SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY

Board Meeting Agenda
February 7-8, 2007

Meeting Location
Board of Supervisors Chambers
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

Change in the Order of meeting, reception and field trip:
At the December Board Meeting the Board approved a change in the order of the two-day meeting schedule. The Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 7th followed by a reception and the field trip will be held the following morning, February 8th.

February 7, 2007 **1:00 PM**
Board Meeting

I. Call to Order

II. Introduction and Oath of Office for new Boardmember(s)

III. Roll Call

IV. Approval of December 7, 2006 Meeting Minutes

V. Public Comments
Provide an opportunity for the public to make comment on non-agenda items.

VI. Chairman's Report
a. Sub Region Representatives (Alternates) for 2007-08
b. Governor's Budget

VII. Executive Officer's Report
a. Staffing/Budget Update
b. Area Offices Update
c. Permanent Headquarters Office Selection Process
d. Proposed Annual Symposium
e. Integrated Regional Watershed Management Planning Workshop
f. California Rangeland Conservation Coalition
g. Northeastern California Small Business Development Center / CED Presentation
h. "Saving the Sierra, Voices of Conservation"

VIII. Deputy Attorney General's Report

IX. South Central Sub-Region Counties Reports
Representatives of South Central Region will provide the Board with a brief overview of key information regarding their counties, including significant issues in the area of the SNC's mission.

X. Action Plan Update and Implementation Update
The Board will be briefed on progress on the Action Plan.

XI. SNC License Plate
The Board will be briefed on the status of the effort to create a Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate. The Board may act upon recommendations from staff and the board committee and may authorize the Executive Officer to take actions necessary to establish such a plate.

XII. Program and Grant Guideline Development
The Board will review draft Program Guidelines and may provide direction to staff.

XIII. Overview of Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "Sierra Resource Management Plan and Long Term Vision for the Mother Lode"
The Board will receive an overview of BLM's Mother Lode Conservation Strategy from Bill Haigh, Folsom Field Manager.

XIV. Recognition of former Senator and Assemblyman Tim Leslie

XV. Board Members' Comments

XVI. Public Comments

XVII. Adjournment

February 7, 2007
Reception **5:30 - 7:00PM**
Following the Board Meeting, a reception will be held at Bellotti's located at 53 Main Street, Sutter Creek, CA in the upstairs banquet room.

February 8, 2007 **9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
Field Trip
9:00 AM – Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip reviewing issues and activities relative to the Conservancy's mission in the Jackson/Amador area. The field trip will begin at Denny's 200 S Highway 49, Jackson, CA (Members of the public may participate in the field trip and reception but are responsible for their own lunch and transportation). Limited space may be available, please call (530) 823-4672 to determine availability.

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 Ms. Grace at (530) 823-4672 or tgrace@sierranevada.ca.gov. or 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn CA 95603. If you need reasonable accommodations please contact Ms. Grace 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).

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

December 7, 2006
Board Meeting Minutes

Location:
Wildwood Center
400 Meadowbrook Loop
Chester, CA 96020

I. Call to Order
Chairman Chrisman called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

II. Roll Call
Present: Linda Arcularius, Helen Baumann, Louis Boitano, John Brissenden, Mike Chrisman, Brian Dahle, Allen Ishida, Bob Kirkwood, John Lloyd, BJ Kirwan, Byron Sher, Carol Whiteside, Kim Yamaguchi, Beth Pendleton, Bill Haigh and Kevin Cann.

Absent: No members were absent.

III. Approval of October 5, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Boardmember Lloyd indicated on page 8 under the Attorney General Report, change the word "constitutional" to "policy." There were no other changes to the minutes.

Action: Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Arcularius seconded a motion to approve the October 5, 2006 Meeting Minutes with noted change. The motion passed unanimously.

Boardmembers Ishida and Dahle abstained from voting.

Chairman Chrisman invited general discussion about the field trip the previous day; presenters included Collins Pine, the US Forest Service, the Quincy Library Group, the local Fire Safe Council and PG&E. A special thanks was given to Plumas County Supervisor Rose Comstock and Quincy Library Group County Forester Frank Stewart. Topics included ongoing projects and the need for funding in order to implement local projects aimed at reducing the risk of catastrophic fire.

IV. Election of Vice Chair
Boardmember Kirwan informed the Board that she and Chairman Chrisman served as the nominating committee for purposes of nominating a Vice Chair. The

committee met via conference call and is recommending that Boardmember Brian Dahle be selected as Vice Chair. Kirwan pointed out that the Vice Chair's term will run for a full calendar year.

Action: Boardmember Arcularius moved and Boardmember Yamaguchi seconded a motion to elect Boardmember Dahle as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comments

Jonathan Kusel, Director of Sierra Institute, described a local project funded via prop 13, the "Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee", which was created by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Kusel described the challenges facing Plumas County, including increased development and a growing population, water quality In Lake Almanor, the importance of working landscapes and affordable workforce housing. He referred the Board to two reports from the Committee, the Lake Almanor Watershed Assessment Report and the Lake Almanor Watershed Water Quality Report, which are not yet final but are available on-line at http://sierrainstitute.us

Boardmember Brissenden suggested that the reports be incorporated into the SNC electronic database.

VI. Chairman's Report

a. Sub Region Representatives for 2007-08

Chairman Chrisman noted Byng Hunt, Mono County Supervisor, is the newly appointed Boardmember representing the Eastern Sierra Sub-Region for 2007-08. The SNC has not been notified as yet as to who will represent the Central Sub-Region.

b. Proposition 84

Chairman Chrisman noted a special thanks to Michael Mantell and Resources Law Group for their work in support of Proposition 84. Chrisman also noted the voters were very generous to Resources Agency with Propositions 1E and 84 providing $9.5 billion to fund a significant number of important projects. Chrisman informed the Board that the Resources Agency is working with various state agencies to ensure a strategic approach to implementing Proposition 84. He pointed out that the SNC will receive $54 million from the Proposition 84 funds.

c. Recognition of Assemblyman Tim Leslie

Chairman Chrisman noted the Board and SNC would like to recognize former Senator and Assemblyman Tim Leslie for his co-authoring AB 2600 the legislation creating the SNC. Mr. Leslie is leaving the legislature at the end of the year. He could not attend this meeting but plans on attending the February 7, 2007 Board Meeting.

VII. Executive Officer's Report

a. Staffing/Budget Update

Executive Officer Branham gave a staff update, introducing Dave Madrigal, Information Technology Coordinator, and noted SNC has extended an offer for an Office Assistant. The SNC has Program Analyst I and II exams scheduled for the week December 11-15. The SNC will then establish lists for each classification and begin hiring in early 2007. The current plan is to hire initial field staff by April 1, 2007, based on approval of the Board of office locations.

Branham noted that the SNC has added new contracts and expects additional contracts in upcoming months to continue implementation of the Action Plan. The SNC continues to work to ensure that Proposition 84 funds are appropriated for 07-08 budget year. Branham noted that several agencies will receive funding from Proposition 84 in subject areas that are consistent with SNC's mission, and the SNC will work with Department of Water Resources, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and others for opportunities to cooperate and partner in addressing these issue areas. He pointed out that non-government partners including Izzy Martin (Sierra Fund), Kerri Timmer (Sierra Nevada Land Trust Council) and Joan Clayburgh (Sierra Nevada Alliance) are actively seeking to leverage funds for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Boardmember Ishida expressed the concern that the Conservancy should marshal its funds to ensure maximum assistance to the communities in the Region, and not to build a "staff empire." Branham assured the Board this is not the intent, SNC will be acting to maximize the positive impact of all funding that is received. He pointed out that the Board concurred at the October meeting on the importance of having staff on the ground in field offices out in the Region, believing this is the most effective and efficient way to carry out the SNC's mission. These positions are funded under SNC's current budget, not by Proposition 84 funds.

b. Federal Land Managers' Meeting (March 2007)

Executive Officer Branham informed the Board that a March 2007 meeting of federal land managers will be held at the SNC Auburn office. This includes managers from the US Forest Service, National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management throughout the Region. Other federal agencies will be invited as will key state officials. The group will discuss opportunities for collaboration with a focus on the Program and Grant guidelines that will be in the development phase at that point.

Branham was invited by Boardmember Haigh to speak at the next BLM State management team meeting.

c. **Modoc Line Update**

Executive Officer Branham informed the Board that an appraiser has been selected to conduct an appraisal of the Modoc Line. The appraiser will be funded

by Modoc County, Lassen County, the Lassen Land and Trails Trust, the SNC and the American Land Conservancy (project coordinator). He indicated that the appraisal will be completed within the timeline agreed upon with Union Pacific Railroad.

He also indicated that a rail system map is included in the Board materials and that an initial contact with UP has been made to discuss a more systematic approach to deal with potential abandoned railways.

Modoc County Supervisor Dave Bradshaw thanked SNC staff for their important and key role in this project. The possibility of a ribbon ceremony at the May 2007 Board meeting was noted.

d. Headquarters Office Update

The current headquarters location was approved as an interim location by the Board in February 2006. At that time, the Board directed Executive Officer Branham to continue to explore options for a permanent office site within a 30 minute drive of Auburn. Branham will continue to review the options, will propose a process and criteria for the Board's consideration at the February meeting, and will develop a recommendation for a permanent office location for Board consideration, and possible action, at the July 2007 Board meeting.

e. "Saving the Sierra, Voices of Conservation"

Executive Officer Branham noted the representative could not make this meeting and gave a brief overview of the group. "Saving the Sierra, Voices of Conservation" works with radio stations, Web sites, blogging programs and with Sierra citizens from ranchers to conservation leaders, to present their stories and to connect the people of the Sierra and the heritage of the Sierra. We will schedule the presentation for February meeting.

f. Presentation of Thesis

Professor Timothy Duane, University of California, Berkeley, introduced a recent graduate student, Tanya Higgins, who had written a Master's thesis relating a potential decision making model that could be used by the SNC. Ms. Higgins summarized the methodology and conclusions of her study. Board members discussed the potential utility of the model with Duane and Higgins and staff indicated they would consider using this approach where applicable.

g. Meeting Schedule Change

Executive Officer Branham proposed a change for the Board meeting schedule for February 2007. He proposed that the business meeting of the Board be held on Wednesday afternoon February 7, followed by a reception Wednesday evening and a field trip on the morning of Thursday December 8. The change is necessary to accommodate Chairman Chrisman's schedule and the Board concurred with the proposed change.

VIII. Deputy Attorney General's Report Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul noted that AB 2927 (Leno), which was discussed at a previous meeting, had been passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger. Also, SB 796 (Figueroa), passed in 2005, takes effect in January 2007 and will require a few changes to the Conservancy's website. Boardmembers' annual statements of economic interest (SEI) are required to be filed in the spring. Boardmembers will be informed of the date for filing. Additionally, she advised that conflicts training is required of Boardmembers every two years and can be completed by watching a video or using an interactive website. She will provide further details. Boardmember Yamaguchi discussed recent conflict training for local officials and asked if that would suffice. Ms. Sproul indicated she would review that training and advise boardmembers.

IX. North Central Sub-Region Counties Report

Boardmember Yamaguchi thanked the Board for allowing his Sub-Region to host the Board meeting and tour. He extended thanks to Rose Comstock, Plumas County Supervisor and Frank Stewart for their assistance.

Sierra County Supervisor Brooks Mitchell reported that the single biggest threat in Sierra County is catastrophic fire. The Sub-Region hopes that through the SNC some of the issues can be addressed, noting Sierra County has lost population, unlike most Sierra counties. He noted it is also important to work with federal and state entities to get projects going in the region and is looking forward to action on the ground to solve some of these fire issues. Boardmember Yamaguchi noted the importance of listening to the "grass roots" and people on the ground through open lines of communication.

Supervisor Comstock reported Plumas County is encouraging SNC to work to develop partnerships, in order to get things done, urging the SNC to find common ground with other agencies and work towards common goals. The Feather River Watershed is a major contributor (up to 40%) of the water in State Water Project. She noted we need to not only sustain, but also to protect and enhance the water storage.

Boardmember Yamaguchi reported that Butte County is the largest county north of Sacramento, representing about 40,000 people. He described the situation existing near Magalia, where the only main thoroughfare for the residents to leave the area in case of emergency crossed a dam. With a 22,000 daily traffic count across that dam, the potential impacts from catastrophic fire are extreme. This is a community where Yamaguchi certainly looks to the SNC for assistance in seeking solutions. He also discussed future water needs for the county and urged that the area or origin be recognized in state water policy.

X. Action Plan Update and Implementation Update

Bob Kingman, Program Manager, updated on the Board on the capacity of SNC, with permanent staff up to 7 combined with retired annuitants and consultants we have 15 employees. Kingman noted additional staff will soon be hired with the Program Analyst I/II exams held December 11-16 to establish an SNC list to hire from. SNC is developing project description to hire an intern to help with the SNC library project with a large amount donated by Sierra Economic Development District.

PM Kingman summarized progress in completing SNC goals. Velocity 7 was the lead contractor awarded the contract to develop the Conservancy's Communication and Education Plan. Velocity 7 is also helping in the administration of the logo project. SNC has executed a contract with GreenInfo, who is conducting a GIS study in two counties initially, and will complete the project for the entire Region. The second GreenInfo project is the production of a refined map of the SNC boundary area, to be presented to the Board for approval. SNC Staff are working on the Grants Database which will be utilized by local communities, agencies, and other partners to help find funding for projects.

X. Program and Grant Guideline Development

Executive Officer Branham indicated that it is staff's intent to run parallel tracks for Program and Grant Guidelines development and implementation. The Program Guidelines will broadly address how the SNC will pursue fulfilling its strategic plan and meeting its statutory mission. The Grant Guidelines will be focused on categories of projects and eligible applicants to receive funding from the Conservancy. SNC will hold public meetings in the spring and will have multiple meetings within the subregions. These meetings will provide an opportunity for outreach to local communities. Staff plans to discuss opportunities for Board member involvement in these meetings at the February Board meeting, including possible use of subcommittees.

