West, Natural Resources Conservation Service

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Project Title: JAMISON RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Application Number: SNC 080131

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will fund the preliminary activities necessary to prepare for the acquisition of a conservation easement on the 2,400-acre Jamison Ranch to preserve it as a working ranch. Acquisition of the conservation easement will protect an ecologically significant property located in Sierra Valley in Sierra County. The ranch consists of 10 legal parcels encompassing multiple wetlands and springs and nearly 15 miles of streams including portions of Lemon Creek, Bonta Creek, Hamlin Creek and their tributaries.

The pre-acquisition due diligence will include:

- easement negotiation and legal review
- completed appraisal report
- development of a baseline report and monitoring plan.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|------------------|
| Completion of easement negotiations | April 2009 |
| Completion of legal review of easement | May 2009 |
| Completion of option agreement | June 2009 |
| Conduct and complete appraisal for the property | August 2009 |
| Submit six-month progress report to SNC | August 2009 |
| Complete production of Baseline Report | September 2009 |
| Complete production of monitoring plan | November 2009 |
| FINAL REPORT/Request for Final Payment | January 30, 2010 |
| Submit Addendum Report on Performance Measures | January 2011 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|---|--------------------------|
| Project planning, development and management | \$15,000 |
| Easement/option negotiation and legal review | 12,000 |
| Appraisal services | 10,000 |
| Production of baseline report and monitoring plan | 13,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$50,000 |

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: FEATHER RIVER LAND TRUST
Project Title: DOTTA PROPERTY FEE TITLE ACQUISITION
Application Number: SNC 080156

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will enable the Feather River Land Trust to acquire fee title to the 976-acre Dotta Property located in Sierra Valley, southeast of Loyalton in Sierra County (APN 016-090-016 and 016-090-019). Additional funding for this acquisition will come from the Wildlife Conservation Board (\$650,000) and the Northern Sierra Partnership (\$95,000) and the Sierra Business Council (\$30,000) for a total purchase price of \$975,000. This property would eventually be conveyed to the California Department of Fish and Game as a permanent addition to the adjacent Smithneck Creek State Wildlife Area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-------------------------|
| Authorize payment of \$200,000 towards fee title purchase of the Dotta Property. | February 2009 |
| Close Escrow on Dotta Property along with partner funding. | August 2009 |
| Six Month Progress Report | August 2009 |
| | |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | January 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SNC Funding for acquisition | \$200,000 |
| | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$200,000 |

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Conserved

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: PLUMAS CORP-FEATHER RIVER CRM
Project Title: FEATHER RIVER WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION
Application Number: SNC 080165

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will increase Plumas County residents and visitors capacity to make informed decisions about water quality and watershed issues through an active stewardship program of the Upper Feather River Watershed by providing educational materials and publications for students, educators, community members and visitors to assist them in learning about watershed processes, water resources, water quality and restoration efforts.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| K-12 Education Coordination (Multiple Programs & Activities) | May 2009 |
| Community Outreach & Education (Multiple Programs) | Monthly from April - September 2009 |
| Curriculum documentation | March 2010 |
| Progress Reports semi-annually beginning July 2009 | July 2009, |
| FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | June 30, 2010 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Community Outreach Coordination | \$28,160 |
| K-12 Regional Watershed Education Coordination | 58,400 |
| Administrative Costs | 12,984 |
| | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$99,544 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Holly George, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Alan Morrison, Pioneer Quincy Elementary School
- Kest Porter, Plumas County Office of Education, Plumas Unified School District

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge and Behavior

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Applicant: CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST
Project Title: SIERRA NEVADA RANGELAND 2008 PRE-PROJECT DUE DILLIGENCE TASKS – KEY BRAND ANGUS RANCH
Application Number: SNC 080163A

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will provide appraisal and Phase I Environmental Assessment Report for the purpose of obtaining a conservation easement for the Key Brand Angus Ranch, a working hay and cattle ranch, in the North Fork Feather River watershed near Greenville in Plumas County. The conservation easement would encompass 560 acres of the 627 acre ranch. The property is dominated by wet meadow, irrigated pasture, and Wolf Creek riparian area.

This property was identified as one of the highest priority sites for protection by the applicant's Rangeland Assessment Grant that was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The easement will protect water and watershed, wildlife habitat, rangeland, and cultural/historical resources.

