Board Meeting Agenda
March 12 and13, 2008

March 12, 2008 **12:00 - 4:30 PM**
Field Trip

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip focusing on issues and activities relevant to the Conservancy's mission in the South Subregion. The field trip will begin at The Pines Resort, 5449 Road 432, Bass Lake, California at 12:00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to participate in the field trip but are responsible for their own lunch and transportation. Limited space on the bus may be available, please call (530) 823-4672 to determine availability. The public is welcome to attend a reception following the field trip at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, Red Bud Room, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

March 13, 2008 **9:00AM**
Board Meeting
The Pines Resort, Lakeview Room A
5449 Road 432
Bass Lake, CA 93604

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Oath of Office for New Board Members**

III. **Roll Call**

IV. **Approval of December 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

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

VI. **Chairman's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
a. State Budget Update

VII. **Election of Vice Chair**
The Board will elect a Vice Chair for 2008.

VIII. **Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
a. Budget/Staffing Update
b. Climate Change Update
c. Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Team
d. Permanent Headquarters Location Process
e. October Sierra Event

IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

X. Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate (ACTION)
The Board will review and may take action on modifications to the license plate design and may provide direction to the Executive Officer on next steps.

XI. Strategic Opportunity Grants (ACTION)
The Board will review and may approve Strategic Opportunity Grants listed in Attachment A of this agenda.

XII. Competitive Grants (ACTION)
The Board will review and may approve Competitive Grants listed in Attachment B of this agenda.

XIII. Grant Guideline Revisions (INFORMATIONAL)
The Board will review and may provide direction to staff on potential modifications to the Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines for 2008-09.

XIV. Indicators and Performance Measures Project Update (INFORMATIONAL)
The Board will review and may provide direction to staff on a preliminary list of potential performance measures and indicators and the process proposed for finalizing them.

XV. Board Members' Comments

XVI. Public Comments

XVII. Adjournment

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

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

Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2007

Board of Supervisor's Chambers
Eric W. Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

I. Call to Order

Chairman Chrisman called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Louis Boitano, John Brissenden, Mike Chrisman, Brian Dahle, Byng Hunt, Allen Ishida, Bob Kirkwood, John Lloyd, BJ Kirwan, Byron Sher, Robert Weygandt, Kim Yamaguchi, Mike Chapel, Bill Haigh, and Steve Schackelton

Absent: Carol Whiteside

III. Approval of July 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes.

Action: Boardmember Boitano moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the July 26, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Boardmember Brissenden abstained from voting due to his absence from the July meeting.

IV. Public Comments (non-agenda items)

There were no public comments.

V. Chairman's Report

a. SNSIT

Chairman Mike Chrisman asked Executive Officer Jim Branham to update the board on recent SNSIT activities. Branham noted that as a follow up to the initial SNSIT meeting, SNC will be holding quarterly meetings with the Wildlife Conversation Board to discuss opportunities for project coordination and collaboration. He also indicated that the SNC is entering into an agreement with the Department of Fish and Game for detailed vegetation mapping for a portion of the Sierra foothill region.

b. Legislative Process

Chairman Chrisman explained that the legislative process is a clearly defined process for state agencies. He asked Branham to explain the process that the SNC follows relating to legislation, noting that Boardmembers Sher and Ishida

raised the issue at the previous meeting. Branham explained the process whereby the SNC coordinates positions on proposed legislation through the Resources Agency and that positions must be approved by the Governor's Office. Chairman Chrisman notes that Resources uses the process to resolve any conflicts between Resource Agency departments. Boardmember Sher asked for clarification on whether this is the process with all Conservancies statewide. Branham stated it is the current practice for the Coastal Conservancy and the Tahoe Conservancy. Chairman Chrisman stated Resources Agency encourages the conservancies to connect with the appropriate legislative staff and keep Agency aware of issues of concern. He indicated that if members of the Board wish for the Conservancy to take a position on legislation they should alert Branham so that it can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

c. Subregional Representatives

Chairman Chrisman stated three Boardmember terms expire on December 31, 2007 and SNC will need written notification of the newly appointed Boardmembers (North Central, South Central and South). Boardmember Yamaguchi stated that the North Central subregion should have a decision by mid-January.

VI. Climate Symposium

Chairman Chrisman commented on a great turnout and complimented staff on the organization of the event, noting the SNC has set a high bar on the types of conversation we need to have on the issue. Chrisman also stated it is a work in progress. With the Global Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) essentially mandating carbon levels, it is important to develop a plan to meet the levels. He noted that AB 32 strives to establish market mechanisms to encourage progress in meeting targets. Chrisman stated he thought starting the symposium off with a visit from John Muir (Lee Stetson) kicked it off on a good note.

Boardmember Kirwan stated she was also pleased with the turn out, asking for clarification on calling it 'climate change' and not global warming. Kirwan noted she thought the conference was set up extremely well, questions were asked by the panel chair and encouraged the audience to speak and the engaged them. In closing, Jim Branham did a fabulous job of chairing it and the staff did a great job pulling it together.

Boardmember Brissenden concurred with Chrisman and Kirwan noting the advance work was amazing and all around a very vibrant and exciting symposium to attend.

Boardmember Kirkwood, stated that panelists did well in staying within the timelines and rather than leading canned presentations, he was pleasantly surprised by the nature of the audience participation.

Public Comment:

Brett Storey, Placer County stated that he and others in attendance appreciated the opportunity to participate in the event and felt it was very informative and beneficial.

Izzy Martin, The Sierra Fund: thanked the SNC for tackling a difficult issue by creating a safe place for everyone to discuss climate change.

Addie Jacobson, Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solution and representing Ebbets Pass Forest Watch: thanked the SNC for "walking the walk" by using biodegradable cups, plates, napkins, and providing shuttles.

The Board discussed next steps with Chairman Chrisman noting that he will ask Deputy Secretary on Climate Change, Tony Brunello, to work with SNC staff to explore the feasibility of creating a climate change action plan for the Sierra Nevada.

VII. Executive Officer's Report

a. Staff and Budget Update

Branham indicated that he anticipated that the Governor's Budget would propose full funding for the SNC, including $17 million in funding from Proposition 84. He stated that the State is facing serious budget challenges, but because the SNC does not have General Fund we have not been directly affected as yet.

Branham informed the Board that a number of new staff had been hired since the last Board meeting, including: Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager in the Mariposa Office; Julie Bear, Mt. Whitney Senior Area Representative, Bishop Office; and Brandon Sanders, Mt. Whitney Area Representative, Mariposa Office; Linda Hansen Mt. Lassen Senior Area Representative, Susanville Office; Joan Keegan, Assistant Executive Officer and Angela Avery, Program Coordinator, Auburn Headquarters Office.

Branham gave a brief overview of the status of the grant program, which will be presented in detail to the Board later in the agenda.

Branham indicated that the SNC had been approached by the Sierra Business Council regarding a joint meeting in Mammoth Lakes the first week of October. He recommended that the Board move the September meeting to October 2, 2008 and approve the meeting schedule with that change. A meeting schedule for 2008 was approved by the Board.

b. Permanent Headquarters

Branham discussed the staff report distributed in the board packets stating that staff will initiate the process to identify potential sites soon and anticipates providing the Board with a recommendation at the June Board meeting.

c. 2007-08 Action Plan

Assistant Executive Officer Keegan identified the changes since the July meeting: staff took two of the actions off of the Action Plan by incorporating them into one broad action and changes were made in regards to due dates. She pointed out that the implementation of the grant program had taken a great deal of time and effort, but staff remains committed to making progress on other key Action Plan items. Boardmember Kirkwood noted that the changes to the previously approved Action Plan should require approval by the Board.

Action: Boardmember Dahle moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the revised 2007-08 Action Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Indicators and Performance Measures

Keegan stated the contract for the project has been awarded and a kick off meeting with consultants will occur shortly. The plan is to bring a preliminary list draft measures and indicators to the Board in March with a public comment period to follow the March meeting. The final draft is anticipated to be presented to the Board in June. She indicated that interim measures have been developed for the projects before the Board today. These represent basic reporting requirements for all projects and some specific requirements for each project.

Boardmember Kirkwood expressed concern that the measurement of collaboration and cooperation seemed to have been an ancillary objective and does not recall it in strategic plan or legislation. Noting if it is selected as one of the four fundamental measures then we are saying is more important than our legislative established objectives. Also noting that improved capabilities was explicitly stated as a secondary objective in legislation and it apprears this moves those second tier objectives to the first tier and gives them equal weight. Keegan stated these are by not criteria to award grants but things we would like to hear how or if the project touched any part of the established objectives and if it is not applicable then they would state that.