Boardmember Whiteside suggested that the guidelines have both established categories for competitive grant applications and opportunities for strategic grants. Boardmember Kirkwood asked whether the guidelines would address subregional and regional priority setting. Branham stated the program guidelines will address these priorities. Boardmember Sher asked whether the guidelines on grant limits and grant distribution would be binding once adopted. Branham indicated they would be considered binding, but the language would also provide some flexibility, and staff would be able to return to the Board for any need changes or adjustments to guideline language. Branham noted the program guidelines would address the equitable distribution of Conservancy efforts and resources across the six subregions and the seven program areas. He noted there would be a number of key policy issues on which the board will need to provide direction.
Bob Kingman described the timelines and asked Boardmembers to let him know scheduled meetings or conflicts in schedules, so those could be taken into account in scheduling workshops. Boardmember Brissenden noted the time line is very

aggressive and Boardmember Kirkwood commented on the importance of having good guidelines, while being aggressive. Branham indicated he and staff recognized the challenge but is confident that the timeline can be met with quality guidelines.

XI. Regional Office Selection

Executive Officer Branham provided the Board an overview of the plan for field offices and proposed staffing allocations. He indicated the region would be divided into two Areas, the Mt. Lassen Area (North, North Central and Central Sub-regions) and the Mt. Whitney Area (South Central, South and East Sub-regions). Ken Jones, Project Specialist, gave an overview and presentation of the process used in considering proposed area office locations. The recommendation from the committee appointed by the Board and staff is to have Area staff located in offices in Susanville, Auburn (existing office) Mariposa, Bishop, and Lake Isabella (non-staffed).

Boardmember Ishida expressed the concern that SNC not duplicate functions that Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) performs. Boardmember Arcularius commented in some areas there is no possibility of duplication, pointing out that the Bishop RCD does not operate within the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Region. Also RCDs may want to apply for funding and not want to jeopardize that possibility. Chairman Chrisman agreed the Board needs to be cognizant of the groups already in the Region and maximize those relationships, however supports the placement of field staff within the Region. Boardmember Baumann commented on the proposed office locations, stating she thought the strategy would efficiently administer the services of the Conservancy. Branham noted area offices would be funded within the existing base budget and did not represent an “additional cost” to the Conservancy. He also indicated that locating staff in the region would be more efficient and economical than having staff constantly traveling and far removed from many communities.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Dahle seconded a motion to approve Area Office Selection proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan Heid, Executive Director for Lassen Land Trust, thanked the Board for its community outreach. Ms. Heid is pleased that the Conservancy selected Susanville for an office location, appreciates SNC participation in the community and noted it has been a catalyst of collaboration.

XII. SNC License Plate Update

With the passage of Assembly Bill 84 (Chpt. 454 Stats. 2006), the SNC has the opportunity to obtain a specialized license plate. The statutory requirements of the bill and a timeframe for submitting an application to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) were described. A proposed design template will be presented to the Board at the February meeting. The Board will be asked to approve the plate

design which must be included in the application to be submitted to the DMV. This design would then be incorporated into the Logo Concept Design Contest for the 9-12th grade students to use in the contest.

Izzy Martin, President of the Sierra Fund, offered assistance in creating and managing a campaign to obtain the needed 7500 license plate applications and signatures and in working with a new non-profit or foundation for the Conservancy. She pointed out that Sierra Fund has been working on this project for a number of years and is very interested in forming a partnership with the SNC.

Boardmember Kirkwood indicated it would be useful to be able to work with a foundation created to help support the Conservancy broadly, not solely for purposes of a license plate campaign. He suggested reviewing experiences of other agencies receiving support from foundations and non-profit entities. This is a concept for further thought. Boardmember Whiteside suggested exploring the concept with a critical eye to the Conservancy's particular mission, as the Conservancy may have different opportunities than other agencies. Chairman Chrisman suggested authorizing Branham to explore the concept further.

Action: Boardmember Whiteside moved and Boardmember Arcularius seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to explore the possibility of the creation of a non profit organization and report back to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Recognition of Boardmembers Arcularius and Baumann

Chairman Chrisman thanked the two Boardmembers who have been outstanding team players on the Board for their efforts, noting they had "rolled up their sleeves" He acknowledged their hard work in assisting in the formative years of the SND.

Boardmembers Linda Arcularius and Helen Baumann each expressed appreciation and their pride in the accomplishments of the SNC to date.

XIV. Board Members' Comments

Boardmember Arcularius, noted the water intake visited during the October field trip, Lower Owens River Project (LORP), was opened on Wednesday December 6, there is now water running for the first time in over 60 years.

Boardmember Boitano noted the February 2007 meeting will be held at the Jackson Board of Supervisor Chambers located at 810 Court Street and will be held on Wednesday afternoon February 7, followed by the reception and the field trip on Thursday morning.

XV. Public Comments

Frank Stewart thanked SNC Board and staff or holding the meeting in Chester and suggested working closely with the Fire Safe Councils in addressing fire issues.

XVI. Adjournment

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Boitano seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 12:58pm

OVERALL BUDGET PLAN
FISCAL YEAR 2006-07
February 7, 2007

(All figures represent estimates based on the best available information at this time).

	$ IN THOUSANDS
AVAILABLE FUNDS*	**$3,738**
SIGNIFICANT EXPENSES ANTICIPATED	
CONSULTING AGREEMENTS**	**$1,400**
FACILITIES OPERATION	**$400**
EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE	**$350**
STAFF & OPERATING EXPENSES	**$1,588**
TOTAL 2006-07 FISCAL PLAN	**$3,738**

* An additional $200K has been authorized for expenditures in the event the SNC receives reimbursement funding.

** Consulting Agreement detail provided on page 2 & 3.

CONSULTING AGREEMENT DETAIL
February 7, 2007

(All figures represent estimates based on the best available information at this time).

OPERATIONS

AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES

	2006-07 $ IN THOUSANDS
DEPT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION Providing Procurement-Delegation Authority support on an interim basis while we are seeking our own Delegation Authority for SNC. Includes support and acquisition costs for goods and services.	$200
DEPT OF PARKS & RECREATION Providing ongoing Human Resources support for SNC.	$100
DEPT. OF GENERAL SERVICES Providing ongoing Fiscal Services support for SNC.	$75
OTHER STATE AGREEMENTS Attorney General, Highway Patrol, Fleet, Water Resources, Data Center etc. Provides a variety of ongoing support for SNC.	$115
SUBTOTAL OPERATIONS	**$490**

CONSULTING AGREEMENT DETAIL
February 7, 2007

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WITH CONTRACTORS

	$ IN THOUSANDS
Providing a Rapid Needs Assessment of Information Technology capabilities and needs in the SNC Region. Funded from 2005-06 fiscal year. (PSOMAS)	($150)
Providing strategic consulting & technical expertise in support of the Strategic, Action Plan development. Funded from 2005-06 fiscal year. (CA STATE UNIV SACTO – CCP)	($120)
Providing day to day support as needed for this fiscal year in the development and implementation of the initial Information Technology System for the SNC. (PROPOINT selected in October 2006)	$50
Providing administration of a logo concept design competition among high school students throughout the SNC Region. (SEVENTH VELOCITY Selected November 2006)	$63
Developing a five year education and communication plan to support an increased understanding of the importance of the Sierra Nevada Region. (SEVENTH VELOCITY Selected November 2006)	$143

CONSULTING AGREEMENT DETAIL
February 7, 2007

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (continued)

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
AGREEMENTS WITH VENDORS

	$ IN THOUSANDS
Mapping for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Boundary and pilot protected lands project. (GreenInfo Network)	$10
Contract Funds Committed to date	$536
Additional Program Development consulting agreements anticipated this fiscal year	$444

- Facilitation and organization of public workshops
- Graphics design and development for logo and license plate
- Develop plan to address technology needs
- Identification of key indices and performance measures
- Other tasks necessary to implement the Action Plan

SUBTOTAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT **($270 of funds from 05-06 budget)**	**($980)**
	$710

CONSULTING AGREEMENT DETAIL
February 7, 2007

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

	$ IN THOUSANDS
Funds will be used for opportunities to provide limited support to community efforts and activities of various partners consistent with program goals. • Support of Modoc Line Appraisal • SBC Panel Sponsorship	**$200**
TOTAL AGREEMENTS PLANNED FOR THE 2006-07 FISCAL YEAR	**$1,400**

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PLAN
FISCAL YEAR 2007-08
AS OF JANUARY 10, 2007

$ IN THOUSANDS

2007-08 PROPOSED SUPPORT FUNDS

FUNDING SOURCE: CA. ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUNDS

SIGNIFICANT EXPENSES ANTICIPATED EXPENDIURES

STAFF & OPERATING EXPENSES		**$ 1,654**
CONTRACTS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT		**$ 1,500**
INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS	- $400	
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION	- $900	
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	- $200	
FACILITIES OPERATION		**$ 400**
EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES		**$ 350**
TOTAL PROPOSED 2007-08 SUPPORT FUNDS		**$ 3,904**

2007-08 BUDGET CHANGE PROPOSAL

FUNDING SOURCE: SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY & SUPPLY,FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER & COASTAL PROTECTION FUND OF 2006 - - - - PROPOSITION 84

STAFF & OPERATING EXPENSES	**$ 500**
GRANT FUNDING	**$17,000**
TOTAL 2007-08 BUDGET CHANGE PROPOSAL	**$17,500**
2007-08 PROPOSED REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY	**$ 200**
TOTAL GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PLAN	**$21,604**

Sierra Nevada Conservancy **Agenda Item VII D**
February 7, 2007 **Proposed Annual Sierra Nevada Conservancy Focus on the Sierra Symposium**

Staff recommends that the SNC sponsor an annual "Focus on the Sierra" symposium beginning in 2007. It is proposed that a one day symposium be held in conjunction with the September 2007 Board meeting. The symposium would focus on the potential implications of climate change on the Region and the resultant impacts on the State of California. Future symposia would focus on issues of particular importance to the region.

The proposed symposium would be sponsored by the SNC, in cooperation with a variety of governmental and non-governmental partners. It is anticipated that the symposium would feature a diversity of interests and presentations focusing on the potential impacts of changes in precipitation patterns and snowmelt on the State's water supply and the role of working landscapes in contributing to reducing the impacts of climate change. This subject matter would be particularly timely, as there is significant attention being paid to the issue by the Governor, the legislature and the media. The important contributions of the Sierra Nevada will be a main point of discussion as the State of California plans for potential impacts of climate change.

Given the lead time necessary to plan and hold such an event, staff will begin exploring potential partners and participants and take the steps necessary to secure a location for the event. It is recommended that a 2 member committee of the Board be selected to provide policy and content guidance to staff. A report on the details of the symposium will be provided at the May 2007 meeting.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
February 7, 2007

Agenda Item VII E
IWMP Workshop

Conference on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) in the Sierra

Friday, March 9th from 9:30 am – 4:30pm

Co-convened by:
Cosumnes American Bear Yuba (CABY) IRWMP
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

WHEN: **Friday, March 9, 2007**
9:30 am – 4:30 pm

WHERE: **Sierra Health Foundation**
1321 Garden Highway, Sacramento
(See directions below and a map in the attachment)

Please confirm your attendance with Kathy Haberman -
kathy@sierranevadaalliance.org

IRWMP's are the latest management strategy to address multiple water issues, coordinate across jurisdictional boundaries, develop high cost-benefit projects, reduce local conflict, and attract funding to your area.

This conference will offer speakers, panels, and discussion opportunities on forming an IRWMP launch team, lessons and successes from other IRWMPs, forming integrated goals and objectives, and the state perspective on the future of the IRWMPs. We will discuss how to conduct a successful IRWMP. What is success? How do you collaborate most effectively? How do you integrate goals and objectives? What is the state's vision for the future of IRWMPs across the state, and more specifically, in the Sierra?

Background on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP)
The State is allocating significant resources for Integrated Regional Water Management Planning and Implementation. Together Prop 50 and Prop 84 allocate millions of dollars to IRWMPs. These regional plans can facilitate coordination of water resource management across jurisdictional boundaries, development of multi-stakeholder projects, and high cost-benefit projects that meet regional and state priorities. These

efforts have the potential to reduce local conflict if they are conducted with high levels of collaboration and integration. The integrated regional approach can provide a framework within which to address water issues such as water supply, water quality, habitat and environment, recreation, and land use. IRWMPs can help attract state and other funding to fund regional projects.

For more information on IRWMPs, please go to:
http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm

Directions to Sierra Health Foundation
(See Attachment for Map)

From Lake Tahoe North/Nevada City/Grass Valley
Take I-80 West to I-5 South. Exit at Garden Highway. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Garden Highway. At the second stoplight, Gateway Oaks Drive, the building will be on your left.
From Lake Tahoe South/Placerville
Take Highway 50 West to Capital City Freeway (Business Loop 80) to San Francisco. Just past the 10th Street exit, take I-5 North. Exit at Garden Highway. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Garden Highway. At the second stoplight, Gateway Oaks Drive, the building will be on your left.
From Redding
Take I-5 South to Sacramento. Exit at Garden Highway. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Garden Highway. At the second stoplight, Gateway Oaks Drive, the building will be on your left.
From Stockton
Take Highway 99 to Sacramento, then go West on Capital City Freeway (Business Loop 80) toward San Francisco. Just past the 10th Street exit, take I-5 North. Exit at Garden Highway. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Garden Highway. At the second stoplight, Gateway Oaks Drive, the building will be on your left.
From San Francisco
Take I-80 East toward Sacramento; continue on Capital City Freeway (Business Loop 80) to I-5 North. Exit at Garden Highway. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Garden Highway. At the second stoplight, Gateway Oaks Drive, the building will be on your left.

The California Rangeland Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly that significant portion that encircles the Central Valley and includes the adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands, including the Sierra foothills and the interior coast ranges. These lands support important ecosystems and are the foundation for the ranching industry that owns them.