The applicant intends to submit a grant for acquisition in 2009 following the completion of the due-diligence.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

| DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES | TIMELINE |
|---|----------------------|
| Order appraisal and Phase I ESA reports | February 2009 |
| Receive appraisal and ESA reports | June 2009 |
| Review and finalize appraisal and ESA reports | August 2009 |
| Submit 6 month report | August 2009 |
| Submit reports along with GAPs to SNC | November 2009 |
| FINAL REPORT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST | December 2009 |

PROJECT COSTS

| PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES | TOTAL SNC FUNDING |
|--|--------------------------|
| Appraisal Summary Report | \$7,500 |
| Phase I ESA Report | 3,500 |
| Administrative costs, performance measures and reporting | 1,500 |
| Hard costs | 175 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$12,675 |

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

- Michael DeSpain, Greenville Rancheria
- Darrel Jury, Plumas Audubon
- Bob A. Orange, Department of Fish and Game
- Aletha Smith, Maidu Indian neighbor
- Wilma Taddei, Neighbor and birder
- Jim Wilcox, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management (FR-CRM)

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation

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 NOT RECOMMENDED* STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANTS
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| Rank | Subregion | Reference # | County | Project Title | Grantee Organization | Amount Requested | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Medium** | Region-wide | SNC 080018 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Conservancy/Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership Coordinator | US Fish and Wildlife Service, Habitat Restoration Division | \$82,300 | | |
| | | SNC 080028 | Alpine, Amador, Calaveras | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Planning and Development Project | Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$216,900 | | |
| | | SNC 080037 | Shasta, Tehama | Battle Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan | Tehama County Resource Conservation District | \$185,050 | | |
| | | SNC 080040 | Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Yuba | Abandoned Mine Lands Watershed Assessment Model: North and Middle Yuba Rivers | Department of Toxic Substances Control | \$500,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080080 | Region-wide | The Conifer Classroom | California Community Forests Foundation | \$25,900 | | |
| | | SNC 080090 | Butte, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Tehama, Yuba | Collaborative Land Conservation and Conservation Capacity | Resources Legacy Fund | \$190,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080128 | Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa | Place-based Community Design Templates for the Sierra Nevada | Local Government Commission | \$362,400 | | |
| | | SNC 080134 | Region-wide | Web-based Tools and Training Workshops for Evaluating Fuel Treatment Options in the Sierra Nevada Region | The Regents of the University of California- Berkeley | \$249,800 | | |
| | | SNC 080148 | Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Calaveras | Restoring Natural Reservoirs: Determining Priority Actions in the Sierra Nevada | Natural Heritage Institute | \$179,200 | | |
| | | SNC 080166 | Region-wide | Condition Assessment and Restoration Needs for Montane Meadows in the Sierra Nevada | Colorado State University, Office of Sponsored Programs | \$245,828 | | |
| | | SNC 080176 | Region-wide | Connecting Sierra Nevada Communities and Landscapes | The Regents of the University of California Office of Research, Sponsored Programs | \$298,300 | | |
| | | SNC 080178 | Region-wide | Rivers of California-- Book Project | Heyday Institute | \$50,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080180 | Alpine, Amador, Calaveras | Septic System Management Program for the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | \$360,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080184 | El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Yuba | Welcome to the Foothills, A Guide to Living Lightly in ___ County | High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$80,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080187 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Classroom Project-2 | California Institute for Biodiversity | \$123,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080188 | Madera, Placer | Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project Phase 2 | The Regents of the University of California Office of Research, Sponsored Programs | \$127,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080197 | Amador, El Dorado | Implementation Plan for Grey Water Systems in the Consumnes Watershed | California Association of Resource Conservation Districts | \$31,900 | | |
| | | SNC 080206 | Region-wide | Sierra Green Community Forestry Working Circle Partnership (Sierra Green) | Friends of the River Foundation | \$450,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080212 | Region-wide | Evaluating Steroid Hormone Occurrence, Fate and Transport on Grazing Rangelands in the Sierra Nevada Region | Board of Regents, NSHE, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno | \$179,925 | | |