Boardmember Sher underscored how important the performance measures are because we will be judged by how well our funded projects go. He questioned what recourse the SNC has if requirements are not met after the funds are awarded. Branham indicated that much of the funding will be disbursed in the form of reimbursements, ensuring that work is being done. Where advances are used, the SNC will make every effort to ensure that the entity is capable of carrying out the work being funded.

Boardmember Kirkwood suggesting adding language that asks the grantee three questions 1) did you implement the project you described and 2) what were the benefits from it and 3) if you did not do what you said you were going to do, what did you learn that made you change the way you were doing the project. Other Boardmembers concurred and Keegan agreed to add this information per Kirkwood suggestion.

Boardmember Brissenden asked whether staff had consulted with other conservancies or departments in development of the interim measures. Keegan indicated no, but will do so in the development of permanent measures.

Action: Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the Interim Indicators and Performance Measures with noted changes. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Update

Branham informed the Board that staff continues to work with The Sierra Fund In developing a marketing plan for the license plate. The Sierra Fund has hired Velocity 7 as consultants to develop a plan. Izzy Martin, CEO of The Sierra Fund, stated there will be a marketing plan distributed at the March Board meeting. Branham noted the discussions with DMV have been positive and timely.

f. Information Technology Needs Assessment

Bob Kingman informed the Board that the consultant has provided the SNC with the result of their assessment. Staff is currently reviewing the information provided and will be indentifying actions that can be taken. The Board will be updated at a future meeting.

VIII. Deputy Attorney Generals Report:

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul informed the Board that conflict of interest statements will need to be filed early next year. Most are due on April 1st, with county supervisors' statements due on March 1. Theresa Grace will send information to the Board in January, 2008.

IX. Education and Communications Plan:

AEO Keegan described the development of a 5-year plan and how the Conservancy can increase the understanding of the importance of the Sierra Nevada within the Region and throughout the state. Noting the plan highlights include three primary audiences: inside the Sierra Region; outside the Sierra Region; and Local state and federal decision makers. A consistent set of core messages is included in the plan to be reflected across all program areas and audiences. The plan also outlines specific strategies and tools for each of the three major audiences.

Keegan stated that staff recommends approval of the plan as presented.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve the Education and Communication Plan with noted changes. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Strategic Opportunity Grants

Branham informed the Board that staff had received 82 applications for $8,507,774 worth of funding. He indicated that projects which best meet the SNC's mission and the goals of Proposition 84 represent what is being recommended by the staff. Branham commended SNC staff for the hard work and the constant effort to assist applicants.

Branham introduced Bob Sleppy of the Department of General Services who provided the Board with an overview of the CEQA process.

Branham introduced Bob Kingman, Kerri Timmer, and Kim Carr to present the Board with the recommended projects (Board approved project list attached).

Boardmember Kirkwood pointed out that there were a large number of interpretive, educational, visitor center, guidebook publication, and signage projects and has difficulty seeing the relationship to water. He expressed concern about the proportion of these grants versus grants for on the ground work, noting that in some subregions about one-half of their million dollars is going to these types of projects. He pointed out that by June, when we are reviewing our third round of applications, we could find ourselves in a difficult situation.

Kingman pointed out that this first round of Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) included a large number of projects that do not include "on the ground" activities, primarily because of the tight timelines. However, he added that the Competitive Grants will all be used exclusively for on the ground projects and Round 2 of SOGs will likely include a number of such projects.

Kirkwood stated he just wanted to be certain that staff had been thinking about the distribution of funds to cover education type of projects as well as on the ground work.

Boardmember Ishida stated that some of the board members will not be here when the final grant awards are made in 2008. He urged that Board to give the subregions that did not have a large number of projects some time to bring projects forward. He suggested that if a subregion does not receive $1 million of funding in this year, the funds should "roll over."

Kingman stated that funds not encumbered this fiscal year would need to be reappropriated, so staff is recommending that all available funds are encumbered

by June 30. Branham stated that there could be an adjustment in next year's allocations if necessary to address this issue.

Exhibit A to this document is the list of approved projects.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve Strategic Opportunity Grants as proposed in Attachment A to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Public Comment:

Izzy Martin, Sierra Fund: Ms. Martin thanked the Board and the SNC staff and stated that in her 25 years of grant writing she has never encountered such a friendly, open, and simple, but effective process.

Laurie Oberholtzer, Sierra County Land Trust: offered thanks for the grant they received for appraisals and stated there will be acquisitions coming in as a result of the grant.

Stevee Duber, High Sierra Rural Alliance: thanked the SNC staff for all of their assistance and thanked the Board for their consideration.

John Vanderveen: thanked the SNC staff and stated this was by far the most rewarding grant process he had been involved in. He also indicated that the staff was helpful and provided guidance through the process.

Don Ryberg, Chair, Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribal Council: thanked the Board for the opportunity for the tribe to share some of their knowledge and culture.

Tom Esgate, Lassen County Fire Safe Council: thanked the board and staff for their support. He indicated that he knew it had been particularly challenging and that he was sort of the guinea pig for the on the ground work. He thanked staff or overcoming the challenges.

Valerie Klinefelter - Representing CHIPS Project in Calaveras County and Sierra Nevada Alliance: thanked the board for the grant and indicated that training of the chipping crews will begin immediately with the result begin a healthy forest.

Mary Herdegen, Placer County: thanked the staff for the assistance and direction provided.

Steve Kistler, Tuolumne County RCD: thanked the staff and Board stating the funding will help in the continued effort to monitor the Stanislaus and Tuolumne county watersheds.

Nita Vail, CA Rangeland Trust: commended the Board and staff for starting from scratch and creating a grant process that was the most straightforward her staff has been through. She congratulated everyone on a job well done.

XII. Boardmember Comments

Boardmember Kirkwood distributed information relating to an upper watershed natural storage project. Chairman Chrisman asked what the timeline for the project was and Mr. Kirkwood noted that by the next meeting the SNC should see some funding requests.

Chairman Chrisman thanked Boardmembers Ishida and Boitano for their service on the Board and presented them with a resolution. He asked if they had any comments.

Boardmember Ishida stated that the two years had gone by quickly and that he is pleased to have been a part of approving this first round of Proposition 84 grants. He thanked his fellow boardmembers and staff and indicated that the experience has been very educational. He stated he hoped to stay involved as Tulare County's liaison.

Boardmember Boitano also stated that the time on the Board seemed short and he had enjoyed his service. He appreciated making some good friends and thanked the staff for their efforts.

XIII. Adjournment

Chairman Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 1:10 PM.

December 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes Attachment A
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATIONS

Fund Category	Sub-Region	Reference #	County	Project Title	Grantee Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommend
Region Wide SOG $2m	Region Wide	SNC 070019	Multi-County	Engaging Sierra Participation in California Water Plan Update 2009	Sierra Nevada Alliance	$ 40,000	$ 40,000
		SNC 070020	Multi-County	Sierra Nevada Alliance: Land and Water Project	Sierra Nevada Alliance	$ 200,000	$ 150,000
		SNC 070071	Multi-County	CSFC Block II Fuel Treatment Monitoring and Educational Publication	University of California Davis	$ 55,620	$ 55,620
		SNC 070098	Multi-County	Sierra Nevada Science Institute: Development of a Timeline and Business Plan	Friends of Deer Creek	$ 49,500	$ 32,500
		SNC 070102	Multi-County	Stewardship Contracting Workshops	Sierra Business Council	$ 48,027	$ 46,440
		SNC 070137	Multi-County	Comprehensive Interpretive Plan - Yosemite National Park and Surrounding Communities	Yosemite National Park	$ 23,250	$ 23,250
		SNC 070143	Multi-County	Biomass Removal on National Forest System Lands	Placer County	$ 49,500	$ 49,500
		SNC 070148	Multi-County	Environmental Benefits of Grazing Educational Tour and Video	Nevada County RCD	$ 71,344	$ 68,000
		SNC 070162	Multi-County	Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project	University of California, Berkeley, Center for Forestry	$ 383,836	$ 123,000
		SNC 070171	Multi-County	Sierra Water Trust: Building Capacity in the Sierra Nevada to Assess and Fulfill Critical Flow Augmentation Needs	American Rivers	$ 45,000	$ 45,000
		SNC 070173	Multi-County	California Rangeland Trust Sierra Nevada Rangeland Assessment Project	California Rangeland Trust	$ 49,500	$ 49,500
	Region Wide Total					**$ 1,015,577**	**$ 682,810**
Region Wide SOG $2m Total						**$ 1,015,577**	**$ 682,810**
Specific Region $1m ea	North	SNC 070144	Lassen	South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	$ 51,720	$ 51,720
		SNC 070146	Lassen	South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project/Ash Valley	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	$ 99,999	$ 99,999
		SNC 070152	Lassen	McBride Springs/Willow Creek Restoration Planning and Development Project	Pit RCD	$ 33,100	$ 33,100
		SNC 070155	Lassen	Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative	BLM	$ 98,500	$ 98,500
		SNC 070161	Multi-County	Pit River Planning and Development Project	Pit RCD	$ 137,300	$ 137,300
		SNC 070180	Lassen	Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative - Project Coordinator	Bureau of Land Management	$ 48,400	$ 48,400
	North Total					**$ 469,019**	**$ 469,019**
	North Central	SNC 070104	Plumas	Plumas Co. FSC Educational and Publication Development Project	Plumas Corp.	$ 27,000	$ 27,000
		SNC 070149	Multi-County	Sierra Valley Sub-Basin Modeling Project	High Sierra Rural Alliance	$ 29,000	$ 29,000
		SNC 070167	Sierra	Filippini Ranch Riparian Restoration	Resources for Humanity	$ 92,000	$ 92,000
		SNC 070168	Plumas	Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization Demonstration Project Environmental Review	Plumas Corp., Feather River Coordination Resource Management	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
		SNC 070169	Plumas	Sulphur/Barry Creek Confluence Restoration Project Environmental Review	Plumas Corp., Feather River Coordination Resource Management	$ 19,530	$ 19,530
	North Central Total					**$ 175,030**	**$ 175,030**
	Central	SNC 070012	Multi-County	Yuba River Wildlife and Recreation Area; Conservation and Acquisition Program Phase 1	The Sierra Fund	$ 45,000	$ 45,000
		SNC 070065	Nevada	(CFSC Block Grant 1) FSCNC Defensible Space Advisory	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	$ 10,632	$ 10,632
		SNC 070072	Yuba	CFSC Block II Inventory and Geographic Reference of Firefighting Water	Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council	$ 64,900	$ 64,900
		SNC 070127	Nevada	Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Education & Compliance	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	$ 49,500	$ 49,500
		SNC 070136	Placer	Phase 2, Lower Squaw Creek Restoration	Truckee River Watershed Council	$ 49,900	$ 49,900
		SNC 070138	Placer	Eastern Placer Creek Signage	Placer County Planning Department	$ 15,000	$ 15,000

December 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes Attachment A
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATIONS

Fund Category	Sub-Region	Reference #	County	Project Title	Grantee Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommend
Specific Region	Central	SNC 070139	Placer	Esoteric Fraternity Property - Due Diligence Studies	Placer County Department of Facility Services	$ 40,000	$ 38,000
		SNC 070141	Placer	Low Impact Development Guidebook	Placer County Community Development Resource Agency	$ 45,000	$ 45,000
		SNC 070151	Placer	American River Educational Outreach Publications	Protect American River Canyons	$ 48,500	$ 48,500
		SNC 070160	El Dorado	South Fork American river (SFAR) Water Quality and Recreation Study	El Dorado Irrigation District	$ 118,236	$ 118,236
		SNC 070175	Nevada	Assessing and Restoring Deer Creek Watershed	The Sierra Fund	$ 75,000	$ 75,000
	Central Total					**$ 561,668**	**$ 559,668**
	South Central	SNC 070050	Calavaras	(CSFC Block Grant 1) Defensible Space Inspection Program	Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council	$ 19,625	$ 19,625
		SNC 070052	Amador	CFSC Block II 2007, Pioneer / Volcano Planning Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Amador Fire Safe Council	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
		SNC 070053	Amador	CFSC Block II 2007, Pine Grove Planning Unit, Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Amador Fire Safe Council	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
		SNC 070055	Mariposa	CFSC Block II CWPP, Planning, Coordination and Education Expenses	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	$ 69,911	$ 69,911
		SNC 070109	Mariposa	Oakvale Ranch	American Land Conservancy	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
		SNC 070156	Tuolomne	Tuolumne County Water Quality Plan Coordinated Watershed Management Program	Tuolumne County RCD	$ 48,500	$ 48,500
		SNC 070157	Calavaras	Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions Project (CHIPS)	Central Sierra RC&D	$ 48,629	$ 48,629
		SNC 070176	Amador	Amador County Watershed Stewardship Project	Amador Community Foundation	$ 173,780	$ 173,780
	South Central Total					**$ 467,945**	**$ 467,945**
	South	SNC 070031	Fresno	(CSFC Block Grant 1) Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council	$ 1,617	$ 1,617
		SNC 070032	Fresno	(CFSC Block Grant 1) Prevention/Education Program and Council Development	Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council	$ 10,000	$ 10,000
		SNC 070034	Tulare	CFSC Block II Southern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Tulare County Resource Conservation District-Sequoia Fire Safe Council	$ 54,000	$ 54,000
		SNC 070035	Tulare	CFSC Block II Northern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Tulare County Resource Conservation District-Sequoia Fire Safe Council	$ 59,000	$ 59,000
		SNC 070178	Kern	Audubon California Kern River Preserve Visitor Facility Planning Project	Audubon California Kern River Preserve	$ 152,000	$ 152,000
	South Total					**$ 276,617**	**$ 276,617**
	East	SNC 070163	Mono	(MLTPA CAMP) Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Concept and Master Planning	Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation	$ 120,099	$ 120,099
		SNC 070164	Multi-County	Eastern Sierra Citizen Watershed Assessments	Friends of the Inyo	$ 45,000	$ 45,000
	East Total					**$ 165,099**	**$ 165,099**
Specific Region $1m ea Total						**$ 2,115,378**	**$ 2,113,378**
Grand Total						**$ 3,130,955**	**$ 2,796,188**

Background

Budget
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's base budget consists of funding from the California Environmental License Plate Fund. Commencing with the 2007-08 fiscal year, funding for the implementation of the Conservancy's programs is also provided from Proposition 84 bond funds. Proposition 84 allocates $54 million to the Conservancy, $17 million of which was appropriated in the 2007 Budget Act for local assistance grants, and $500,000 to fund five positions and related expenses. At its December Board meeting, the Board approved $2.8 million to fund various Proposition 84 projects.

Operating expenditures for the current year are generally under budget projections, due primarily to some delay in staff hiring during the fiscal year. The Conservancy has expended $1.6 million—or 37 percent—of its $4.5 million operating budget through January of this year. The rate of expenditure will increase during the remainder of the fiscal year due to full staffing and large one-time project costs. However, it is anticipated that there will be a reversion of some funds to the Environmental License Plate Fund (the source of SNC's base budget).

Expenditures of Proposition 84 funds are proceeding as budgeted and it is staff's intent to avoid the need for reappropriation of Proposition 84 funds from the current fiscal year.

A detailed summary of expenditures will be provided prior to the Board meeting.

Staffing
The SNC is nearly fully staffed at this time. We continue to use part-time Legal Counsel and we are currently exploring the possibility of a full-time position for legal services. We will also continue to use retired annuitants, consultants and interagency agreements to meet specialized needs.

Current Status

Budget
The Governor's Budget for 2008-09 proposes roughly the current level of funding, including another $17 million from Proposition 84 for local assistance grants. In an effort to deal with the State's significant General Fund shortfall, the Governor issued Executive Order S-01-08, declaring a fiscal emergency and calling for serious fiscal constraints on State General Fund agencies. At this time, the SNC is not directly affected by the Executive Order as we do not receive any General Fund support. However, future actions dealing with the state's budget crisis could have an impact on us and we are preparing plans in the event this occurs. In the meantime, we will continue to be diligent in expending our budgeted funds.

Staffing
Two positions in the Mariposa Office are currently being filled by contract employees. The SNC is currently initiating the process that will lead to permanent state employees in those positions. As mentioned above, we will continue to explore options for meeting legal services.

Recommendation

No action by the Board is needed at this time. Staff will keep the Board updated on any budget developments.

Background

The SNC held its first annual symposium on December 5, 2007 focused on climate change and the Sierra Nevada. The event was attended by more than 300 individuals representing a wide range of perspectives and organizations. Speakers and panelists presented information addressing issues specific to the potential effects of climate change on the Sierra Nevada, how the Region may contribute positively to reducing the impacts and how communities and individuals can adapt.