WHEREAS, these rangelands include a rich and varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, which support numerous imperiled species, many native plants once common in the Central Valley, and are home to the highest diversity and density of wintering raptors anywhere in North America;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are often located in California's fastest-growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses;

WHEREAS, these rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to the positive and experienced grazing and other land stewardship practices of the ranchers that have owned and managed these lands and are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;
- Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;
- Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives and by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;
- Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;
- Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes;
- Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.

SIGNED BY:

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Alameda Co. Resource Conservation District
American Land Conservancy
Audubon California
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Environmental Council
Butte County Resource Conservation District
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Cattlemen's Association
California Chapter of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society
California Department of Conservation
California Dept of Fish and Game
California Dept of Food and Agriculture
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Grazing Lands Coalition
California Native Grasslands Association
California Native Plant Society
California Oak Foundation
California Rangeland Trust
California Resources Agency
California Wildlife Foundation
Cal-Pac Section Society of Range Management
Central Valley Farmland Trust Council
City of Livermore
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Defense
Institute for Ecological Health
Jumping Frog Research Institute
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Sacramento River Watershed Program
San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sustainable Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
Trust for Public Land
University of California
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
VernalPools.org
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Wildlife Conservation Board
WildPlaces

August 8, 2006

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition

Ranchers, Conservationists, and Government Working Together For The Benefit of All

2006 Year in Review

The following action items are the priorities of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition developed at the Coalition's first summit on January 11, 2006. Below each action item are steps undertaken this past year by the Coalition to fulfill that item.

ONGOING ACTION ITEMS

- **Showcase stewardship of ranchers through ranch tours and a competition to reward extraordinary stewardship.**
  - *Coalition partner, California Grazing Lands Coalition conducted a May tour of diverse grazing operations in Yolo County that highlighted stewardship, research and the Rangeland Coalition.*
  - *Coalition partners publicized current stewardship awards available to and received by California's ranchers.*
- **Utilize diverse media.**
  - *The Outreach Committee developed a strategy to be utilized for future Coalition activities.*

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS

- **Consider development of Proposed California State Bonds.**
  - *The Steering and Legislative Committees will work with the state legislature and agencies to identify proposition 84 funding that is consistent with Coalition objectives.*
- **Identify rangeland acres to be protected with conservation easements by 2015.**
  - *A Coalition team established a goal of 1 million acres of rangeland to be protected by conservation easements by 2015.*
- **Provide recommendations for the 2007 Farm Bill and coordinate Farm Bill advocacy with other agriculture and environmental groups.**

- *The Coalition assisted the California Department of Food and Agriculture's development of California's perspective on the 2007 Farm Bill by providing written comments and oral testimony.*
- *The Coalition provided written comments and oral testimony at the House Agriculture Committee hearing.*
- *During a trip to Washington, DC in March 2006 the Coalition presented various 2007 Farm Bill recommendations to key policy makers.*
- *Individual Coalition partners are working together to leverage advocacy efforts.*
- *The Coalition shared its 2007 Farm Bill priorities with the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment.*

■ **Assist in securing funding for the Wildlife Conservation Board.**

- *The Coalition promoted the passing of proposition 84 which will provide funding to the Wildlife Conservation Board for wildlife and rangeland.*

■ **Assign a team to identify research and information gaps.**

- *A team of partners compiled a binder that includes rangeland research - the first step to identify the gaps.*

■ **Facilitate the development of a state-wide permit coordination program among agencies.**

The Interagency Coordination Committee determined the first step is the development of the state safe harbor program.

■ **Develop an overall legislative strategy.**

- *The Legislative Committee developed Coalition priorities for the state and federal levels.*

SHORT TERM ACTION ITEMS

■ **Pursue funding for conservation easements from state government, federal government, and private foundations, and overall, encourage increased funding for rangeland conservation easements.**

- *During a trip to Washington, DC in March 2006 the Coalition emphasized this item.*
- *This is a goal in the Legislative Committee's Legislative Strategy.*

■ **Develop a safe harbor program that covers both federal and state listed species.**

- *The Interagency Coordination Committee, in cooperation with Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a draft document for a Coalition region-wide safe harbor.*

- **Promote tax incentives for conservation easements, safe harbors, and cooperative conservation agreements.**
  - *During a visit to Washington, DC in March 2006 the Coalition included the 2007 Farm Bill priorities for the Coalition.*
  - *This is a key goal in the Legislative Committee's Strategy.*
- **Update & publish *Grazing for Change*, with Coalition's endorsement.**
  - *California Cattlemen's Association and California Grazing Lands Coalition have signed a contract to reprint and update the publication. The Coalition will be highlighted in the publication, and it is expected to be available the Summer of 2007.*
- **Create an internal communication and outreach strategy.**
  - *The Outreach Committee developed its strategy and is working on implementation.*
- **Develop a list serve to share information and facilitate regular communication among Coalition members.**
  - *The Director of Rangeland Conservation utilizes the Coalition database to communicate with committees and Coalition partners.*
- **Utilize partner outreach capabilities to inform landowners of conservation programs, research, technical assistance, etc.**
  - *Coalition partners communicate with their respective members on the availability of conservation programs, technical assistance and the rangeland research.*
  - *The Coalition will continue to work with partners to facilitate communication to landowners.*
- **Facilitate coordination between agencies that have jurisdiction over rangeland, in an effort to better coordinate private rangeland issues.**
  - *Coalition efforts have led to numerous interagency and NGO meetings to discuss partnership opportunities consistent with Coalition goals.*
  - *The Interagency Coordination Committee has facilitated the initiation of a Coalition region-wide safe harbor for the State as a key first step in coordinating rangeland issues.*
  - *The Rangeland Coalition was represented by ranchers whom provided testimony at both of the White House Cooperative Listening Sessions held in California supporting cooperative conservation and Coalition priorities.*
- **Garner financial support to mutually sponsor a non-governmental staff position to work with ranchers facilitating voluntary conservation projects on private land and to coordinate Coalition efforts.**
  - *A cooperative agreement between the California Cattlemen's Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created the Rangeland Conservation Director position that is tasked to carry out Coalition priorities and goals.*

LONG TERM ACTION ITEMS

- **Create incentives for protection of wildlife habitat.**
  - *During a trip to Washington, DC in March 2006 the Coalition promoted this priority for the Coalition.*

- **Facilitate additional research.**
  - *A team of partners compiled a binder that includes rangeland research, the first step to identify the gaps.*

- **Facilitate the exchange of research through a website, database, field days and workshops.**
  - *The binder of rangeland research is available to 2007 Summit participants.*
  - *The new Coalition website will contain a research section including materials in the binder and an area to post future research.*
  - *The future home of the Coalition website is www.carangeland.org*

- **Cooperatively work to codify state-wide Safe Harbor Agreement program and secure federal funding for the administrative costs of the agreements.**
  - *The Interagency Coordination Committee, in cooperation with Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service developed a draft document for a Coalition region-wide safe harbor for the State.*

- **Identify local Coalition leaders and encourage locally led conservation efforts.**
  - *The Coalition has identified Committee Chairs and will work with members to seek local leadership.*

- **Provide outreach and grazing education by meeting with California land trusts and other local organizations with rangeland interests.**
  - *Coalition partners provided presentations on the Rangeland Coalition's efforts at several events including, local Cattlemen's Associations, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Annual Conference, the Central Valley Land Trust Summit and at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Summer Conference.*

- **Develop an external outreach plan.**
  - *The Legislative Committee created and is using an external outreach plan focused on key members of the media.*

- **Conduct and assist with tours, research and monitoring on existing conservation easements & Safe Harbor projects.**
  - *Coalition partner, California Grazing Lands Coalition conducted a May tour of diverse grazing operations in Yolo County that highlighted stewardship, research and the Rangeland Coalition.*

AGENDA

8:00 Registration

8:30 Welcome
- Steve Thompson, Ca-Nv Operations Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bruce Hafenfeld, President, California Cattlemen's Association
- Kim Delfino, California Program Director, Defenders of Wildlife

9:00 Keynote Speaker
- Dan Dagget

9:45 Break

10:00 Year in Review
- Action Item Review – Deb Schlafmann
- Steering Committee Report – Kim Delfino
- Legislative Committee Report – Tim Koopmann
- Interagency Coordination Committee Report – Noelle Cremers
- Outreach Committee Report – Ed Pandolfino
- Focus Region Group Report – Mark Kramer
- Director's Report – Tracy Schohr

11:15 The More you Know…Information Builds Consensus
- Grazing Management Benefits Vernal Pools - Jaymee Marty, The Nature Conservancy
- Amphibians and Raptors Thriving in Grazed Lands - Joe DiDonato, East Bay Regional Park District
- Trade Offs of Grazing Long Term Ephemeral Streams - Barbara Allen-Diaz, UC Berkeley

12:30 Lunch - Featuring Remarks From State Partners: Together, What We Can Achieve...
- A. G. Kawamura, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Mike Chrisman, California Resources Agency

2:00 Defining Our Path to Success...Breakout groups
- 2:10 Round 1
- 2:40 Round 2

3:10 Break

3:45 Future Focus... Breakout Group Summaries

4:30 Together, What We Can Achieve...
- Ed Burton, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Steve Thompson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (conclusion)

5:00 Adjourn

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY:
http://www.csuchico.edu/cedp/

Northeastern California Small Business

Development Center (NECSBDC)

As Northern California continues to grow demographically and economically, the Northeastern California Small Business Development Center (NECSBDC) at CSU, Chico is committed to helping communities prepare and plan for future growth. Helping communities and businesses in such areas as planning, community development, employment generation, natural resource management and leadership training, it is the NECSBDC's goal to assist Northern California communities in sustained growth, and to promote empowerment and expertise among its residents. With these goals in mind, it is the philosophy of the NECSBDC to:

1. To provide the highest quality economic development assistance to the communities of Northern California.
2. To respect the individuality of each person, and the communities in which they live.
3. To promote the transfer of information and knowledge from the university and other sources to economic development and planning practitioners, as well as the general public.

In addition, the NECSBDC has become the recipient of a grant from the Small Business Development Administration (SBA) to be the lead Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Sacramento region's network of six local SBDC's. The lead SBDC provides services to strengthen the small business community network and promote economic growth within the twenty-three county service region in Northern California. The lead SBDC and six SBDC's provide counseling and training to all small business populations.

Our Mission

The mission of the Northeastern California Small Business Development Center (NECSBDC) is to educate and build the knowledge and capacity of California economic development professionals and enhance the well being of the region's citizens by facilitating sustained, long term, and coordinated economic development strategies.

SAVING THE SIERRA
VOICES OF CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Saving The Sierra: Voices of Conservation in Action

Project Overview

Saving the Sierra explores the geographic, political and philosophical boundaries of the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy using the tools of public media and story-based community development. A six-part public radio series and a national hour-long documentary sheds light on the role of conservation in preserving regional heritage and character while connecting people to the land and to each other. A series of regional storytelling workshops and project listening sessions promote deeper community engagement with the issues. The project website permanently archives stories and provides a public forum for continued interaction and sharing.

Project Activities

Story Booth (starting Summer 2006) A mobile audio recording studio travels throughout the Sierra to conservation events, community meetings and environmental gatherings to collect stories of the Sierra from those who know and love it.

World Wide Web (launch Summer 2006) An interactive website offering a ground level view of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy through photographs and narratives generated in the Storybooth and Storytelling Workshops (see below), radio profiles, a blog of "postcards" plus essays and images from visitors inspired to share their own stories.

Storytelling Workshops (Summer – Fall 2006) Hands-on training in producing powerful short audio narratives and still images, designed to build the capacity of rural conservation groups to effectively communicate their issues and perspectives.

Exhibitions (March – November 2007): A traveling public art installation featuring photographs, soundscapes, audio narratives, archival images, and interpretive information collected throughout the project and displayed at both traditional (museums, libraries,) and non-traditional (park visitor centers, city halls) arts venues throughout California.

Listening Sessions (August - November 2007) Public events where diverse community members come together and hear a range of local stories, meet the storytellers, discuss conservation opportunities and challenges, and envision a shared future in the Sierra.

Public Radio Programs (April 2006 - October 2007) National broadcast of a six-part public radio series on *NPR's Living on Earth*. Regional broadcast of radio features on KQED-FM's *The California Report*. National distribution of hour-long documentary through the Public Radio Exchange.

Project Participants

Saving the Sierra focuses on the rural and remote communities of the Sierra Nevada mountain range where more than 2 million Californians reside. The radio series will highlight 6 community conservation partnerships within the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Sierra College students will collaborate with graphic artists to design the project Web site and train to run the Storybooth. Members of Sierran conservation organizations and the general public will engage in a series of storytelling workshops and listening sessions. Youth from rural and urban areas of California will contribute audio pieces to the website.

Expected Outcomes

- Build an engaged, informed constituency that cares about conservation of the Sierra Nevada and has the tools to develop, understand and implement creative solutions that meet a wide range of community needs.
- Increase understanding of Sierra conservation issues and expand opportunities for diverse stakeholders to hear each other's perspectives, struggles, and concerns.
- Create forums for residents of California and the US to discover how community members come together to find local solutions to regional conservation issues.
- Generate public radio programming, Web content, and public art that honors the history, traditions and views of Sierra while giving voice to Californians traditionally ignored or stereotyped in the mass media.
- Strengthen a sense of connection to the Sierra Nevada among project participants and radio listeners, helping them to understand that the issues facing the mountain range affect the health of the entire state of California and that everyone, rural and urban alike, has a reason to care about conservation of the Sierra.