| | | SNC 080215 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Carbon Cooperative | Sierra Business Council | \$320,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080216 | Region-wide | Sierra Nevada Hydroelectric License Implementation Project | Friends of the River | \$97,250 | | |
| | | Region-Wide Sum | | | | | | \$4,354,753 |
| | | East | | SNC 080208 | Mono | MLTPA Trails Plan Implementation Program 2008 | Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation | \$158,200 |
| | | | | SNC 080211 | Mono | Monitoring Effects of Habitat Restoration on Breeding Songbirds and Waterfowl at Adobe Valley Ranch | PRBO Conservation Science | \$16,000 |
| | | | | SNC 080225 | Mono | Hydrological Modeling of Upper Owens River Watershed | Cal Trout | \$306,000 |
| | | | | SNC 080227 | Inyo | LivingWise Program | High Sierra Energy Foundation | \$20,080 |
| East Sum | | | | | | \$500,280 | | |
| South | | SNC 080036 | Fresno, Madera | Documenting Motor Vehicle Impacts on Watersheds, Wildlife and Forest Visitors | The Wilderness Society - California/Nevada Regional Office | \$68,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080110 | Kern | Riverside Whitewater Park | Kern River Valley Council | \$100,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080115 | Kern | A Guide to Living Lightly in the Southern Sierras | Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$18,700 | | |
| | | SNC 080136 | Madera | Sustainable Vegetation Management Pilot Program Planning Grant | Coarsegold Resource Conservation District | \$35,200 | | |
| | | SNC 080175 | Tulare | Long Meadow Trail Environmental Pre-Project Due Diligence | Community Services Employment Training, Inc. | \$199,778 | | |
| | | SNC 080186 | Fresno | Kings River Experimental Watershed: Research on Stream Water Quality and Forest Restoration in the Sierra Nevada | USFS - Pacific Southwest Research Station | \$439,500 | | |
| South Sum | | | | | | \$861,178 | | |
| South Central | | SNC 080130 | Tuolumne | Quantifying Eighty Years of Change at the Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest: Implications for Restoring Biodiversity and Resilience to Fire in the Sierra Nevada | US Department of Agriculture - Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station | \$108,864 | | |
| | | SNC 080177 | Mariposa | Wildlink | Yosemite Institute | \$87,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080182 | Mariposa | Merced River Center at Briceburg, Phase II Education and Displays | Upper Merced River Watershed Council | \$246,200 | | |
| | | SNC 080191 | Mariposa | Watershed Classroom for Yosemite National Park | Yosemite Association | \$89,800 | | |
| | | SNC 080192 | Amador | Green Energy Water Conversion Project | Amador Water Agency | \$500,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080202 | Tuolumne | Projects Coordinator - Tuolumne County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Program | Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District | \$328,000 | | |
| SNC 080204 | Tuolumne | Tuolumne County Land Trust Capacity Building and Critical Acquisition Planning | Tuolumne County Land Trust | \$23,200 | | | | |
| South Central Sum | | | | | | \$1,383,064 | | |
| Central | | SNC 080006 | Placer | Fish and Habitat Response to the Natural Flow Regime of the North Fork American River: Establishing a Reference Site for the Northern Sierra Nevada Range | Regents of the University of California- Davis | \$441,198 | | |
| | | SNC 080010 | Nevada | Strategies for Sierra Rivers and Water Supply in a Changing Climate | American Rivers | \$174,200 | | |
| | | SNC 080014 | Nevada | Landowner Outreach and Education Program | Nevada County Land Trust | \$45,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080021 | Placer | Waterway Protection Education | Placer County Department of Public Works | \$116,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080032 | Nevada, Placer, Yuba | Yuba, Bear and American Rivers Relicensing Coordination - Concept Proposal to the SNC for Incorporation into the CHRC Submission to the SNC | Foothills Water Network | \$50,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080034 | Placer | Current and Historical Condition of Headwater Streams and Riparian Zones in the Upper North Fork of the American River | Sierra Nevada Research Center | \$235,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080091 | Nevada | Working Landscape Transaction Management Project | Nevada County Land Trust | \$87,500 | | |
| | | SNC 080097 | El Dorado | Conservation Vision and Action Plan | American River Conservancy | \$16,550 | | |
| | | SNC 080098 | Nevada | Yuba River Narrows Habitat Restoration Planning | Yuba County Resource Conservation District | \$179,700 | | |
| | | SNC 080124 | Placer | Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Fuels Reduction Project Phase I | Placer County Resource Conservation District | \$266,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080129 | Placer | Open Space Fire Prevention, Vegetation Management and Watershed Protection Prescribed Grazing Project | City of Rocklin | \$102,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080144 | El Dorado, Nevada, Placer | Recognizing Your Watershed - Watershed Signage Placement | Nevada County Resource Conservation District | \$36,850 | | |
| | | SNC 080183 | Placer | Study of Donner Summit Region Watershed | Serene Lakes Donner Summit Conservation Association | \$329,400 | | |
| | | SNC 080195 | El Dorado, Nevada, Placer | Quantifying Sediment Delivery From Native Roads, Diversion Ditches, and Mines within the Yuba, Bear, American and Cosumnes River Watersheds to Identify and Prioritize Future Restoration Projects | California Association of Resource Conservation Districts | \$395,500 | | |