Current Status

Since the Symposium and the Board meeting the following day, staff has taken a number of steps consistent with the Board discussion:

- Information from the Symposium has been posted on the SNC Web site. In addition, a number of climate change links have been added to the SNC Web site;

- The SNC has joined with the Resources Agency, the California Tahoe Conservancy and the US Forest Service in securing the services of Steve Eubanks (former Forest Supervisor on the Tahoe National Forest) to identify an approach for creation of a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Action Plan. Mr. Eubanks will work with all of us, other state and federal agencies and key stakeholders in identifying options and opportunities for creating such a plan (a copy of the work plan for this project is included with this agenda item);

- Members of the Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Team have identified climate change liaisons to interact with the SNC, other state and federal agencies and stakeholders to coordinate actions that can be taken to address climate change-related issues in the Sierra. For example, we have discussed with a number of other state agencies the need to develop climate change-related “filters” to be used in the evaluation of projects being considered for funding;

- Kerri Timmer represented the SNC as a panelist on local cable television program titled “Climate Changes,” with plans to contribute information to and participate in future shows;

- The SNC is on the Planning Committee for the UC Davis Sustainability Conference, hosted by the Center for the Study of Regional Change, to be held May 5-7, 2008, in conjunction with the Great Valley Center annual conference;

- Staff is also in the process of developing modifications to the Strategic Plan to more accurately reflect the SNC’s goals and objectives relating to climate change.

Recommendation

No action is needed from the Board; however the Chair may wish to appoint a committee of the Board to assist staff in development of a Sierra Nevada Climate Action Plan. Staff also welcomes any suggestions or recommendations from the Board relative to our ongoing activities described above.

-- DRAFT --
2/28/2008

Sierra Nevada Climate Change Center

Background:

Following the Sierra Nevada Conservancy-sponsored symposium on climate change in December, 2007, there were discussions about creating a climate change initiative that would help deal with the predicted effects of climate change in a proactive way.

General Concept:

- Establish a central "clearing house" related to climate change information. The Climate Change Center would be initially established and coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the California Tahoe Conservancy, in cooperation with state and federal agencies and regional stakeholders. It is anticipated that the Center could eventually evolve into an operation involving multiple partners and would be responsible for the following:
    - Assist in the development of a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Action Plan.
    - Provide basic networking and coordination for climate change information and climate change-related activities occurring in the Sierra Nevada area.
    - Provide advocacy for activities dealing with climate change, including the identification of funding and investment opportunities in the region.
    - Publicize successful activities dealing with climate change.
    - Be a "convening organization" that would create forums for sharing information on a broader scale, particularly sharing among researchers/scientists, practitioners, and communities of interest.

Next Steps:

While the general concept of a climate center has been discussed and there is enthusiasm for the potential benefits of such a center, there are still questions about details, particularly what should be the scope of a climate change center operation. To further develop the concept, facilitated discussions will be held with key contacts and stakeholders. Outcomes from the discussions will include the following:

- Role(s) of the Climate Center. In more detail, what specifically will the Climate Center do? It is recognized that there are many entities involved in the general arena of climate change so a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Center must provide some kind of added value in order to be justified.
- Scope of work for the Climate Center. Given the importance and growing priority of climate change, the scope of a new climate center's activities can be almost any level, from small to quite large. It will be important to decide early-on what level is desired.
- Development of an initial Climate Action Plan. Based on the role and scope, what are the key areas of focus for the Climate Center for the next several years? This would include times, responsibilities and opportunities for collaboration.

- Possible development of linkages with similar climate change-related activities in Europe, including potential interaction with a climate change center addressing issues in the Alps.

Specific Products to Be Completed:

- A report describing Role(s) and Scope of Work of the Climate Center. This paper will be completed through facilitated discussions with key partners and stakeholders.
- Climate Action Plan. The action plan will outline priorities or areas of focus for the Climate Center for the next 2-5 years. Again, the development of the Climate Action Plan will involve facilitated discussions with key partners and stakeholders. The possible development of linkages with climate change-related activities in Europe or elsewhere will be included in the action plan discussions.
- An outline of duties for management/leadership of the Climate Center. Once the role(s), scope of work and action plan are completed, it will be possible to determine the appropriate management structure needed to operate the Climate Center.

-- DRAFT --
2/28/2008

Background

In August of 2007, Secretary Chrisman convened the Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Team, made up of departments within the Resources Agency. The purpose of the group is to "facilitate coordination of the State of California's investment in the Sierra Nevada Region to achieve maximum sustainable environmental and economic benefits for the area. " The group is further directed to coordinate activities, consistent with the SNC Strategic Plan.

The group met in August of last year and in January of this year.

Current Status

SNSIT agencies continue to coordinate on a number of issues, including grant programs, climate change and a variety of other initiatives. Quarterly meetings will occur between SNC staff and the staff of the Wildlife Conservation Board in order to coordinate investments in the Region to the extent possible. Ongoing discussions with the Department of Fish and Game, Cal Fire and Parks and Recreation are also occurring. In addition, the SNC is working with the Resources Agency, the Tahoe Conservancy and our federal partners in the development of a Sierra Nevada Climate Action Plan (more information in contained in a separate agenda item).

Next Steps

SNC staff will continue to work with other agencies to gather the information necessary for preparation of an annual report on Sierra Nevada investments, as directed by Secretary Chrisman.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time.

Background

In December 2005, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board approved a process for the selection of a Headquarters Office. A set of specific criteria was approved and a committee of the Board was appointed to work with staff and the Department of General Services in developing a recommendation to the full Board. In February 2006, the SNC Board selected Auburn as the location for the interim Headquarters Office. At that time, the Board directed the Executive Officer to continue to explore options for a permanent Headquarters Office within roughly a 30 minute drive of Auburn.

Since June 2006, SNC staff has been housed at Creekside Business Park in Auburn. The Auburn office generally meets the organization's needs and presents a positive work environment. The location has proven to provide good access to the major transportation corridors and generally meets the criteria established. The current lease extends through May 2009.

Last year, the SNC opened and staffed its offices in Mariposa, Susanville and Bishop. While these offices will allow the SNC to more effectively cover the area within the Region, their presence does not significantly affect the criteria established for the headquarters office.

Current Status

Consistent with the Board's direction, we are now initiating a process to identify options for a permanent office location. We are interested in identifying potential specific locations that will fully meet our needs. A decision to relocate from our current location will be based on an opportunity to improve organizational efficiency and more fully meet the selection criteria, including the items described below:

Minimum Requirements

- Located within a 30 minute drive of Auburn;
- Provides a minimum of 8,000 – 10,000 square feet of usable office space;
- Meet all state office-building requirements (ADA, etc.);
- Access to high speed internet.

Preferences

- Access to major north-south and east-west transportation corridors (I-5, Hwy 99, Hwy 395, I-80, Hwy 99 and Hwy 49);
- Access to meeting facilities for SNC meetings beyond conference room capacity;
- Convenient access for employees to schools, affordable housing, alternative transportation and other services;
- Opportunity for the SNC to contribute to the economic well-being of the community;
- Availability of permanent office space by no later than June 1, 2009;

- The opportunity for a "green building" that is in keeping with the State's efforts to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generally reduce the impact on the environment;
- The opportunity to utilize the facility for Regional educational and interpretive activities, consistent with our mission;
- The opportunity for the SNC to contribute to the local community through public use of the SNC facility.

A number of parties have submitted a SNC Headquarters Office Preliminary Proposal form to the SNC. Staff is currently reviewing the proposals and will further investigate the feasibility of all proposals that meet minimum requirements. Based on that review, staff will provide a recommendation for next steps to the Board at the June meeting. If the decision is made to pursue alternatives, a more formal Request for Proposal process in consultation with the Department of General Services will occur following the June meeting.

Recommendation

No Board action is needed at this time. Staff anticipates presenting the Board with a specific course of action at the June Board meeting.

Background

As discussed at the December 2007 meeting, the SNC is involved in planning a Sierra Nevada event for the first week of October of this year at Mammoth Mountain Resort. The SNC was approached by Sierra Business Council (SBC) regarding interest in coordinating with the SBC and other Sierra organizations to sponsor this conference.

Current Status

We will hold our October Board meeting at this location on Thursday, October 2 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We are currently discussing the agenda for other activities with the SBC. It is anticipated that we will consult with a number of other organizations in development of the agenda. Additional discussions have identified an interest in addressing issues relating to climate change, tools for use in land use planning and focusing on the involvement of youth, particularly urban youth in the activities.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work with partners in the planning of this event. It is anticipated that a more detailed agenda will be provided to the Board at the June Board meeting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time. The Chair may wish to appoint a Board Committee to work with staff on this matter.

Background

At the October 2006 Board Meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to take the actions necessary to apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a specialized license plate and appointed a Board committee consisting of Boardmembers Sher and Yamaguchi to provide guidance to staff.

At the December 2006 Board Meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to take actions necessary, in consultation with the Board committee, to produce a license plate design to be presented to the Board for approval at the February 2007 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.

At the February 2007 Board Meeting, the Board provided general direction to the Committee and staff regarding design elements including a representation of water, snow-capped mountains, native vegetation, and/or native wildlife. The Board also provided direction to the Executive Officer to work with The Sierra Fund in the development of a marketing campaign.