Project Partners

- The Sierra Fund
- The Center for Sierra Nevada Studies at Sierra College
- Sierra Nevada Alliance

Project Advisors

- David Beesley Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Sierra College
- Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director, The Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Dee Davis, President, Center for Rural Strategies
- Timothy P. Duane Ph.D., Associate Professor, Energy and Resource, City and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley
- Elizabeth Martin, Executive Director, The Sierra Fund
- Carolyn Merchant Ph.D., Chair, Division of Society and Environment, UC Berkeley
- Lucy Parker, Chair, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Patricia A. Stowkowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont

For more information on **Saving The Sierra** contact
Project Co-directors jesikah maria ross & Catherine Stifter
info@savingthesierra.org • www.savingthesierra.org

This project is made possible, in part, by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities as part of the Council's State-wide California Stories Initiative. www.californiastories.org

Sierra Nevada Conservancy **Agenda Item X**
February 7, 2007 **Action Plan Update**

Staff continues to make progress on completion of Organizational Goals in the Conservancy's Action Plan, adopted in July. The Action plan calls for substantial completion of seventeen action items by the end of the fiscal year.

An updated spreadsheet showing all of the Organizational Goals and tasks accomplished has been attached to this report to illustrate progress in a matrix form. The goals are organized by their due dates as they appear in the adopted action plan (Attachment 1).

For the most part, progress on Action Plan Goals is steady and on schedule. In a couple of instances, it has been determined that Actions originally slated for completion this month would benefit greatly from information received as a part of the Guideline development process. Therefore, those items will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. It should be noted that some of the efforts to complete other goals are ahead of schedule. Staff is confident that significant progress or completion of all goals will be achieved by the end of the fiscal year as outlined in the Action Plan.

Capacity Building

Since it's meeting in December, the Conservancy has completed interviews to establish a hiring list for Program staff in the headquarters office and is scheduling additional testing interviews in other areas of the Region. Applications are currently being accepted for four Program positions in the Headquarters office, and are expected to be filled before the next Board meeting. The permanent staff level is currently at six employees, and we continue to receive the services of several retired annuitants and special assistants hired through agreements with California State University, Sacramento, the Tahoe Conservancy and California Department of Forestry. The Conservancy has also hired a professional Information Technology support consultant to ensure uninterrupted operations and connectivity with partners.

The Conservancy is also exploring opportunities to develop internship programs which could be available to students from several different educational institutions. Additional information will be provided as programs develop.

Completed Goals

- The Conservancy established an office in Auburn after completing a thorough evaluation and selection process involving a Board committee (Organizational Goal 1.1).

- The Conservancy has launched an E-library on the agency's Web site to improve accessibility to key federal, state, and local plans and other documents affecting the Sierra Nevada Region. The database compiled for this service contains over 540 references and is expected to grow with input and feedback from the region (Organizational Goal 2.3). The E-Library will be included as a complementary component of Organizational Goals 1.4, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4, and also contributes to many of the Programmatic Goals as well.

- At its December meeting, the Board authorized staff to secure agreements for establishing Area Offices in Mariposa, Bishop, and Susanville fulfilling Strategic Goal 1.2.

Progress on Specific Goals

- The Conservancy has retained the services of Psomas Consulting to begin assessing the information needs of the region as stated in Organizational Goals 2.1 and 2.2. Psomas has completed administration of four pilot interviews and will be finalizing minor improvements to the questionnaire for administration to the remaining eighteen counties. All of the information gathered will be compiled and circulated for review and comment in early 2007, with a final document anticipated in May, 2007. The Psomas assessment will also be a useful tool in accomplishing Organizational Goal 5.1 and 3.2, and will contribute to Programmatic Goals as well.

- The Conservancy has retained the services of Velocity 7 and Associates to development a comprehensive Communication and Education Plan consistent with Organizational Goal 3.4. Significant public input will be sought during development of the plan. Staff anticipates for work to be completed by July 2007. Completion of this plan will be instrumental in educating the region and the state about the needs, resources, and activities with the Sierra Nevada.

- The Conservancy has retained the services of Velocity 7 and Associates to administer a logo competition for students in grades 9-12 throughout the region. Over $20,000 in prizes has been donated from organizations throughout the region for participants and their respective schools. This process will provide an excellent opportunity for public outreach and education about the mission and goals of the Conservancy (Organizational Goals 3.4). The contest will be completed with anticipated Board approval of a logo in spring 2007. Velocity 7 will present a brief overview of contest Website for the Board at this meeting. The logo contest process will also be helpful in achieving Organizational Goals 2.2 and 5.3.

- Staff has entered into two small contracts with GreenInfo Network. The first is to complete a pilot GIS study to identify and map data related to Public and Conservation Trust Lands within the Sierra Nevada Region. Products from this study will include printed maps and a written analysis of availability and needs for similar GIS data throughout the region. Information gathered in the study will be useful in achieving Organizational Goals 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, and 5.1 as well several Programmatic Goals and could lead to identification of additional needed research.

  The second is to verify and map exact coordinates of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy service area boundary. A well defined boundary will soon be critical to determine eligibility of requests for prospective projects. With this in mind, a final map and set of coordinates is expected to be presented to the Board for possible adoption at its May, 2007 meeting.

- Staff continues researching and gathering information to build a comprehensive and dynamic database of potential funding sources for local partners in the region (Organizational Goal 5.2). A spreadsheet of existing resources is attached for immediate use throughout the region, and will continue to be updated and enhanced. (Attachment B) A permanent Program staff member is expected to be hired before the next Board meeting to more fully research funding opportunities for partners in the Region. This database complements efforts to complete Organizational Goal 5.3 and several Programmatic Goals.

- Staff has been contributing time and review expertise to several ongoing regional planning efforts and programs consistent with Organizational Goal 3.3. Input on planning efforts include: Resources Agency Proposition 50 Grants Program, The Kern River Valley Specific Plan, The Modoc Line Trail, and Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access, sponsorship of the Sierra Business Council Annual Conference, and co-sponsorship of an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Workshop scheduled for March 9, 2007.

Programmatic Goals

Staff has prepared draft Program Guidelines and Grant Guidelines (Agenda Item XII) for review by partners and stakeholders throughout the region during an intense series of meetings and workshops scheduled between February 27 and April 12, 2007. A more detailed discussion of the Program and Grant Guideline development process is included in the staff report following this Action Plan Update.

Organizational Goal Number & Due Date*	Descrpition of Goal	Completed	E-Library online	Psomas Contract for rapid needs assessment	Communication and Education Plan contract	Logo Concept Competition	Funding Sources Database	GreenInfo GIS Study	Office Locations Selected	SNC Boundary Finalized	SNC License Plate	Proposition 50 Participation	Program Guideline Development	Grant Guideline Development	Develop Indices Contract	Assessment Contract	Additional Progress	
Goal 1.1 (April 2006)	Establish the SNC interim headquarters in Auburn																	
Goal 2.3 (June 2006)	Identify and make available access to key federal, state and local plans and other documents affecting the region to be considered in the development of program guidelines and priorities																	
Goal 2.1 (Jan 2007)	Conduct an informational needs assessment of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, educational institutions, and other interested parties, to determine existing relevant information relating to SNC's mission, significant information gaps and potential sources of new information. In doing so, the SNC will build upon and enhance existing information infrastructure.																	
Goal 3.1 (Jan 2007)	Conduct a regional assessment to determine existing and potential regional and community education, shared learning and research projects that the SNC can support and enhance.																Held several meetings with State and federal partners, key stakeholders, scientists, and educators	
Goal 4.2 (Jan 2007)	Develop a program activity tracking system to ensure equitable distribution, over time, of resources across the region, subregions and programs recognizing the need to act based on opportunity, available funding and regional differences.																Meeting with staff, partners and prospective consultants to develop a matrix tracking system.	
Goal 5.1 (Jan 2007)	Develop and communicate funding needs of the region to the public, SNC partners, and decision makers at all levels (Ongoing, initial needs assessment January 2007).																	
Goal 4.1 (July 2007)	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.																Held several meetings with State and federal partners, key stakeholders, scientists, and educators	
Goal 1.1 (July 2007)	Determine location of a permanent headquarters location that will meet the SNC's needs and add economic value to the community (July 2007)																	
Goal 1.2 (July 2007)	Establish satellite office locations based on available staff and resources and operational needs.																	
Goal 2.2 (July 2007)	Assess preferred dissemination methods, technological needs and data limitations of SNC partners. Develop overall data acquisition and, dissemination requirements and a strategy to address SNC statutory and organizational needs, with an emphasis on improving communities' ability to access and use information.																Retained Sac State CCCP Employee to update SNC Master Contact lists	
Goal 3.2 (July 2007)	Based on this assessment and the information technology assessment, work with communities to develop a plan to address technological, communication, and technical assistance needs.																	
Goal 4.3 (July 2007)	Create a subregional and region wide priority setting process, consistent with the statute, to guide staff and the Board in decision making.																	
Goal 3.4 (Oct 2007)	Develop an education and communication plan to support increased understanding of the importance of the Sierra Nevada within the region and throughout the state.																Developing advanced Interactive Web site design	
Goal 5.2 (Oct 2007)	Leverage and improve funding options and opportunities by identifying and communicating potential funding sources to those engaged in project activities consistent with SNC's mission (Ongoing, with an initial inventory of funding sources by October 2007).																Held several meetings with State and federal partners, key stakeholders, former grants administrators	Accessibility to Economic Development Library
Goal 1.3	Ensure an open and transparent decision-making process by adopting understandable rules, guidelines, and procedures for SNC business.																Board authorized EO to write letters of support and notify board in July, 2006	Drafted guidelines for Public Information Act Requests
Goal 1.4	Conduct an ongoing robust public outreach and feedback program within the region and in other key geographic areas important to the success of the program.																Retained Sac State CCCP Employee to update SNC Master Contact lists	Accessibility to Economic Development Library
Goal 3.3	Support integrated regional and sub regional planning efforts, consistent with the SNC's mission.																Participation in processes: Kern Valley Specific Plan, Mammoth Trails, Modoc Line trail	Co-sponsoring IRWMP Workshop 3/07
Goal 5.3	Identify and secure additional opportunities for stable funding for the SNC from all sources.																Review of opportunities in addition to prop 84	Passage of AB 84 establishing Sierra Nevada License Plate

*** Sorted in order of due date.**

KEY: **Completed** **Goal met when completed** **Contributes to goal**

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Funding Sources Database

Agenda Item X

Attachment B

Funding Databases

Other Funding Databases	Web Address
Foundation Center	http://foundationcenter.org/
California Watershed Funding	http://www.calwatershedfunds.org/
Sierra Funders	http://www.sierrafund.org/content.php?content.53
Federal Grants	http://www.grants.gov/
State of California	http://getgrants.ca.gov/Search.html
Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html

Federal
Funding Sources

Funding Entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email Address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	Last Updated
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Targeted Watershed Protection - Implementation	Erin Collard	N/A	http://www.epa.gov/twg/index.html	collard.erin@epa.gov	N/A - submittal is electronic via grants.gov	N/A	**N/A**	202- 566-2655	N/A	Grant	All	2006 deadline was 11/15. Program has been annual.	Proposals selected for funding will be awarded for up to $900,000 each over a three to five year period, for which EPA requires a 25% non-	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air	Funds are available to watershed coalitions for watershed-based restoration and protection projects aimed at improving water quality. Nominations must be submitted by a governor or tribal leader.	The program encourages the protection and restoration of the country's water resources through cooperative conservation. The program supports collaborative watershed partnerships.	12/5/06
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Targeted Watershed Protection - Capacity-Building	Erin Collard	N/A	http://www.epa.gov/twg/capacity.html	collard.erin@epa.gov	Submittal is encouraged via grants.gov, but the street address is: Room. 7136G; 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW	Washington, DC 20004	20004	202- 566-2655	N/A	Grant	All	2006 deadline was 10/16. Next submittal date unknown.	A typical award will be about $450,000 to $800,000 depending upon the amount requested, the overall size and scope of the project, and the total amount of funds available.	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air	States, local governments, public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments, are eligible to apply. EPA requires applicants to demonstrate a minimum non-federal match of 25 percent of the total cost of the proposal.	The goal of the capacity building component of the TWG program is to assist local watershed organizations across the country to develop and successfully implement watershed plans. Funds will provide tools, training, and technical assistance and will support community efforts to expand and improve existing watershed protection measures.	12/5/06
Department of the Interior	Rural Fire Assistance Program	N/A	Rural Fire Assistance Coordinator	http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/	Rural_Fire_Assistance@nifc.blm.gov	N/A	N/A	N/A	(208) 387-5512	N/A	Grant	All	No info at this time	Each eligible rural/volunteer fire department may apply for any amount up to $20,000. 10 percent cost share required.	Natl Disaster	Only rural or volunteer fire departments which serve communities of less than 10,000 and which also help fight fire on or near nearby DOI lands are eligible. Each department must have an agreement through its state forester, or a mutual aid agreement/cooperative fire agreement with the local DOI agency. Funding requests must be for training, equipment, or fire prevention materials/activities related to wildland fire.	The purpose is to improve firefighter safety and enhance the wildland fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments when responding to wildland fires	12/13/06
Department of Agriculture	Forest Service, VFA																	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Region 9 Wetland Program Development Grants	Cheryl McGovern	N/A	http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/wetlands-07.html	mcgovern.cheryl@epa.gov	75 Hawthorne Street	San Francisco, CA	94105	(415) 972-3415	N/A	Grant	All	Submit by midnight 2/12/2007; awards made 9/30/07	Anticipate typical awards for the selected projects will range from $25,000 to $250,000.	Water/Air	States, Tribes, local government agencies, interstate agencies, and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply. Non-federal matching funds of at least 25% of the total project cost are required.	Grants provide an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. The goals of the program include increasing the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland condition.	1/18/07
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	General Assistance Program (GAP), Tribal Program Office	Clancy Tenley	N/A	http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/fsfc.nsf/58cc78776e5e186b8825641b006a9bd8/ff165e42d949aacc882571bd006e3c72!OpenDocument	tenley.clancy@epa.gov	N/A	N/A	N/A	415-972-3785	N/A	Grant	Any	Solicitations published in September; proposals due in December, final application due in April. Selection: September	$75,000-$120,0000	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air	Federally-recognized Indian Tribes and inter-tribal consortia	Grants for development of administrative, financial, legal and technical capacity necessary to establish and maintain effective environmental protection programs, as well as development and implementation of tribal solid and hazardous waste programs.	1/18/07
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Strategic Agricultural Initiative/Food Quality Protection Act Grant Program	Cindy Wire	N/A	http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/fqpa-strategic-ag-2007.html	mailto:wire.cindy@epa.gov	75 Hawthorne Street	San Francisco, CA	94105	(415) 947-4242	N/A	Grant	Any	Submit by 3/19/07; awards made 9/30/07	Anticipate awarding approximately 4 to 6 grants ranging from approximately $50,000 to a maximum of $100,000	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Working Land; Water/Air	Only federally recognized Indian Tribal governments and intertribal consortia, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public and private non-profit institutions, and individuals are eligible to apply for funding. All projects should have an anticipated start date of October 1, 2007. Proposed project periods may be up to two (2) years.	Grants are to carry out the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and to support efforts by the agricultural community to "transition" away from high-risk pesticides to lower risk pesticides and sustainable practices in food production. The program supports grants for education, extension and demonstration projects for FQPA transition and reduced risk practices for pest management in agriculture.	1/18/07
National Park Service																		

