SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Program and Grants Guidelines Workshops

This packet contains statements and questions of primary importance to the Conservancy in developing comprehensive and clear Program and Grants Guidelines. There is one section for each set of guidelines. Your input in both areas is greatly appreciated.

In the interest of making sure all questions in this workshop can be addressed we will closely monitor time allotted to each question. We encourage you to submit any additional comments or questions. Contact instructions are on the back page of this document.

Section 1: Program Guidelines (Questions 1-3)

The **Program Guidelines** will serve as an over-arching set of guidelines for the Conservancy staff and Board in evaluating requests for monetary and technical assistance from the Conservancy. These guidelines will reflect the overall mission of the Conservancy and provide guidance in developing more specific Grants Guidelines, as required or necessary, in accordance with State funding sources.

Section 2: Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines (Questions 4-6)

The **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines** will serve as the specific guidelines necessary to administer grants authorized in Proposition 84. These guidelines will be consistent with the over-arching Program Guidelines, and will provide detailed application requirements, evaluation criteria, information on project eligibility, and grants amount limits.

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PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

RANGE OF PROJECTS (Pages 5-11 of Program Guidelines)

1. Considering the mission and goals of the Conservancy, are the types of projects described in the Program Guidelines representative of needs in your community?

AVAILABLE TOOLS, METHODS, AND RESOURCES (Page 12 of Program Guidelines)

2. The Conservancy is proposing to include a number of different methods, tools, and resources in its Program Guidelines to assist eligible partners throughout the Region. After reviewing these, are there other tools or activities that should be added to the guidelines?

PROJECT EVALUATION (Pages 16-18 of Program Guidelines)

3. This section of the guidelines describes several criteria that will be used by the Conservancy to evaluate potential projects. After reviewing the guidelines, should we be including or considering different or additional criteria?

Our 501c3 non-profit is devoted entirely to outreach education on environmental issues & solutions — both in the classroom & for the general public. Operational funding is a great need. In reviewing the guidelines, it appears that unless the education is attached to the protection or restoration of a specific property, the education would not be funded, no matter how valuable to the region overall.
For example: a course or workshop on the impact of climate change to Nevada County - designed for general public.

PROPOSITION 84 GRANTS GUIDELINES

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS (Page 2 Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines)

4. Pursuant to language in Proposition 84, these guidelines identify types of projects eligible for grant funding. After reviewing this section, do you have recommendations to clarify descriptions of eligible projects?

How much funding is dedicated to education of the general public on environmental issues? — not attached to a specific land project?

ISSUANCE OF GRANTS (Pages 3-12 of Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines)

5. These guidelines describe two types of proposed grants:

   1) Competitive Grants – are grants awarded on an annual cycle, for acquisition and site improvement projects.

   2) Strategic Opportunity Grants – are grants awarded on an ongoing bases, for program and planning projects.

After reviewing the proposed types of grants, does the process and evaluation criteria appear reasonable? Is there additional information that could assist you in completing the application process?

DISTRIBUTION

6. Per statute, the Conservancy is required to make every effort to ensure that, over time, Conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various Sub-Regions and among the State goal areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects.

   It is anticipated that approximately $17 million from Proposition 84 will be allocated annually for 3 years beginning in 2007-08. For Fiscal Year 2007-08, the funds will be allocated as follows:

   - Approximately $9 million will be allocated through competitive grants across the SNC region to meet the purposes of the SNC;

   - Approximately $6 million will be allocated as Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOG's) to eligible applicants to address top priority needs across the six Sub-Regions ($1 million will be allocated for each sub-region).

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

   Given the Conservancy's requirement to distribute resources throughout Region, do you feel the formula described above is reasonable?