At the May 2007 Board Meeting, the Board was updated on development of the plate design and consultations with DMV and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) regarding design guidelines, production methods, and timelines for production. Discussion also occurred regarding consistency with SNC logo. The Board directed staff to continue developing a variety of design alternatives and to provide the Board with a preferred design at the July 2007 meeting.

At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved a license plate design, allowing for minor modifications as necessary. The Board also directed staff to continue coordination on the development and implementation of a license plate marketing campaign with The Sierra Fund and other partners.

Current Status

The Sierra Fund, in consultation with the SNC, has engaged Velocity 7 to develop a marketing campaign for the SNC license plate. A copy of the draft plan is attached. Staff consulted with The Sierra Fund and Velocity 7 in refining the design of the plate, in order to maximize appeal from a marketing perspective. The revised design included as a part of this agenda item was produced by Velocity 7 and generally reflects refinements to the design approved by the Board. It also includes a change from the term “California’s Watershed” to “Sierra Nevada” at the bottom of the plate. This change is recommended based on concerns that a failure to include the words “Sierra Nevada” and the potential confusion relative to the term “California’s Watershed” could create marketing difficulties. The DMV and CHP have provided preliminary approval of the design.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the final design, direct staff to submit it to the DMV for formal approval and continue to work with The Sierra Fund in initiating and fully implementing the marketing plan.

California

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SIERRA NEVADA

Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan

Presented to

The Sierra Fund

and

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

By

Velocity7
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I. Development Partners and History

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy was created by legislation in 2004. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is comprised of 25 million acres, all or part of 22 counties, 20 cities, at least 40 special districts and 212 communities.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Mission

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate History

In 2005 and 2006, The Sierra Fund led the legislative effort to get a specialty license plate for the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy in order to ensure ongoing, sustainable funding for this crucial new state agency. Sierra Business Council and the Sierra Nevada Alliance actively supported development of this and passage of legislation to establish a Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate.

To create an SNC license plate, the state legislature passed Assembly Bill 84, sponsored by The Sierra Fund and carried by Assembly members Tim Leslie and John Laird, which permitted the Conservancy to seek a plate. This bill, signed by the Governor in the fall of 2006, established a new specialty license plate program. Under provisions of the bill, any state agency may apply for a specialized plate upon submission of 7,500 paid reservations to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Agencies have one year from the first paid reservation to collect the 7500.

The proposed Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate will presumably be the first to seek approval under new state legislation requiring 7,500 qualified registrants. Previous legislation required only 5,000 registrants.

A marketing campaign is needed to secure 7,500 Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate qualified registrants within the one-year period, as stipulated by California law. This campaign will be coordinated between The Sierra Fund (TSF) and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). A Memorandum of Agreement names The Sierra Fund as the non-profit partner in this effort and spells out organizational and campaign roles and responsibilities. In general, SNC's role in the process is to design the plate and help advise the marketing strategy, while The Sierra Fund will fund and coordinate the campaign itself.

It is anticipated that the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign will begin as early as **April 1, 2008,** with a possible Public Announcement date of **September 1, 2008,** concluding with the submission of at least 7,500 Qualified Registrants by no later than **August 31, 2009.**

II. Executive Summary

The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan details the tactics and strategies necessary to ensure that at least 7,500 California vehicle owners register for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate. Successfully achieving this goal will result in at least $375,000 in new revenues generated to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and an historic visual acknowledgement of the importance of the Sierra Nevada to the economic and environmental well-being of the state of California.

Key to the success of the Plan is a "viral" Internet strategy that captures registrants on-line and motivates those registrants to share our marketing messages with others with a sense of enthusiasm.

This integrated marketing plan seeks approximately 20 million impressions to prospective California registrants through television, radio, organizational partnerships, newspaper, newsletter, email and websites.

Success Measurement

A successful campaign will solicit at least 7,500 Qualified Registrants for a new SNC License Plate by August 31, 2009. The campaign will also create new corporate, foundation and media partnerships and alliances for the Sponsor Organizations.

Key Plan Elements

This Plan details a three-phased process.

Phase I: Early Development. This Phase of the Campaign begins immediately and extends for approximately 120 days, ending on the proposed Announcement Date of September 1, 2008. This Phase includes the development of all web-based and paper marketing materials, including all elements of a series of email, press and visual releases to support the viral Internet strategy. This phase includes development of key media alliances, negotiation of marketing partnerships and incentive packages; and pledges of specific numeric commitments from environmental, business, arts and agency partners. Phase I also includes hiring staff and procurement of office equipment and technology.

Phase II. Supported Strategies, Post Announcement. Phase II of the Campaign begins on the Announcement Date of September 1, 2008. Phase II includes execution and release of materials; "going live" of the www.SierraLicensePlate.org website; a high profile announcement and subsequent endorsements; regular and recurring communications with media and partner organizations and ongoing assistance to partner organizations to achieve their pledged commitments. Phase II includes a Conversion Strategy to ensure that a high percentage of the approximately 2,500 Registrants who have enrolled already become Qualified Registrants.

Phase III: Ongoing Outreach

Phase III of the Plan includes execution of previously negotiated mass media, newsletter and magazine advertisements; targeted Internet marketing; integrated and ongoing outreach to viral customers in unique, interesting and creative ways that inspire action; follow-up communications with Registrants who must also mail a "wet" signature and other ongoing marketing and enrollment efforts (A wet signature is an actual signed document, not a digital signature).

Recommendations

This Marketing Campaign Plan makes the following recommendations:

A goal of 10,000 Registrants. The Campaign should incorporate a goal of 10,000 Registrants in order to ensure that resources and scheduling support a successful effort. Establishing a higher than essential goal recognizes that all Registrants realistically will not become Qualified Registrants. No other organization or campaign has ever reached a goal of 7,500 and many strong organizations have failed to reach even 5,000 registrants. Time and financial budgeting should estimate higher than anticipated effort.

License Plate Funds directed to actual investment in resources. To support an effective and more coherent campaign message, the sponsors may consider ensuring that funds raised through a successful license plate program are directed to grants and investments in actual conservation and restoration projects (like the Yosemite Plate did), rather than staff and administration.

Announcement Date set well in advance. The Announcement Date, for these purposes the effective date that starts a 365 day clock, should be set well in advance to allow a minimum of 120 days for staffing, funding, partnership development, branding development, media alliances and materials development. The Campaign should be fully functioning on the Announcement Date.

For purposes of this Marketing Campaign Plan, the Announcement Date is September 1, 2008.

Staff and Funding Identified. Successful implementation of the Campaign requires that key staff, organizational and funding requirements be in place well in advance of the Announcement Date.

Professional Manager. This Marketing Campaign Plan recommends a minimum of two professional, full time staff including a Campaign Manager responsible for operational, outreach, marketing and communications.

Internet-Based Campaign. This Plan relies on a sophisticated website and database management system to manage registration, registration follow-up, and viral marketing campaign tactics.

Run this like a Political Campaign. All interviews conducted in developing this Marketing Campaign Plan emphasize that human and financial effort was significantly greater than anticipated or initially calculated. It has been suggested that the Sponsors manage this Campaign with the sustained effort, investment and commitment of a long-term political campaign.

Budget

The estimated budget to implement this Marketing Campaign Plan is $350,000+.

III. Introduction

The mission of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan is to secure at least 7,500 qualified registrants within one year. This will be an accomplishment that no other state license plate effort has ever fulfilled.

The Sierra Fund has led the effort to get a specialty license plate for the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy in order to ensure ongoing, sustainable funding for this crucial new state agency. The Tahoe Conservancy and the California Coastal Conservancy both receive important revenue from sale of specialty license plates. These plates include a beautiful design (a whale tail for the Coast, the lake for Tahoe), and cost the plate owner an extra $40 per year for their car registration, which is then allocated directly to the designated Conservancy. The Coastal plate is on approximately 90,000 vehicles generating well over $3 million per year, and the Tahoe plate is on 30,000 vehicles generating about $1 million per year.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a comparatively young agency. The creation of this agency generated great interest throughout California. Due to the agency's nature, the effected audience size and the new untested requirement for 7,500 qualified registrants; the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign will attract broad attention.

Given the above factors, a primary objective of the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan is to assure a strong, successful effort prior to the first day of the actual public release of the campaign.