State
Funding Sources

Funding entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	Last Updated
State of California Resources Agency	Proposition 50 - Sierra Nevada Cascade Conservation Grant Program	None given	N/A	www.resources.ca.gov/bonds_prop50sncgrantsprogram.html	snc50@resources.ca.gov	Attn: Bonds and Grants Unit 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311	Sacramento, CA	95814	916-653-5656	916-653-8102	Grant	All	2006 was first award; 2006 grantees have 3-4 years to complete	No minimum or maximum; $11.65 million in FY 2006/07 budget	Water/Air	Funding only for local public agencies, local water districts and nonprofit organizations. The boundaries of this program are the same as the geographic area for the Proposition 12 Sierra	Funding for acquisitions of land and/or water rights to protect water quality in lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams and wetlands in the Sierra Nevada-Cascade	11/1/06
California State Parks	Recreational Trails Program	Varies by County	N/A	http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=24324	localservices@parks.ca.gov	Office of Grants & Local Services, PO Box 942896	Sacramento, CA	94296-0001	916-653-7423	916-653-6511	Grant	All	Last application deadline was 10/2/2006; this is an annual program.	There is no maximum or minimum limit on grant request amounts.	Tour/Rec; Public Land; Cult/Phys/Living Resource	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Priority development projects include trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas and cultural areas for recreational use. The applicant is responsible for obtaining a match amount that is at least 12% of the total project cost.	The Recreational Trails Program encourages applicants to develop cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps to perform trail construction and maintenance.	12/5/06
California State Parks	Habitat Conservation Fund	Varies by County	N/A	http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21361	localservices@parks.ca.gov	Office of Grants & Local Services, PO Box 942896	Sacramento, CA	94296-0001	916-653-7423	916-653-6511	Grant	All	Last application deadline was 10/2/2006; this is an annual program. In every three-year period, each type of project will be funded twice.	$20k minimum, except for trails projects	Tour/Rec; Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air; Public Land	Only cities, counties and districts are eligible to apply. The HCF program requires a dollar for dollar match from a non-state source.	The following categories are eligible for funding: deer/mountain lion habitat; rare, threatened, endangered, or fully protected species habitat; wetland habitat; wildlife corridors and urban trails; aquatic habitat; and riparian habitat.	12/5/06
California State Parks	Land and Water Conservation Fund	Varies by County	N/A	http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21360	localservices@parks.ca.gov	Office of Grants & Local Services, PO Box 942896	Sacramento, CA	94296-0001	916-653-7423	916-653-6511	Grant	All	Next application deadline is 5/1/2007. This is an annual program.	No minimum. Maximum changes annually due to need for geographic distribution. Avail. on website.	Tour/Rec; Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Public Land	Only cities, counties, and certain districtsare eligible. Grants are for acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Property acquired or developed under the program must be retained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use. There is a 50% match requirement. This is a reimbursement program; the applicant is expected to finance the entire project.		12/5/06
California Bay-Delta Authority	No open grants as of update	N/A	N/A	http://calwater.ca.gov/grantopportunities/grantinformation.shtml	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		12/5/06
Wildlife Conservation Board	California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program	Scott Clemens	Riparian Program Manager	http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/california_riparian_habitat_conservation_program.htm	sclemons@dfg.ca.gov	1807 13th Street, Suite 103	Sacramento, CA	95814	(916) 445-1072	N/A	Grant	All	Applications for funding accepted on a continuous basis; funding depends on availablity	None given; smallest grant awarded recently was $99,000	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air	Grants are awarded only to nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, state departments, and federal agencies for riparian conservation purposes (acquisition and restoration) .	The purpose of this program is to develop coordinated conservation efforts aimed at protecting, preserving, restoring, and enhancing the state's riparian ecosystems.	12/19/06
Wildlife Conservation Board	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	N/A	N/A	http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/habitat_enhancement_and_restoration_program.htm	N/A	1807 13th Street, Suite 103	Sacramento, CA	95814	N/A	N/A	Grant	All	Applications for funding accepted on a continuous basis; funding depends on availablity	None given	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air	Included in the HERP are restorations of fisheries, wetlands outside the Central Valley (Inland Wetlands), native grasslands, and forests. Eligible enhancement and restoration projects must provide for the long-term maintenance of the restored and/or enhanced habitat. Eligible applicants for restoration projects include nonprofit conservation organizations and federal, state or local governmental agencies.	Land acquisition is a component of all Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) programs.	12/19/06
Wildlife Conservation Board	The Oak Woodlands Conservation Program	N/A	N/A	http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/oak_woodlands_program.htm	N/A	1807 13th Street, Suite 103	Sacramento, CA	95814	(916) 445-8448	N/A	Grant	All	Applications for funding accepted on a continuous basis; funding depends on availablity	None given	Cult/Phys/Living Resource	Projects will be reviewed for funding consideration only after the County or City has prepared an Oak Woodlands Management Plan. Applications accepted only from private landowners, local governmental entities, park and recreation districts, special districts, local resource conservation districts, nonprofit organizations and state departments. Program funds to be expended for the purchase of conservation easements, grants for land improvements or cost-sharing incentive payments, public education and outreach, assistance to develop and implement oak conservation elements in local general plans, or	Land acquisition is a component of all Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) programs.	12/19/06
Wildlife Conservation Board	Public Access Program	N/A	Public Access Program Manager	http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/public_access_program.htm#PageTop	N/A	1807 13th Street, Suite 103	Sacramento, CA	95814	(916) 445-8448; (916) 445-1095	(916) 323-0280	Grant	Any	Applications for funding accepted on a continuous basis; funding depends on availablity	None given	Tour/Rec; Economy; Public Land	This program includes the development of facilities in cooperation with local agencies for public access to hunting, fishing or other wildlife-oriented recreation. Financial assistance is available to cities, counties and public districts or corporations. Except for piers which require 50 percent matching local funds, the WCB may fund 100 percent of the qualifying project development costs. Prior to approval of a project, a lease agreement must be entered into between the local	Land acquisition is a component of all Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) programs.	12/19/06
Wildlife Conservation Board	California Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection Program	N/A	N/A	http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/rangeland_program.htm	N/A	1807 13th Street, Suite 103	Sacramento, CA	95814	(916) 445-8448	N/A	Grant	Any	Applications for funding accepted on a continuous basis; funding depends on availablity	None given	Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Working Land; Water/Air; Economy	Projects must protect the integrity of rangeland, grazing lands, and grasslands. Eligible applicants and partners include a willing landowner, a local public agency, special district, resource conservation district, joint powers authority, nonprofit organization, or state agency.	The purpose of the program is to accomplish the following: 1) to prevent the conversion of rangeland, grazing land and grassland to nonagricultural uses; 2) to protect the long-term sustainability of livestock grazing; and 3) to ensure continued wildlife, water quality, watershed and open-space benefits to the State of California from livestock grazing.	12/19/06
State Water Resources Control Board	Small Community Wastewater Grant (SCWG) Program	Varies by SWRCB Region - see website. May also contact David Kirn.	Regional Board Grant Coordinator	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/	dkirn@waterboards.ca.gov	1001 I Street	Sacramento, CA	95814	(916) 341-5250 or (916) 341-5720 (David Kirn)	(916) 341-5252	Grant	Any	Applications accepted until January 5, 2007.	Applicants may be eligible to receive up to two million dollars in SCWG funds.	Water/Air; Economy	Grants are to local public agencies for the planning, design, and construction of publicly owned wastewater treatment and collection facilities. Communities must comply with population restrictions (maximum population of 20,000 people) and annual Median Household Income (MHI) (maximum annual MHI $37,994) provisions to qualify for funding. Only projects in Class A (Existing or Potential Public Health Problems) or B (Pollution Problems) will be		12/20/06

State
Funding Sources

Funding entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	Last Updated
Department of Boating and Waterways	Boating Safety and Enforcement (BS&E) Financial Aid Program	Corrina Dugger	Associate Boating Administrator	http://www.dbw.ca.gov/subvention.asp	cdugger@dbw.ca.gov	2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100	Sacramento, CA	95815	(916) 263-8184	N/A	Financial Aid	Any	No dates given	None given; current amounts range from $39,000 to $1.5 million	Tour/Rec	Boating safety and enforcement activities include the following:Enforcement of State and local laws and regulations Inspection of Vessels Supervision of organized on–the-water boating activities or water events Search and Rescue Operations costs are allowablePersonnel Operations, Maintenance and Equipment Administration	The purpose of the BS&E Financial Aid Program is to provide State financial aid to local governmental agencies whose waterways have high usage by transient boaters and an insufficient tax base to fully support a boating safety and enforcement program. The program is intended to augment existing local resources	NOT FINISHED 1/18/07
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Proposition 40 Fuels Reduction Program - Community Assistance Grants	Varies by County	Prop. 40 Grants Coordinator	http://www.fire.ca.gov/rsrc-mgt_prop40.php	Varies	P.O. Box 944246	Sacramento, CA	944246-2460	Varies	Varies	Grant	All but North; however, only 15 counties are eligible per program website.	Last submission date was 2/15/06. No new date available.	None given	Natl. Disaster; Water/Air	Eligible participants may be either government agencies or nonprofit organizations. CDF has developed maps to aid in the identification of high priority areas for fuels reduction projects to protect watersheds and water quality. Projects outside of the above priority areas will be considered for funding as long as the applicant can demonstrate the project's watershed and/or water quality protection values.	The goal of the program is to reduce wildland fuel loadings that pose a threat to watershed resources and water quality.	1/18/07
Caltrans	EEM																	
CARB																		
Water boards																		

County
Funding Sources

Funding entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	Questions (Internal Use Only)
First 5 Inyo County, Children and Families Commission	Sponsorship	Jarah Halfen	Program Director	http://www.countyofinyo.org/first5/grantsandfunding.htm	jarahhs@qnet.com, cffc@schat.net	1351 Rocking W Drive	Bishop, CA	93514	(760) 873-6453 or (760) 872-0925	(760) 873-6505	Grant	Inyo County-East	Continuous	Up to $500/event. Maximum $1,000/agency/12 months	Economy	Funds to support a particular event with the condition that such event and/or host organization meet at least one of the Commission's Goals and Objectives within its Strategic Plan. All funds must be targeted to First 5 Inyo County children ages 0-5 and their families. A specific event can be funded only once in a 12-month period. Funding intended for one-time only support.		
First 5 Inyo County, Children and Families Commission	Mini-Grants	Jarah Halfen	Program Director	http://www.countyofinyo.org/first5/grantsandfunding.htm	jarahhs@qnet.com, cffc@schat.net	1351 Rocking W Drive	Bishop, CA	93514	(760) 873-6453 or (760) 872-0925	(760) 873-6505	Grant	Inyo County-East	2006/07 apps. were due 10/2/06.	Up to $1,999; $15k total available for 2006/07	Economy	Awarded to individuals and organizations serving children ages 0 to 5 to help the children reach their greatest potential in school and in life. Designed to fund short-term projects with a single, straightforward benefit to young children and their families. Funding requests should address First 5 Inyo County's priority areas of early childhood education, child care, health, and safety.		