| | | SNC 080196 | Nevada | Deer Creek Watershed Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan | Friends of Deer Creek | \$375,000 | | |
| | | SNC 080219 | Placer | Developing Greenville High School Natural Resources Academy's Field Research and Watershed Program | Sierra Institute for Community and Environment | \$85,500 | | |
| Central Sum | | | | | | \$2,935,398 | | |
| North | | SNC 080003 | Shasta | Bear Creek Fractured-rock Groundwater Study | Western Shasta Resource Conservation District | \$49,869 | | |
| | | SNC 080007 | Lassen | Restoring Rangeland Watershed and Fisheries: Pine Creek Watershed and Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout | The Regents of the University of California- Davis | \$217,560 | | |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|---|------------------|
| | | SNC 080152 | Modoc | Watershed Restoration Evaluation Project | Central Modoc Resource Conservation District | \$47,600 | |
| | | SNC 080201 | Shasta | Triple B Ranch Due Diligence | Shasta Land Trust | \$12,650 | |
| | | SNC 080214 | Lassen | Shaffer Sage-Grouse Lek Land Appraisal | Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Field Office | \$11,500 | |
| | | SNC 080217 | Modoc | Highway 139 Watershed Interpretation Project | Modoc National Forest | \$45,200 | |
| | | SNC 080221 | Shasta | Rough Sculpin Distribution and Habitat Surveys | Fall River Resource Conservation District | \$100,850 | |
| North Sum | | | | | | \$485,229 | |
| North Central | | SNC 080074 | Butte | Community Coordination, Soil Erosion Education, and Implementation | Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council | \$95,796 | |
| | | SNC 080093 | Plumas | Lakes Basin Trail and Watershed Restoration | Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | \$206,500 | |
| | | SNC 080155 | Plumas | Improving Public Access and Educational Opportunities on Feather River Land Trust Properties | Feather River Land Trust | \$28,085 | |
| | | SNC 080167 | Plumas | Healthy Trails and Watershed Planning Project | Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship | \$44,200 | |
| | | SNC 080179 | Plumas | Eastside Meadow Restoration Project Development | Feather River Coordinated Resource Management | \$100,000 | |
| North Central Sum | | | | | | \$474,581 | |
| Medium Sum | | | | | | \$10,994,483 | |
| Low*** | South | SNC 080053 | Fresno | Musick Creek Watershed Protection Project, Part 4 | Sierra Music and Arts Institute | \$90,000 | |
| | | SNC 080100 | Kern, Tulare | Review and Study for Possible Revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the North and South Forks of the Wild and Scenic River | US Forest Service, Kern River Ranger District | \$145,000 | |
| | | SNC 080120 | Kern | Indian Wells Valley Remote Well Rehabilitation Project 2008 | Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District | \$61,600 | |
| | | SNC 080200 | Kern | Fencing Willow Springs Pond | Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$16,590 | |
| | South Sum | | | | | | \$313,190 |
| | South Central | | SNC 080194 | Tuolumne | Pine Mountain Lake Woody Biomass Utilization Feasibility Study | Yosemite Foothills Fire Safe Council | \$9,200 |
| | South Central Sum | | | | | | \$9,200 |
| | Central | | SNC 080039 | Yuba | Roadside Fuel Reduction | County of Yuba - Department of Public Works | \$182,490 |
| | | | SNC 080122 | Placer | "You and Your Forests" a How to Guide and Defensible Space and Healthy Forest Handbook | Placer County Resource Conservation District | \$10,000 |
| | | | SNC 080168 | Yuba | Yuba County Residential Chipping Program | High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$130,000 |
| | | | SNC 080203 | Placer | Placer Legacy Outreach Program | Placer County Planning Department | \$30,000 |
| | Central Sum | | | | | | \$352,490 |
| | North | | SNC 080150 | Modoc | Defensible Space-Landowner Assistance Program | Modoc Fire Safe Council | \$116,200 |
| | | | SNC 080153 | Modoc | Modoc County Noxious Weed Eradication Aerial Treatment Project | Modoc County Department of Agriculture | \$54,000 |
| | | | SNC 080164 | Shasta | HCVFSC - Cassel Concern #1 - 18 Acre Fuel Break | Fall River Resource Conservation District on behalf of Hat Creek Valley Fire Safe Council | \$42,428 |
| | | SNC 080218 | Lassen | Environmental Clearances for the Dodge Reservoir Sage-Grouse Habitat Restoration Project | Bureau of Land Management - Eagle Lake Field Office | \$36,500 | |
| North Sum | | | | | | \$249,128 | |
| North Central | | SNC 080063 | Butte | Applying Lessons Learned: Watershed Fire Stewardship Education Project | Butte County Firesafe Council | \$39,900 | |
| | | SNC 080190 | Plumas | FRC Hatchery Fish Transport Project | Feather River College Hatchery | \$59,248 | |
| North Central Sum | | | | | | \$99,148 | |
| Low Sum | | | | | | \$1,023,156 | |
| Grand Total | | | | | | \$12,017,639 | |

* SOG applications that were not recommended for funding in this first round remain active for the second round, with projects in the Medium category having the highest potential for possible funding depending on mix of new applications received.

** Applications listed under the Medium ranking generally met Proposition 84 objectives and contributed to the mission of SNC, but either didn't rank as high on other criteria or are being held back for consideration in the second round because they didn't address on-the-ground projects.

*** Applications in the Low ranking generally did not exhibit as strong a tie to Proposition 84 or the SNC mission or didn't compete as successfully on other fundamental evaluation criteria.