SNC License Plate Marketing Plan Campaign Implementation Suggestions:

- Address all legal ramifications of marketing tools and tactics
- Suggest Campaign Advisory Group to assist in development and implementation
- A 15+ month Marketing Campaign Calendar that ensures the campaign is fully functional prior to public announcement
- Campaign benchmarks
- Supportive efforts to secure new funding partnerships
- Renew financial and marketing interest from existing partners
- Refine key messages, relationship and message delivery tools
- Identify incentive packages
- Further develop a *conversion strategy* to ensure a high percentage of Pre-Registrants become Qualified Registrants
- Further define a *grassroots strategy* to secure registrations from new targets within key constituencies in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region
- Further develop a *viral strategy* to encourage existing registrants and organizations to repeatedly "spread the news" to their larger communities and organizations
- Further define a *mass urban strategy* to secure registrations from constituencies in target markets in urban California
- Develop an *earned media* campaign by sub-markets within and outside the Sierra Nevada
- Construction schematic for a web-based online registration and viral marketing tool
- Propose methods and procedures to secure online registrations
- Include an exhaustive local and statewide media database, including e-mail and phone numbers, for target reporters

IV. Situation Analysis and Plan Overview

Background

In 1992, legislation was enacted that established a process for the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue so-called "special interest license plates," which are license plates that include a distinctive design or decal identifying a group or cause and which are sold to interested vehicle owners as a mean of developing public funds and promoting the public recognition of an agency, region or sponsor organization. This program was rejected by the courts in 2004. All current plates were issued under the 1992 laws. The new program, which became law on January 1, 2007, establishes new requirements including, 1) sale of 7,500 Registrants, 2) only State Agencies are eligible to apply.

The current special interest license plate types include:

+Total number of license plates ordered since inception of the program

- Collegiate (UCLA) (4,444)
- Yosemite (96,072)
- Arts (131,967)
- Kids (143,000)
- Veterans (34,510)
- Firefighters (25,368)
- Lake Tahoe (45,702),
- Coastal Conservancy (Whale Tail) (125,802)
- California Memorial License Plate (30,250)

Over the last several years, the legislature has approved additional special interest license plates supporting:

- Girl Scouts of America
- Rotary International
- Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
- Breast cancer treatment
- Anti-terrorism programs

<u>The five license plates listed immediately above were never issued</u> because the sponsors were unable to collect the required registrations. This infers that even powerful, successful organizations have been unable to inspire their own very large memberships to purchase special interest plates.

The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign is breaking ground in terms of online marketing and registration options. Traditional marketing techniques have been employed in past specialty license plates. The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan proposes using Internet-based technology as part of its integrated marketing approach.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles requires a wet signature, meaning that all Qualified Registrants must provide an ink signature with their registration. To meet this requirement while making use of Internet technology and marketing techniques, the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan proposes implementing a sequenced registration strategy: registration forms and payment may occur online with a second step of mailing the signed registration form in for qualified registration. This sequenced approach was successfully employed in the SNC Logo Design Concept Competition. Traditional marketing methodologies will also be fully utilized in the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign.

Registration Definitions

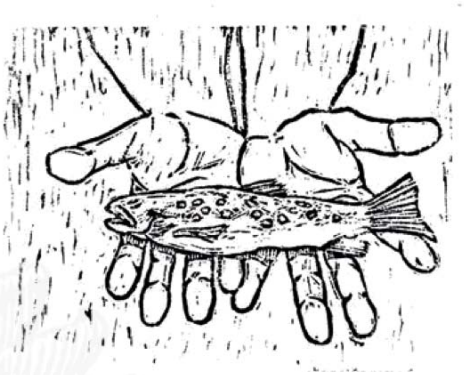
For the purposes of this campaign, there are important distinctions in the term "registrants:"

Pre-Registrant means those approximately 2,500 individuals who pre-registered for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate from June 2004 through January 2008 without making payment. Pre-registrants are the target of a conversion strategy to ensure a high proportion become "Registrants," and ultimately, "Qualified Registrants."

Registrant refers to those individuals who register on-line and pay $50 for their SNC License Plate. Department of Motor Vehicles requirement to obtain a wet signature means that Registrants must also print, sign and mail in their on-line registration form.

Qualified Registrant refers those "Registrants" who have paid all fees and for whom a completed, *signed* registration form has been received by the Campaign.

V. Goals and Objectives



The Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Marketing Campaign will communicate broadly to the registrants of the more than 30 million vehicles in California through the Internet, television, radio, newspaper, newsletter, magazines and direct mail.

This integrated marketing plan seeks approximately 20 million impressions on this audience in order to successfully ensure that at least 10,000 Pre-Registrants are secured, resulting in at least 7,500 Qualified Registrants for a SNC License Plate by completing all registration requirements.

The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan will include targeted marketing elements directed to:

- Prospective corporate and foundation funders
- Media and corporate partners who provide broadcast/print ad reach for the campaign
- Grassroots and groundswell multi-level alliances and stakeholder partners

Range of objectives for marketing and outreach efforts:

1. 7,500 Qualified Registrants for SNC License Plates
2. Ongoing license plate web presence with links from all major stakeholder websites
3. Inclusion in 10 stakeholder membership packages
4. Inclusion in at least two corporate, utility or stakeholder mass mailings
5. Email news mailings from TSF and at least two other major stakeholders
6. Monthly press releases for at least 12 months
7. Endorsement by high-ranking California politician (s)
8. Create new corporate, foundation and media partnerships for SNC

Funding and branding partners benefits include:

- Reach millions of Californians through traditional and non-traditional earned media
- Highly targeted paid media campaign to outdoor enthusiasts, recreationists, property owners and active lifestyle individuals who support the Sierra Nevada
- Branding partnership on a campaign with tremendous bipartisan support in the legislature and with the Governor's office
- Achievable results that generates identifiable supporters of the Sierra Nevada
- Creates reliable funding for projects that promote economic, social and environmental well being in the region

VI. Strategies and Tactics

A. Produced Strategies, Early Development, Pre-Announcement

Large-volume, gatekeepers, key stakeholders

The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign's success is based on a strategy of achieving critical mass and the involvement of key stakeholders, gatekeepers and partners prior to the Announcement Date. Strategically establishing project advocates in multiple areas, opens communication channels. Messages spread through these early key holders to their spheres of influence through each stage of the Campaign process.

These areas have been identified as vital:

1. Key existing stakeholders

Key existing stakeholders include organizations that have been pivotal in creating the SNC License Plate, legislators, and advisory council members. These stakeholders have invested the most in terms of time and commitment. It is anticipated key stakeholders, like The Sierra Fund, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and Sierra Business Council, will continue this deep level of involvement by acting as gatekeepers for members, affiliates and associates. Their early support will provide channels for reaching many audiences and inspiring additional partners.

2. NGO partners, stakeholders, and their members

NGO partners, stakeholders and their members will provide many of the same functions as key stakeholders. Organizations shaping the success of the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign are in this group. NGO's with values and interests that align with SNC and are capable of reaching large numbers through memberships and other existing marketing efforts, such as the Sierra Club, will be contacted at the earliest possible point. The impact here comes not only from endorsement, but opening communication channels to interested audiences. In this phase, contracts and marketing tools will be planned, such as incentive programs, which will be implemented after the Marketing Campaign Public Announcement.

3. Corporate partners

Securing appropriate corporate partners whose business is centered in the Sierra Nevada generates endorsements, possible advertising, communication channels and other forms of support will further assure success of the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign. Companies may develop stewardship programs, aligning SNC projects with volunteers and SNC License Plate Registration for employees, company-wide. Corporations will include SNC License Plate registration details as part of their advertising, websites and public relations outreach planning.

4. Utility and water partners

Utility and water companies are directly impacted by what occurs in the Sierra Nevada. These companies are highly educated and motivated to support the SNC License Plate campaign. Utility and water companies have mass numbers of subscribers who they routinely mail. Securing utility and water partners adds critical mass to the SNC License Plate Campaign and provides an important distribution channel, especially for urban audiences.

By securing early support, statement inserts, newsletter notices and website inclusion will add the critical mass needed at the point of Marketing Campaign Public Announcement.

5. Media partners

Not only do media partners communicate to mass audiences through many distribution channels, they also produce and manage public service announcements, select news stories and in some cases, choose to support certain projects. Gaining the attention and respect of media partners early extends the reach of the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign. To the extent possible, focusing on high-level gatekeepers is desirable (Clear Channel broadcasting, Comcast, CBS).

6. Vehicle registration opportunities (Fleets, New vehicles, CSAA)

Companies registering multiple vehicles may elect to create a fleet of vehicles with SNC License Plates. Fleets become part of public outreach programs, making a statement for their commitment to the environment and the Sierra Nevada region.

When a person purchases a new vehicle, they may be more likely to consider a specialty plate. Reaching new buyers through lending officers and car dealers by developing incentive packages for car buyers would reach a highly targeted mass market. Early negotiation of special offers and materials distribution partnerships are a high priority.