County
Funding Sources

Last Updated
12/14/06
12/14/06

Foundation
Funding Sources

Funding Entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email Address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	Questions (Internal Use	Last Update
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council	Youth Investment	Jayne Battey	Executive Director	www.stewardshipcouncil.org	youthgrants@stewardshipcouncil.org	303 Vintage Park Drive, Suite 150	Foster City, CA	94404	866-791-5150	Not given	Grant	All but East	1 year; small grants disbursed 2x/yr.	Small <$20k; Mid $20-$50k; Partnership $50k+	Tour/Rec; Public Land	Kids 13-18 yrs. old; grantee organization in existence min. one year	Improving lives of young people through connections with outdoors; urban focus, but does not exclude rural areas. Currently working on 2007 guidelines	Sent e-mail about service area	11/1/06
Ford Foundation				http://www.fordfound.org/															
Packard Foundation																			
Placer Community Foundation	The Nonprofit Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Grant	Veronica Blake	Chief Executive Officer	http://www.placercf.org/index.html	vblake@placercf.org	P.O. Box 9207	Auburn, CA	95604	(530)885-4920	(530)885-4989	Grants	Central only	None given	$500-$5,000	Any	Distributes grants to non-profit organizations throughout the Western Slope of Placer County who, through direct services, build sustainable communities and enhance the quality of life for residents of Placer County. .	Grants are awarded to improve or increase nonprofits' organizational and management capacity, (i.e. planning, organizational assessment, management assessment, financial assessment, and board development).		1/9/07
Placer Community Foundation	Arts Building Capacity (ABC) Grant	Veronica Blake	Chief Executive Officer	http://www.placercf.org/index.html	vblake@placercf.org	P.O. Box 9207	Auburn, CA	95604	(530)885-4920	(530)885-4989	Grants	Central only	None given	$500-$5,000	Tour/Rec.; Economy	Distributes grants to non-profit organizations throughout the Western Slope of Placer County who, through direct services, build sustainable communities and enhance the quality of life for residents of Placer County. .	Arts organizations that provide visual and/or performing arts programs and services in the area will be eligible to apply for a capacity building grant. These grants are to improve or increase organizational and management capacity (i.e. planning, organizational assessment, management assessment, financial assessment, and board development).		1/9/07

Corporate
Funding Sources

Funding entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	(Internal Use Only)	Last Updated
Recreation Equipment, Inc.	REI Gives	N/A	N/A	http://www.rei.com/aboutrei/gives02.html	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grant	Any	Annual	None given; smallest example is $3,000; largest is $50,000.	Tour/Rec; Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Water/Air; Public Land	REI employees nominate organizations, projects, and programs in which they are personally involved to receive funding or gear donations. Ask an REI employee who is directly involved in your non-profit organization to submit a nomination for a grant.	Purpose is to help protect and restore the environment, increase access to outdoor activities, and encourage involvement in responsible outdoor recreation		12/13/06
Recreation Equipment, Inc.	Stewards for the Environment	N/A	N/A	http://www.rei.com/aboutrei/stewards.html	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grant	Any	Annual	$20,000 to each organization with which recipient volunteers. Each individual also receives a commemorative award and a $500 REI gift card.	Tour/Rec; Cult/Phys/Living Resource; Natl Disaster; Water/Air; Public Land	REI store teams select local non-profit organizations to nominate one extraordinary volunteer.	REI Stewards for the Environment are selected based on evaluation of the impact of their individual efforts, investment of time and effort, creativity in approaching their volunteer efforts and ability to involve others in their work.		12/13/06
Patagonia																			

Service Club
Funding Sources

Funding Entity	Name of Program	Contact Name	Contact Title	Web Address	Email Address	Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	Phone	Fax	Funding Type	SNC Region(s)	Funding Cycle	Funding Amount/Limits	Program Area(s)	Restrictions	Notes	Questions (Internal Use Only)	Last Updated
Auburn Garden Club		Kathy Chamblin	Auburn Garden Club Scholarship and Grants Committee Chair		kathy@chamblin.org		Auburn, CA		530-878-3653		Grant	Central (Placer County only)		Normally $200-$1,500. More is possible.	Tour/Rec; Water/Air; Economy;Public Land	Nonprofit/education groups	Assisting in projects for conservation of natural resources; furthering an appreciation of natural beauties of area, civic beautification, and roadside	Sent e-mail asking for more info	11/1/06
Soroptimists																			
Rotary																			

Background

At the October Board meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to take actions necessary to prepare an application to Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and appointed a Board committee consisting of Boardmembers Sher and Yamaguchi to provide guidance to staff.

At the December meeting the Board authorized the Executive Officer to take actions necessary, in consultation with Board committee, to produce a license plate design to be presented to the Board for approval at the February Board meeting. In addition, staff was directed to work with interested parties to explore options for the creation of a non-profit entity to oversee the license plate effort and meet the fiduciary responsibilities of collecting funds and transferring them to the SNC.

Since that meeting, pursuant to the suggestion of DMV staff, the Executive Officer sent a letter to DMV Director, George Valverde, indicating the SNC's intent to pursue a specialized license plate under Chapter 1, Division 1, Article 8.6 of Vehicle Code Section 5060.1.

Overview of Statutory Provisions

In summary, the statute allows any State agency to submit an application to the Department of Motor Vehicles to create a specialized license plate to support the agency's program. DMV must issue the plate if the requesting agency is able to tender to DMV, within 1-year following the DMV's approval of the request, at least 7,500 valid applications for the specialized plate from motor vehicle owners, accompanied by the required initial fees. If the minimum of 7,500 applications cannot be met within 1-year after filing of the request, the agency may obtain a single 12-month extension, if it demonstrates to the DMV that it has (1) contacted all the existing applicants to ascertain whether they wish to continue their applications in effect, and (2) refunded the application fees to all applicants who do not desire to continue their applications. In no event may the agency collect or hold applications from vehicle owners beyond 24 months from the date of the initial request to DMV to sponsor the specialized plate. Fees for the specialized plates, in addition to the regular fees for an original registration or renewal of registration, are as follows:

(1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars ($50).
(2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars ($40).
(3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars ($15).
(4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars ($35).

SNC Responsibilities

Under provisions of the law, the SNC has the following responsibilities:

- Submit an application to DMV, requesting approval of a specialized plate, including plate design.
- Submit at least 7,500 paid license plate applications to DMV within 1-year of DMV's approval of the proposed plate.

Public funds may not be expended in the marketing of the specialized plates.

Once 7,500 applications have been submitted to DMV and a specialized plate has been issued, funds raised through plate sales and renewals (less the amount needed to defray DMV's costs of producing and administering the specialized plate), are available for appropriation to the SNC. During any fiscal year, the SNC may use up to 25% of the funds made available to it from the license plate fees to cover "administrative costs, marketing, or other promotional activities associated with encouraging applications for or renewal of the specialized plate."

It should also be noted, that according to DMV, once they have certified that at least 7,500 valid registrations have been submitted, it will be approximately 9-months before the first plate will be issued.

Actions Needed to Establish a Sierra Nevada License Plate

Staff continues to discuss with DMV the process that will be used for submission and approval of a SNC license plate. A letter has been sent to the DMV Director, expressing the SNC's intent to pursue establishment of a specialized plate (this letter does not trigger the beginning of the one year timeframe). At this time, it is unclear precisely what the process or timeframe will be and precisely what role DMV may wish to play in the design development and marketing efforts. Staff will continue communications with DMV and ensure that the SNC is positioned to act at the earliest opportunity.

Design

Under provisions of the statute, the license plate may include a distinctive design, decal, or descriptive message in a space not larger than two inches by three inches to the left of the numerical series and a space not larger than five-eighths of an inch in height below the numerical series. Included with this staff report are a number of design concepts that have been reviewed by the Board committee and staff. Staff and committee believe final design elements should include a representation of water, snow-capped mountains, native vegetation, and/or native wildlife, essentially combining elements illustrated in each of the three conceptual designs provided to the Board. It is

recommended that the text “Sierra Nevada Conservancy” be included in the allocated space at the bottom of the plate.

Marketing

As noted above, state funds may not be expended for the marketing of the license plate. At the December Board meeting, Izzy Martin of the Sierra Fund presented the Board with a proposed marketing plan to be implemented in close cooperation with the SNC. Ms. Martin has continued to be in contact with staff regarding development of a marketing strategy. A successful marketing campaign will require adequate funding, a well planned marketing campaign strategy and successful implementation. While the SNC cannot be directly involved in this activity, staff will continue to closely coordinate with those conducting the marketing effort. The precise details regarding roles that each entity will fulfill and who will meet the fiduciary responsibilities associated with the effort have not yet been finalized. However, it appears that a partnership between the SNC and Sierra Fund will greatly benefit the license plate effort.

Staff and Committee Recommendation

Staff and the Committee recommend (1) that the Board delegates staff, in consultation with the Board committee, authority to take the actions necessary to produce a final license plate design to be presented to the DMV. Or (2) that the Board directs staff, in consultation with the Board committee, authority to take the actions necessary to produce a final license plate design to be presented at the May 2007 Board meeting.

SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY

January 10, 2007

George Valverde, Director
Department of Motor Vehicles
2415 First Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

Dear ~~Director~~ George Valverde:

I am writing to inform you of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) intent to pursue the establishment of a Specialized License Plate under provisions of Chapter 454 (2006).

The SNC will be working closely with a variety of partners who will be actively soliciting registrations. We are confident in our ability to secure 7,500 registrations within the one-year timeframe. One of our key partners, the Sierra Fund, has already gathered the names of nearly 3,000 individuals interested in receiving a Sierra Nevada plate. Interest in such a plate continues to be strong.

I have been in contact with Rose Smith from the Department and look forward to continue working with her in taking the necessary steps to ensure that an SNC license plate becomes reality. We are currently in the process of developing a plate design and would anticipate formally submitting our application later this spring. It is my understanding that once an application has been approved by the Department, the one-year timeframe begins.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me at (530) 823-4667 if you have any questions or if there are other steps we should be taking.

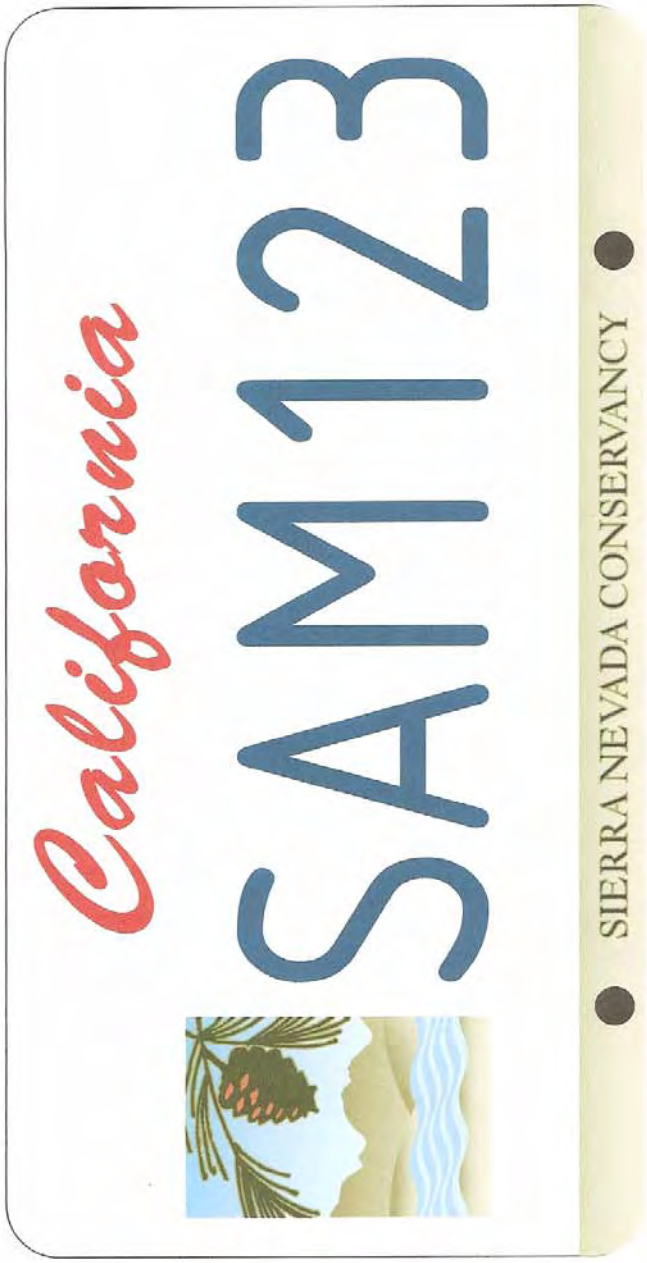
Sincerely,

Jim Branham

George - Hope all is well with you!

JIM BRANHAM
Executive Officer

11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Phone: (530) 823-4670 Fax (530) 823-4665
www.sierranevada.ca.gov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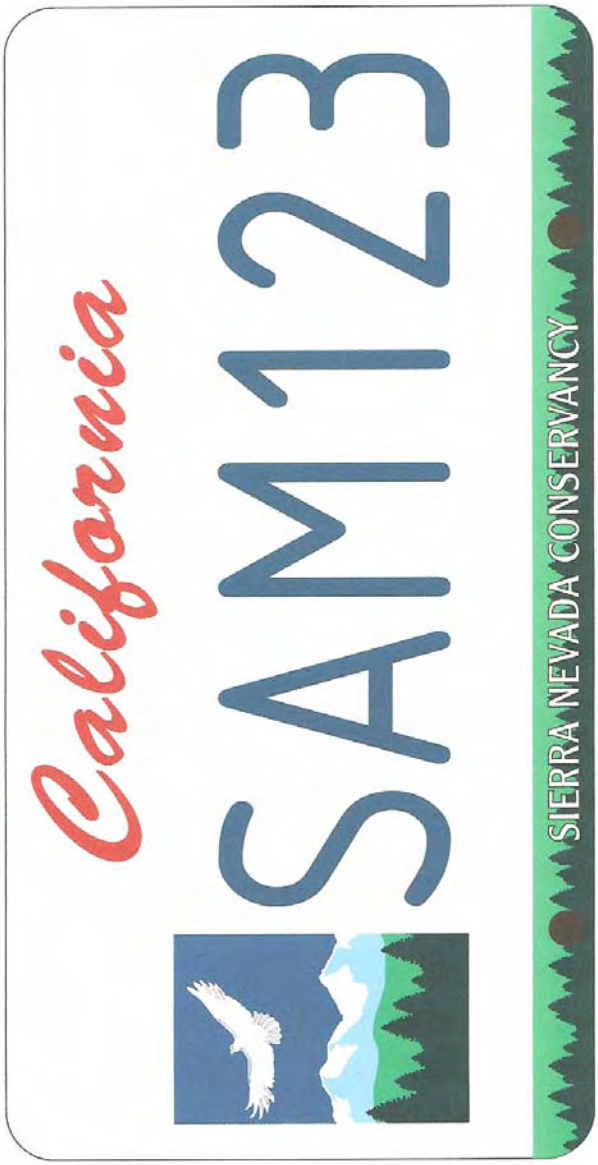
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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Background

The Conservancy's enabling legislation and Strategic Plan call for the creation of program guidelines to direct Conservancy staff and Board in considering providing assistance, support and funding. An instrumental role of the Conservancy will be the administration of grant funds throughout its service area, and will require the creation of specific Grant Guidelines. Grant Guidelines to govern the expenditure of Proposition 84 funds will be developed concurrently and consistent with Program Guidelines.

The Program Guidelines will provide specific direction on how the Conservancy will carry out its Mission and Strategic Plan, how it will collaborate with partners, and how it will operate administratively. The guidelines will further define the program areas of the Conservancy and identify types of projects and programs eligible for Conservancy support. The guidelines will also identify the tools, resources, services and assistance available from the Conservancy and how to prioritize requests for assistance.

Grant Guidelines for the administration of Conservancy funds available from Proposition 84 will be developed to instruct applicants on all necessary requirements and procedures for requesting grants. The Proposition 84 guidelines will reflect the contents of the Program Guidelines, as well as address specific requirements of the Proposition 84 (and legislative direction, if any).

Process

The process for developing the Program and Grant Guidelines will involve participation from the Conservancy Board, staff, stakeholders, and general public. The process will allow for and encourage comments from all interested parties through an aggressive outreach effort aimed at a broad spectrum of interests throughout the region. It will be reflective of, and consistent with, the enabling legislation that created the Conservancy and the mission and goals of the Conservancy as described in the Strategic Plan. The public outreach will include at least 18 public meetings throughout the Region (see attached schedule) as well as numerous meetings with stakeholders in the Region and in other parts of the state.

A first draft of Program Guidelines is included with this staff report, as is an outline of Grant Guidelines. These documents, following any changes coming from the Board at this meeting will be released and used as the basis for discussion at the various meetings. Results of public input will result in revised Program Guidelines and an initial draft of Grant Guidelines to be reviewed by thy Board at the May meeting.

To track progress of each set of guidelines, information will be available for public review on the Conservancy's Web site (www.sierranevada.ca.gov) for the duration of the process.

Timeline

February 2007
Board reviews first draft of Program Guidelines and draft outline of Grant Guidelines and provides direction to staff. A revised draft of each, reflecting Board input, will be released for public review.

February 27 – April 12 2007
A series of public meetings will be conducted throughout the Region and staff will be meeting with a variety of stakeholders to gather input on guideline content.

May 2007
A revised draft of the Program Guidelines will be presented to the Board for review at the May Board meeting. This draft will reflect comments received during the public review process.

A first draft of the Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines will be reviewed by the Board. These guidelines will be a product of staff efforts based on legal requirements and input received through the public and stakeholder meetings.

Final drafts of Program and Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines will be circulated for an additional 30 day public comment.

July 2007
Final drafts of the Conservancy's Program and Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines will be considered for adoption by the Board at the July Board meeting. Guidelines will be published as soon as feasible following adoption by the Board.

Board Involvement

In addition to review and direction provided at each Board meeting, it is recommended that a committee of 2 be created for each Sub-region. These committees would include the Sub-regional representative and a statewide Board appointee. It is anticipated that the committee attends public meetings within the Sub-region, to the extent feasible, and assist staff in identifying Sub-regional priorities. The staff recommends the following committees be created:

North – Dahle and Kirkwood
North Central – Yamaguchi and Lloyd
Central – Weygandt and Sher
South Central – Boitano and Whiteside
South – Ishida and Kirwan
East – Hunt and Brissenden

Board Direction

At this time, staff believes direction from the Board on the following matters would be beneficial prior to the public review process

Guidance on the definitions of competitive and strategic opportunity grants (SOG's)

- Competitive Grants: These are grants funded by a single source with specific requirements (i.e. Proposition 84) to complete project implementation. Specific guidelines will be developed defining the types of activities that are eligible for project funding.
- Strategic Opportunity Grants: These are grants funded through a number of possible sources to help recipients respond to time sensitive opportunities for initial project planning and development, environmental review, appraisal services, or project implementation.

Staff recommends that any grants not funded by Proposition 84 (currently base budget funds) be comprised solely of SOG's. It is also recommended that Proposition 84 Grants be comprised of both competitive grants and SOG's.

A distribution formula to address the equitable distribution issue

Staff recommends that all grants not funded by Proposition 84 be allocated across the Region based on greatest benefit. It is further recommended that Proposition 84 grants be allocated as follows:

- Approximately $1 million will be allocated to eligible applicants throughout each Sub-region to address top priority needs in that Sub-Region (a total of $6 million).

- Approximately $2 million in SOG's will be awarded for projects that have Region-wide significance.

- The remainder of funds (approximately $9 million) will be allocated in a competitive grant process across the Region.

Grant amount limits

Staff recommends that no limits be established for SOG's, allowing for maximum flexibility to meet needs within the Region. It is recommended that grant limits be established for competitive grants of $50,000 to $1,000,000.

Board delegation of authority to Executive Officer

Currently, the Board has delegated authority for the EO to enter into agreements not to exceed $50,000 for a variety of purposes. Staff recommends that the Program Guidelines include a provision authorizing the EO to award SOG's not to exceed $50,000 in instances where time constraints do not allow for Board action. In such instances the EO will report to the Board on such grants at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Policy guidance on land management issues

Staff recommends that the Program Guidelines indicate that the SNC does not anticipate permanent or long-term ownership of lands (either in fee title or less that fee title) or the management of lands. The SNC will engage in such efforts to the extent they are necessary to achieve program objectives and facilitate long term solutions with partners in the Region.

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Draft 1/19/07

I. PROGRAM STATEMENT

A. Introduction

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 33300 et. seq., the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been created, in part, to provide strategic direction for the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada. SNC reflects a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with different partners. Pursuant to this mandate and mission, the Conservancy adopts the following Program Guidelines.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Program is intended to integrate seven specific areas defined in Section F of these guidelines. The Program recognizes the interdependence of all areas and the need to ensure the success of each to achieve the overall mission of the Conservancy.

B. Program Goals

SNC subscribes to basic program goals. These include:

- Facilitating a wide variety of complementary projects and activities throughout the region to advance environmental improvement and the economic and social well-being of Sierra Nevada residents;

- Ensuring over time that Conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably across the various sub-regions, with adequate allowance for variability of costs associated with individual regions;

- Seeking over time to spread conservancy funding and other efforts equitably across the various program areas, with adequate allowance for variability of costs associated with types of projects;

- Maintaining a strong local presence and active public input and participation;

- Coordinating, cooperating and consulting with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal organizations and other interested parties in integrated project design, implementation and management;

- Educating Californians of the benefits they receive from the Sierra Nevada and of the general importance of the region;

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- Recognizing and addressing communities facing disproportionate environmental and economic burdens;

- Keeping accurate and open financial records.

C. Availability of Funds

Funding for the Conservancy is appropriated through the State budget process on an annual basis. The Legislature appropriated over three million dollars for SNC for baseline operations in each of its first two years. Proposition 84 passed by California voters in 2006 provides over 50 million dollars for the SNC to accomplish its program goals, although these funds still need to be appropriated in the state budget. The Governor's 2007-08 budget proposes a total of $21 million for the SNC, including $17.5 million from the Proposition 84 funds.

The Conservancy will continue to seek funding in future fiscal years to allow continued implementation of the program. Project sponsors are encouraged to contact Conservancy staff for confirmation of funding amounts currently available under the program.

The authorizing statute for the Conservancy specifies seven program areas. Funds will be made available in an equitable and integrated fashion across program areas and sub-regions. The SNC is committed to maximizing funding in support of projects and activities that meet the goals of the enabling statute and the SNC Strategic Plan and to minimizing admistrative costs.

D. Administration

The Conservancy is governed by a 16-member board, including 13 voting and 3 nonvoting liaison members. The board sets policies for the organization and adopts program and grant guidelines. It determines sub-regional and Regional priorities and program emphasis. The Board oversees decisions on grants and loans as well as SNC's support of other efforts that help achieve SNC purposes.

The SNC staff implements programs under the direction of the Board, consistent with SNC policies and procedures. The staff provides assistance to public agencies and non-profit and tribal organizations using a full array of tools. It monitors the ongoing status and success (benefits) of projects and provides reports to the SNC Board and the public.

E. SNC Sub-Regions Defined

As defined by statute, the SNC has six sub-regions. They consist of the following (bold indicates where all of the county is within the SNC boundaries):

- North Sierra consists of the Counties of **Lassen**, and portions of Modoc and Shasta;

- North Central Sierra is comprised of the Counties of **Plumas, Sierra** and portions of Butte and Tehama;

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- Central Sierra consists of the Counties of **El Dorado, Nevada** and portions of Placer, and Yuba;

- South Central Sierra is comprised of the Counties of **Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa,** and **Tuolumne;**

- East Sierra consists of the Counties of **Alpine, Mono** and portions of Inyo;

- South Sierra is comprised of portions of the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Madera, and Tulare.

Specific Regional boundaries are available on the SNC's Web site at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. Staff may also be consulted relative to boundary questions.

F. Program Areas Defined

While the SNC has seven statutorily mandated program areas, a primary objective for the organization is the integration and harmonization between and among the program areas. The statute requires the SNC to, over time, equitably distribute funding and resources across program areas and sub-regions. The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of understanding the interrelationship betwteen the various program areas.

Given this focus, projects and activities that address numerous program areas in an integrated manner will be given priority. The SNC will work with a wide array of stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration and cooperation to achieve multiple benefits. It is recognized that projects that address a single program area may be beneficial and may be supported in certain instances.

The program areas are as follows:

- *Provide Increased Opportunities for Tourism and Recreation*

  The program area for Tourism and Recreation may involve related opportunities and experiences for residents and visitors, both traditional and non-traditional (so-called "place-based or heritage tourism") forms. It may address existing activities (including shoulder and off-season) or developing new opportunities. Illustrative examples may include assistance in:

  - development and promotion of tourism related to agriculture;
  - development and promotion of tourism related to historical and cultural sites;
  - development and promotion of tribal tourism;
  - development and promotion of ecotourism;
  - development and promotion of tourism related to the arts;
  - identification, enhancement and promotion of scenic byways;
  - identification of opportunities for, and promotion of, shoulder and off-season activities;
  - development and enhancement of visitor centers and interpretative opportunities;

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- efforts aimed at reducing the impact of recreational activities on the community and environment, including informational and educational efforts;
- creation of web-based information on opportunities in tourism and recreation throughout the Region;
- development and distribution of materials, signage and other promotional tools.

The program area also applies to support for related infrastructure. Possible examples are:

- increased public access;
- assistance with trails;
- conversion of older infrastructure for recreational opportunities, and construction of ADA compliant facilities;
- development of new recreational facilities/opportunities;
- improvements to existing recreational facilities/opportunities.

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

This program area deals with protecting, conserving and restoring a broad array of resources. It is recognized that many other program areas also address these important resources. Some examples may include assistance in:

- improving watershed health;
- protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat;
- improving forest health;
- protecting and enhancing open space;
- conducting environmental and natural resource education;
- preservation of cultural resources;
- preservation of historical buildings and settings;
- preservation of western heritage
- preservation of Native American archeological and cultural resources;
- Support of projects reducing the impacts of climate change.

The SNC has a variety of tools that can be used to achieve the desired outcomes in this area. The SNC may provide this assistance through grants or direct provision of services. Examples may include:

- Support for less than fee title acquisition of critical lands;
- Support for fee title acquisition of critical lands;
- facilitation of land swap opportunities with state and federal agencies and private landowners;
- Provision of technical assistance and scientific research/data;
- environmental, cultural and archeological education;
- technical assistance for grant writing;
- creation of grant research libraries.

- *Aid in the Preservation of Working Landscapes*

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The program area for working landscapes involves those lands producing goods and commodities from the natural environment (most commonly farms, ranches and forests). These lands are an important part of the local economy, culture and social fabric, and can benefit ecosystem services. Examples of projects may include:

- conservation easements or other mechanisms to help landowners maintain the economic viability of their working landscape-dependent businesses and provide environmental benefits;
- efforts to preserve communities and events built around working landscapes such as rodeos, fairs, and festivals;
- support for incentive-based programs to achieve natural resource protection, including development of sustainable best management practices;
- assistance in developing compatible activities such as "agri-tourism and eco-tourism";
- support of efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change;
- assistance with monitoring activities, technical assistance and data;
- educational efforts relative to the contributions of working landscapes;
- support for efforts to utilize biomass for energy.

Projects in this program area must also balance interests of communities, resource development and other opportunities. Some examples may include:

- retaining community/historic character;
- preserving rural communities;
- research into and promotion of sustainable forestry or range management;
- creation of resource-oriented activities and jobs;
- creating opportunities for working landscape tourism;
- providing neutral forums for policy discussion.

- *Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters, such as Wildfire*

This program area is related to natural disaster risk such as from wildfire, floods, landslides, avalanches and volcanic events. Climate change is an additional concern. Hence projects in this program area deal with these kinds of risks. Some examples include:

- identification and planning to reduce risk of disasters;
- providing data relative to natural disasters risk and tools to use such information;
- fuels reduction and related fire safe activities;
- assistance in other projects that reduce natural disaster risk;
- monitoring effectiveness of risk reduction efforts;
- educational efforts relating to risk reduction.

The program may also assist in land use planning efforts of local governments or organizations. Illustrative projects may include such things as:

- provision of information and technical assistance in General Plan analysis and amendments and other local planning efforts;
- assistance to local organizations dealing with issues of natural disaster risk;
- development of community plans for reduction of fire risk, flood risk and other natural disasters.

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- *Protect and Improve Water and Air Quality*

The program area relates to water and air quality within SNC boundaries or interest.

In the case of water, concerns relate to historic and ongoing land use changes, the impact of catastrophic fire and climate change, and the effects of development on the demand for quality water and the ability to treat wastewater. Some examples of potential projects in the water quality program area may include support for:

- water quality monitoring efforts;
- water conservation efforts and programs;
- integrated projects to enhance natural water storage capacity;
- projects to enhance resiliency of natural water storage resources;
- wetland and meadow restoration;
- erosion control projects;
- integrated watershed management planning efforts;
- watershed restoration and enhancement resulting in improved water quality;
- incentive-based programs to achieve improved water quality;
- communities with infrastructure needs for wastewater systems.