Automobile clubs reach millions of members through website, statements and news mailings. Many automobile clubs publish their own magazines. Securing support, partnership or distribution alliance with automobile clubs would greatly enhance the reach of the SNC License Plate Campaign.

7. Bipartisan government support

The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign is a truly bi-partisan effort and may be embraced by politicians from both sides of the political aisle. Using high-level political endorsements creates a win-win situation for all parties and establishes a strong media-worthy event for the public campaign announcement.

8. Celebrity endorsements
Securing celebrity endorsements for specific audiences spreads the word, creates buzz and establishes distribution channels for public relations and news. Apart from generating media attention and enhanced perception, celebrity endorsements provide a captivating focus for advertising efforts.

B. Supported Strategies, Post Announcement
Grassroots efforts, groundswell

Key stakeholders and partners will assist in getting SNC License Plate marketing efforts integrated into their organizational communication systems. They may also act as spokespeople, encouraging others to participate.

The initial stakeholders and partners developed each have members, affiliates and other audiences, contacts (see VI. A.). A Post-Announcement supported strategy targets groups with outreach efforts for their trickle-down audiences. Partners and affiliates become catalysts for viral marketing aspects of this Marketing campaign. While Pre-Announcement efforts are focused on organization leaders, Post-Announcement efforts are directed to the much larger body of leaders' sphere of influence.

Additionally, Post-Announcement strategies include secondary stakeholder organizations whose members have interest in the Sierra Nevada in a less concentrated manner. For instance Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development organizations will be interested and effected by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate, though not pivotal to these organizations' mission.

Suggested tactics include:
a. Point-of-sale materials for prominent display in organization offices. Posters, brochures with registration forms and tabletop displays create a constant contact channel.

b. Direct mail notices included in routine organization mailings (news, promotions, invoices).

c. House-parties with scripted educational information on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

d. Membership incentive programs. For an increased membership donation, organizations can include Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate registration. This provides a strong endorsement and value-added membership.

e. Opportunities to participate in events, and the potential creation of events specific to Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate.

f. Link to <http://www.SierraLicensePlate.org> inclusion on websites.

g. Send an E-card from the Sierra Nevada (highlight region) with a return link to <http://www.SierraLicensePlate.org>.

h. Incentives, such as custom license plate holders and valuable coupons.

Supported strategies include:

1. Conservation organizations and members grassroots strategies
Conservation organizations and their members are strong stakeholders for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate and as such, a high degree of participation is anticipated with multiple tactics from the above list.

Providing training and supportive materials will be vital to the success of grassroots efforts. Conservation organizations will be presented with options from the above tactics. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign management will provide appropriate materials, templates, and training and associated marketing support.

2. State, regional and local groups (Chambers, Arts, Econ. Dev.)
As secondary stakeholder organizations, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development organizations and Arts Councils are envisioned as outreach ambassadors in a slightly more passive stance than Conservation organizations.

Outreach tactics may include point-of-sale, website presence and one-time inclusion in a direct membership mailing. Reciprocal website links may be appropriate here—a link to host organization's website is included in a special section of <http://www.SierraLicensePlate.org>.

3. Viral marketing strategies

Whenever possible, reciprocal website links and distribution for point-of-sale materials should be negotiated to spread information through each organization-wide audience.

Creating partnership alliance programs that offer registration rewards and open new marketing channels simultaneously, like merchant coupons and discounts to provide access points. This spreads the message, offers an exciting means of viral marketing, and builds new project stakeholders while reaching out to new audiences.

Postcards from the Sierra Nevada with pre-paid postage and a message inviting Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate registration can be included with other point-of-sale materials. Postage used creates record of effectiveness.

Sending e-postcards to a friend with options for selecting your favorite Sierra Nevada scene provides a viral marketing tool that builds a user database.

MySpace and Facebook pages featuring celebrity endorsements will encourage viral distribution among friends and associates.

Viral Marketing Definition from Wikipedia:

Viral marketing and viral advertising refer to marketing techniques that use preexisting social networks to produce increases in brand awareness, through self-replicating viral processes, analogous to the spread of pathological and computer viruses. It can be word-of-mouth delivered or enhanced by the network effects of the Internet. Viral marketing is a marketing phenomenon that facilitates and encourages people to pass along a marketing message voluntarily….

It is claimed that a satisfied customer tells an average of three people about a product or service he/she likes, and eleven people about a product or service that he/she did not like. Viral marketing is based on this natural human behavior.

4. Strategy to convert pre-registrants

Pre-registrants need to be re-contacted to secure wet signatures and collect payment for registration. This group of Pre-Registrants warrants special attention, a display of appreciation and motivation to finalize registration after a very long wait.

Their early registration indicates that they may be more concerned about the environment than other audiences. For this reason, an incentive that is highly sensitive to the environmental impact of the gift itself is proposed. Negotiated carbon offset credits through a third-party corporate sponsor, or environmentally friendly rewards that can be delivered by email are strongly suggested here.

At the same time, the invitation to re-confirm should be accompanied with a concrete offer providing a desirable, immediate benefit. A one-day park pass, discount at a Sierra restaurant or sporting goods coupon would be excellent considerations for Pre-Registrant confirmation incentives.

A thank you letter from the Blue Ribbon Advisory committee would be a gracious way to recognize the Pre-Registrants for their support of the SNC License Plate.

Following this letter, an email inviting them to register and collect a special incentive gift would further inspire their registration completion.

A postcard reminder with a time dated request for collecting the incentive will enhance registration.

C. Convening, Coordinating Alliances / Partners, Ongoing Outreach

Realizes incentive partners, value-added, direct marketing opportunities, education, and public relations

Key stakeholders and partners act as gatekeepers, involving their organization members in reaching targeted mass markets, using existing mailings, websites and other communication tools and incentives for the SNC License Plate.

The primary strategy for convening and coordinating alliances and partners is through the implementation of a comprehensive, multi-level website. The website will be capable of meeting many audience needs in an easy to use online environment.

Registration may be initiated and paid for online and then qualified with the receipt of the wet-signature registration via mail.

Ongoing marketing will be driven by the core website. Public relations, news updates and educational material will be available at the core website. This website will be posted at the existing address, allowing those familiar with the website to return and collect new information from a known address.

Specialized incentives will be developed in response to requests from partners. These may include membership incentives, such as a gift, decal or license plate holder.

Outreach efforts include:

1. Integrated marketing/outreach support through web presence

SierraLicensePlate.org will act as the central hub for the campaign. The website will have three primary audiences:

- Individuals
- Partners
- Media

SierraLicensePlate.org includes information, interactive features and viral marketing functions.

Individuals. For individuals wishing to register, online registration with options for providing the VIN# and online payment allows website visitors to make a commitment and begin the registration process. Registration is supported by instructions and mailed documents. Forms can be printed as they are filled out online, making it easy for registrants while simultaneously building a database for ongoing communication. Optional donations and coupons are offered in this section of the website.
Although the website will focus more on how to register than why, general information on the website explains how buying a SNC License Plate helps the Sierra Nevada. A dynamic graphic of a thermometer, displays the number of registrants. Personal stories from registrants discuss why they purchased a SNC License Plate registration and adds appeal to the website. T-shirts and stickers offered online printed on-demand, through a third-party vendor spreads the word through merchandising.

Viral marketing features offered at the website include newsletters, tell-a-friend, and an interactive license plate design "game." Celebrity endorsements on YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Tribe.net, Gather and other social network pages add to the "spread the word" appeal.

Partners. A section of the website is dedicated to attracting, informing and providing materials for partners and affiliates. This section of the website allows existing partners to login and register. Banners, logos and high-resolution images, as well as other documents and printing templates are available for use by registered partners. This automates outreach efforts and makes delivering unified branding a simple on-demand process.

Media. Finally, a dedicated Media section of the website provides up-to-date press releases, recent news and high-resolution images for members of the press.

SierraLicensePlate.org is the vital, living hub enabling constant, automated activity for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign. This core component should be completed at the earliest possible date to support all communication and outreach efforts.

2. Ongoing marketing

Allies and partners will engage in mass targeted direct marketing through statement mailings and other efforts initiated in early phases of the project. These efforts will be supported by the continuing presence of the website and the site address will be prominently included in all marketing materials.

3. Value-added incentives and partners strategies

Partners and stakeholders established in early phases could add value to their memberships, donation programs and special events by including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate in their marketing and outreach efforts.

VII. Message Themes

Message themes will direct the branding effort for the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign Plan. The following message themes and language are intended to serve as core messages to be communicated throughout all marketing plan materials.

THE SIERRA FUND

Language Template #1.

OUR LAND OUR AIR OUR WATER

OUR SIERRA

The new Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate.

Your license to protect the places you love.