In the case of air, interests relate to addressing factors that reduce air quality and reconciling land management activities with air quality standards. It is recognized that there are factors outside the SNC Region that adversely contribute to the area's air quality. Illustrative projects may include:

- air quality monitoring;
- air shed assessment and management;
- support for incentive-based programs to achieve improved air quality;
- development of alternative approaches to open air burning and traditional transportation;
- dust management and abatement;
- development of non-motorized transportation facilities;
- efforts that reduce the adverse impacts of climate change to the region, including carbon sequestration as a part of climate change mitigation.

- *Assist the Regional Economy through the Operation of the Conservancy's Program*

The economy of the Sierra Nevada has its roots in the natural environment via tourism, recreation, resource extraction and the production of agricultural products. Increasingly, the regional economy includes more diverse economic activities that come from different goods and services. In general, actions and projects deal with maintaining and improving the economy of the region. Some examples may include:

- purchasing and contracting for goods and services from within the Region whenever possible and feasible;
- needs assessment, planning, and other aspects of sustainable economic development;

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- investing in advanced information technology, communications and other infrastructure that facilitates economic activity;
- identifying economic impacts (positive and negative) of the SNC's actions.

The program area involves creation of activities and infrastructure that support the workforce and local communities. Illustrative examples may include:

- job fairs and job training;
- sustainable business development;
- promotion of Sierra-based goods and services by SNC.

- *Undertake Efforts to Enhance Public Use and Enjoyment of Lands Owned by the Public*

The program area deals with public lands and relates to the fact that over 60% of the Sierra Nevada is owned by the public and managed by public agencies. The program area supports projects to increase access to public lands and to enhance opportunities for restoration and improvements projects. Illustrative examples of projects might include:

- development of additional points of access to public lands;
- improvement and enhancement of existing access and recreational facilities;
- provide well-managed access to public lands through acquisition of voluntary easements on private lands.
- needs assessments and planning for restoration and improvement projects.

Projects may also reflect the need to work cooperatively with land management agencies and others to address a variety of issues, including the need for management or reduction of user conflicts. Some examples of projects are:

- support for forums to discuss public land management issues and for public involvement;
- preparation and analysis of assessment, planning and environmental documents;
- support for community efforts to identify specific opportunities for sustainable public use and enjoyment of public lands.
- Support for efforts to promote enhanced management of public lands through management agreements and special use permits.

G. Consistency with Strategic Plan

The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished by a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners. Consistent with statute, the SNC has adopted a Strategic Plan that is intended to guide its operations over the next five years. The Strategic Plan underscores the integrated interrelationship between the various program areas. The SNC emphasizes that activities that address multiple program areas in an integrated manner will be given priority. To this end, unless indicated otherwise by the SNC Board, programs and projects should reflect the goals and actions identified in the SNC Strategic Plan.

H. Flexible Approach to Assessment of Opportunities

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SNC seeks to foster opportunities that are creative and flexible, take advantage of other available funds, promote multiple benefits or a single benefit of substantial public interest, and produce results that are clear and measurable. It is desirable that, to the extent feasible, programs and projects achieve benefits at the lowest necessary cost and in the shortest necessary amount of time. SNC may consider projects that border on SNC boundaries if they also involve lands or significantly affect lands within the SNC Region and would have substantial Sub-regional or Regional benefit.

Concurrent with the development of program guidelines, the SNC is developing a set of performance measures and indices of environmental, economic and social well being. Performance measures will be used to determine the extent to which the SNC is implementing its program as described in the Strategic Plan and these guidelines. The indices will be used to evaluate the effect that the SNC's efforts are having on the overall well-being of the Region.

I. Available Tools, Methods and Resources

SNC has a wide variety of available tools, methods and resources to accomplish its program goals. These tools include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Issuance of grants
    - Competitive Grants: These are grants funded by a single source with specific requirements (i.e. Proposition 84) to complete project implementation. Specific guidelines will be developed defining the types of activities that are eligible for project funding.
    - Strategic Opportunity Grants: These are grants funded through a number of possible sources to help recipients respond to time sensitive opportunities for initial project planning and development, environmental review, appraisal services, or project implementation. They will also be used to build capacity and develop grant administration skills for small organizations throughout the Region.

- Provision of loans. Specific guidelines for the provision of loans will be developed when funding sources for loan making become available.

- Funding or facilitating collaborative planning efforts which involve interested entities and groups within the region.

- Be a neutral convener for parties wishing to make progress in discussing controversial issues.

- Provision of technical assistance to eligible entities to support program and project development and implementation.

- Conducting research in connection with the development and implementation of the SNC program.

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- Conduct monitoring in connection with the development and implementation of the SNC program.

- Provision of consulting and educational services or other resources where available.

J. Acquisitions

The conservancy may acquire, or assist eligible partners to acquire, from willing sellers or transferors, an interest in any real property. However, the conservancy shall not acquire any real property in fee simple and shall not exercise the power of eminent domain.

The conservancy may make grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations to acquire an interest in real property, including a fee interest in that property. Grant or loan funds shall be disbursed to a recipient entity only after the entity has entered into an agreement with the conservancy, on the terms and conditions specified by the conservancy. After approving a grant, the conservancy may assist the grantee in carrying out the purposes of the grant.

The conservancy shall cooperate with and consult with the city or county where a grant is proposed or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired; and shall, as necessary or appropriate, coordinate its efforts with other state agencies, non-profit organizations, or other interested parties. The conservancy shall, as necessary and appropriate, cooperate and consult with a public water system that owns or operates facilities, including lands appurtenant thereto, where a grant is proposed or an interest in land is proposed to be acquired.

An entity applying for a grant from the conservancy to acquire an interest in real property shall specify all of the following in the grant application:

(1) The intended use of the property.
(2) The manner in which the land will be managed.
(3) How the cost of ongoing management will be funded.

In the case of a grant of funds to a nonprofit organization or tribal organization to acquire an interest in real property, including, but not limited to, a fee interest, the agreement between the conservancy and the recipient nonprofit organization shall require all of the following:

(a) The purchase price of an interest in real property acquired by the nonprofit organization shall not exceed fair market value as established by an appraisal approved by the conservancy.
(b) The terms under which the interest in real property is acquired shall be subject to the conservancy's approval.
(c) An interest in real property to be acquired under the grant shall not be used as security for a debt unless the conservancy approves the transaction.

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(d) The transfer of an interest in the real property shall be subject to approval of the conservancy, and a new agreement sufficient to protect the public interest shall be entered into between the conservancy and the transferee.

K. Receipt of Gifts

The conservancy may receive gifts, donations, grants, rents, royalties, and other assistance and funds from public and private sources.
Except as specified in statute, the Conservancy may also receive an interest in real or personal property through transfer, succession, or other mode of acquisition generally recognized by law.

Subject to stipulations or other legal considerations, SNC will use gifts in a manner consistent with accomplishing the goals of the Strategic Plan.

L. Reversion

A deed or instrument by which the nonprofit organization acquires an interest in real property under the grant shall include a power of termination on the part of the state. The deed or instrument shall provide that the state may exercise the power of termination by notice in the event of the nonprofit organization's violation of the purpose of the grant through breach of a material term or condition thereof, and that, upon recordation of the notice, full title to the interest in real property identified in the notice shall immediately vest in the state, or in another public agency or a nonprofit organization designated by the conservancy to which the state conveys or has conveyed its interest.

II. PROJECT INITIATION

It is desirable for potential requesters of project support to contact the Conservancy staff to discuss their proposed projects and to submit preliminary project proposals for review. This preliminary submittal process is intended to assist in the identification and design of qualifying proposals.

Conservancy staff are available to assist applicants in developing proposals which will meet program objectives, guidelines, and criteria. Staff may be contacted by phone or in person at the following locations:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Headquarters: for projects serving the entire Sierra Nevada Region
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603 530-823-4670

Mt. Lassen Area Office: for projects serving the North, North Central , and Central Subregions.

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2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130 (Phone #)

Mt. Whitney Area Office: for projects serving the South Central and South Subregions.
XXXX Fairgrounds Road
Mariposa, California 95338 (Phone #)

Mt. Whitney Area Eastern Office: for projects serving the East Subregion.
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 300
Bishop, CA 93514 (Phone #)

A. Eligible Applicants

The Conservancy may make grants or loans to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations as defined in the Agency's enabling legislation:

> ''Local public agency'' means a city, county, district, or joint powers authority.
>
> ''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 that has among its principal charitable purposes preservation of land for scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, or open-space opportunities; or, protection of the natural environment, preservation or enhancement of wildlife; or, preservation of cultural and historical resources; or, efforts to provide for the enjoyment of public lands.
>
> ''Tribal organization'' means 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.

B. Application Process

Competitive Grants for project implementation are awarded by the Conservancy on an annual basis. Specific guidelines will be developed for each grant program that will identify the process, timeline and eligibility.

Strategic Opportunity Grants for planning activities, project development, or project implementation may be given by the Conservancy at any time throughout the year. Applications for Strategic Opportunity Grants may be accepted at any time during the year and will be evaluated by staff and presented to the Board on an individual basis.

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Specific Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions for Competitive and Strategic Opportunity Grants will be available to review and download from the Conservancy's Web site at www.sierranevada.ca.gov

III. PROJECT EVALUATION

A. Project Submission

Upon receipt of preliminary submittals, staff will initially assess their consistency with the general eligibility criteria and objectives of the program. In cases where the staff finds that a project proposal is either incomplete or does not meet eligibility criteria, staff will work with the project applicant to complete or modify it for further consideration. Staff will next begin to consult with the project applicants, SNC sub-regional representatives, state and local agencies, interested non-profits, and other organizations with expertise or interest in the program area in order to gain input and help refine the proposals. This may include the identification of other funding sources for consideration by project applicants.

When staff determines that potential project submittals are complete and are consistent with agency and program priorities, an informational update will be presented to the Conservancy board. At this time staff will seek the board's conceptual review and direction concerning the preparation of specific project proposals and/or formal grant and loan applications for individual projects.

B. SNC Sub-Regional Priorities

The statute governing the SNC charges the organization with identifying sub-regional priorities. The SNC relies heavily on public input and the input of other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations to determine priorities. Consistent with the requirement of "equitable distribution" and as part of its ongoing process, the Board will determine the appropriate manner to address priorities.

C. SNC Regional Priorities

As part of its ongoing process, the SNC will also identify Regional priorities, considering sub-regional priorities and other Region-wide information. The Board will determine the appropriate manner to address priorities.

D. Project Evaluation Criteria

Criteria for projects are based on program requirements; institutional capabilities, integration of program goals, funding needs throughout the region; and federal state and local plans, including general plans, recreation plans, urban water management plans and groundwater management plans.

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Projects or portions of projects undertaken should be consistent with all applicable laws, including the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (where appropriate), and SNC guidelines.

The following criteria will be utilized to evaluate and prioritize projects either directly undertaken or funded through grants, loans, or other actions by the Conservancy (not listed in order of importance).

- Significant contribution to meeting multiple program goals in the SNC Strategic Plan - The project directly addresses multiple program action items in the SNC Strategic Plan. In most cases, preference will be given to projects that directly meet sub-regional needs and priorities.

- Significant contribution to meeting a single program goal- in some instances it may not be possible to achieve multiple objectives, however, there is substantial benefit and the project represents a significant contribution to meeting SNC's goal in that program area.

- Federal, state, and local plans, including general plans, recreation plans, urban water management plans and groundwater management plans will be considered in evaluating proposed projects.-

- Cooperation and community support - The project has been formulated and developed in conjunction with other agencies and organizations that have an interest in the outcome of the project. The applicant demonstrates support of the project by other public agencies, landowners, non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, and other parties necessary for the successful implementation and long-term viability of the project. Community support and consensus are also key factors.

- Leveraging of Funds – The project includes other funding partners to allow for maximim benefit accruing from expenditure of SNC funds.

- Adequacy of design – If the project calls for construction of infrastructure, facilities and related items, the project should have an appropriate design. The project design should be appropriate to the type and level of use anticipated, and include measures, if necessary, to protect natural resources. Preference will be given to projects which provide facilities for a wide range of users, including the disabled.

- Cost-effectiveness - The project provides significant public benefit at the lowest necessary cost. Preference will be given to projects which can be made more cost-effective through the use of resources of other agencies or organizations and/or inclusion of matching funds or in-lieu contributions by the applicants.

- Implementability - The project can be implemented in a timely manner. If a project is large and complex and depends on other funding sources, the portion of the project to be funded by the Conservancy must be able to be implemented by itself in a manner consistent with the objectives of the SNC program area.

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- Sustainability - If applicable, the project involves an activity that can be repeated over a long period of time without causing damage to the environment and community.

- Management and maintenance – The recipient of a grant or loan provided by the conservancy for the acquisition of real property shall provide for the management of the real property to be acquired as specified in the grant agreement. Management or maintenance plans for projects, programs, or other forms of conservancy assistance will be developed with recipients and included in formal agreements.

- Model - The project is useful as a model project in the program area or in other sub-regions. Projects incorporating effective and innovative approaches will be given preference.

IV. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Monitoring – SNC staff may visit project sites, consistent with agreements, (for projects based on the ground) during implementation to monitor progress and offer assistance if necessary.

- Documentation – SNC staff and project partners will document project implementation as specified in grant contract documents. Project photographs will be taken during implementation and archived with project files and may be used for additional SNC purposes.

- Performance Standards – Performance standards will be identified in project plan documents and specifications and will be consistent with goals identified in the SNC strategic plan. Standards will be developed based on best available knowlwdge and updated as necessary. Analysis of standards will help identify indices to measure effectiveness of SNC program implementation.

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SIERRA NEVADA-CONSERVANCY GRANT PROGRAM

FUNDED BY

Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006

PROPOSITION 84

GRANT GUIDELINES & APPLICATION

Draft 1-22-07

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

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