We each have a special place in our hearts for the Sierra Nevada – it's the place of epic history, childhood memories, wilderness adventures, vibrant communities, and – most of all – hope for the future.

Now, you have a chance to do more than just hope for the future of the Sierra. By registering to purchase a Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate, you'll join thousands of visionary Californians in a statewide effort to protect and restore this cherished place.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles will issue Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plates in the coming year. These are official license plates available for all vehicles registered in California.

Proceeds from the sales and renewal of Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plates will directly fund the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's efforts to protect and restore the 25 million acres of majestic landscapes in the Sierra Nevada – it's rivers and creeks, lakes and ponds, meadows and forests, farms and ranches, and rural towns and villages – on the Modoc Plateau, through the Sierra Valley, down the Truckee River, in Hope Valley, Kings Canyon and the Sequoia National Forest – and all the places you love in between.

OUR SIERRA

The new Sierra Nevada License Plate.

Your license to protect the places you love.

Language Template #2.

OUR LAND OUR AIR OUR WATER

OUR SIERRA

***You* know that the Sierra is a very important place.**

And now you can let the world know how important the rivers, lakes, forests and small towns of the region are to you.

By registering to purchase a Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate, you'll join other visionary Californians in a statewide effort to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles will issue Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plates in the coming year. These are official license plates available for all vehicles registered in California.

Proceeds from the sales and renewal of Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plates will directly fund the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's efforts to protect and restore the 25 million acres of epic landscapes in the Sierra Nevada – it's rivers and creeks, lakes and ponds, meadows and forests, farms and ranches, and rural towns and villages – all the way from the Oregon border to Kern County.

The new Sierra Nevada License Plate.

Your license to protect the places you love.

VIII. Audiences

The primary audiences for SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign are residents, businesses, environmental organizations, recreators, property owners and policy makers in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region.

The SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign is structured to build on progressive spheres of influence, beginning with core stakeholders and partners. These organizations and individuals will inform and influence their audiences (employees, members, associates).

In addition to key partners and gatekeepers, many other organizations will participate as distribution channels for SNC License Plate Campaign messages and information. These organizations will assist in communicating the SNC License Plate Marketing Campaign messages to primary audiences.

IX. Personnel and Infrastructure

The License Plate Campaign will require a tremendous and substantial organizational and administrative commitment by the Sponsor Organizations. This Campaign Plan recommends that additional staff and a marketing firm be retained well in advance of the Public Announcement Date.

In the Early Development phase of this campaign, there are substantial and time consuming campaign elements that include negotiating marketing partnerships and incentives with NGO and corporate sponsors; establishing payment processing methodologies; developing data management tools necessary to coordinate 10,000 registrants in a year; and managing substantial local and state media and communications efforts to heighten the profile of this effort. It is recommended that the Announcement Date be scheduled to give marketing communications firm and staff a minimum of 3 to 6 months in order to set in place the proper foundation for a successful yearlong campaign.

Marketing Plan Development Coordination

This campaign will be coordinated between The Sierra Fund and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. A Memorandum of Agreement names The Sierra Fund as the non-profit partner in this effort and spells out organizational and campaign roles and responsibilities. In general, the Conservancy's role in the process is to design the plate and help advise the marketing strategy, while The Sierra Fund will fund and coordinate the campaign itself.

The Sierra Fund

Staff and Board of The Sierra Fund will be responsible for managing the implementation of this Campaign Plan and the performance of the marketing communications firm and staff. The Sierra Fund will be responsible for creating and executing funding partnerships with foundation and corporate partners.

Outreach Developer or Campaign Director

An Outreach Developer or Campaign Director (or person capable of fulfilling critical tasks as explained below) will be hired by The Sierra Fund at least 90 days prior to the Public Announcement Date. The Outreach Developer will be sufficiently experienced so as to coordinate and manage all aspects of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign, and shall make at least a 15-month commitment to see the Campaign through to its success.

Critical tasks include:

- Coordinating and managing of the development of marketing and public relation materials
- Oversee and participate in all discussions and negotiations with water agency, utility, corporate, conservation, NGO and media partners, negotiate from corporate partners value-added incentives for successful registration
- Ability to communicate fluently with funding partners
- Manage the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee
- Manage staff and consultants to ensure successful execution of this Marketing Plan

This individual will understand the importance of viral Internet based campaigns to successfully solicit at least 10,000 registrations. This position might best be titled as **Outreach Developer** or **Campaign Director.**

The Campaign Director/Outreach Developer (or comparable) position will report to the Executive Director of The Sierra Fund in consultation with the Executive Director of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Additional needs will include clerical support staff to perform tasks related to depositing of funds, record-keeping and filing, etc.

Outreach Administrator

The Sierra Fund will hire an Outreach Administrator at least 45 days prior to the Public Announcement Date.

Critical tasks include:

- All administrative elements of the campaign
- Facilitating the attainment of partner registration pledges by providing inspiration and critical thinking supporting partner organizational success
- Ensuring timely and recurring press, media, and viral communications to partners and registrants
- Assisting partners in setting up events and other viral efforts
- Managing web based databases; and ensuring complete registrations, including wet signatures, by on-line registrants

Consultants and Outsourcing

Implementation of this Campaign Plan requires outsourcing to Consultants, including a marketing communications firm. This firm will be retained at least 90 days prior to the Public Announcement Date to build a successful campaign foundation.

Critical tasks include:

- Professional interactive website
- Branding, collateral, advertising and public relations
- Database management system
- Professional graphics and print materials for mass reproduction
- Fund development (Possible high profile individual for key donor inquiries)
- Printers for collateral materials
- Fulfillment facility ("Fulfillment" may be required in sending out incentive packages to successful registrants)

Marketing communication consultants report directly to the Executive Director of The Sierra Fund in consultation with the Executive Director of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign
Blue Ribbon Committee

Throughout the pre-registration process of the past 36 months, a small Advisory Committee has met periodically and has successfully provided substantial input to The Sierra Fund and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy on various marketing, communication and funding alternatives. During the Early Development Stage of this Marketing Campaign, a high-profile Blue Ribbon Committee will be formed. This Blue Ribbon Committee will include members from the early Advisory committee.

The Blue Ribbon Committee will advise the Executive Director of The Sierra Fund and the Campaign Director on critical elements necessary to achieve a 10,000-registrant goal. This Committee will include a cross-section of business, community, and environmental and elected leaders chosen to best communicate a broad message of appeal to all Californians.

Office and Facilities

Given the full-time nature of the Campaign, an office will likely be necessary, with access to all appropriate office equipment, including at least two phones, two computers, a fax machine, and a high quality color printer. The Campaign should also utilize specific letterhead, business cards and other identity elements unique to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign.

The Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee will be listed on Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Campaign letterhead.

X. Budget Overview

Preliminary budget suggested as	$350,000.	
Personnel	$120,000.	
Branding, retention	$8,000.	
Website/ongoing updates	$35,000.	
Press/Public relations	$30,000.	(15 month period)
Advertising (print-radio-tv)	$32,000.	
Direct Marketing/Internet	$18,000.	
Retain Pre-Registrants	$2,000.	
Printing	$32,000.	
Point–of-Sale	$24,000.	
Incentives	$38,000.	
Misc. expense, (travel, postage)	$11,000.	
	$350,000.	

XI. Quantitative and Qualitative Results

The primary result of this Marketing Plan is that at least SNC License Plate 7,500 Qualified Registrants are secured. Successfully achieving this goal will result in at least $375,000 in permanent annual revenues generated to the SNC License Plate fund and an historic visual acknowledgement of the importance of the Sierra Nevada to the economic and environmental well being of the state of California.

Additional results anticipated or expected from a successful Campaign are:

- Approximately 20 million impressions on Californians through primarily "earned media" outlets – television news, newspaper, and radio as well as targeted "partnered" or "sponsored" media, including nonprofit environmental and business organizations, urban and rural water agencies, government partners and arts and other organizations;
- An historic "affinity" tool or endorsement badge for residents, outdoor enthusiasts, recreationists, property owners and active lifestyle individuals who support the Sierra Nevada through the SNC License Plate
- New and enhanced relationships with corporate funding partners willing to invest in Sierra based partnerships
- New and enhanced relationships with foundation funding partners from throughout the state

Background

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, which included an allocation of $54 million of bond funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). In January 2007, the Governor proposed and the legislature approved $17 million in grant funds for the SNC for Fiscal Year 2007-08. It is anticipated that the additional bond funds will be appropriated over the next two fiscal years.

During the first half of 2007 the SNC held a series of workshops to assist in the development of Program and Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines. At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved final guidelines that define eligible project and grant types, grant size limits, availability of funds, selection criteria and how to apply for funding.

The Board also approved a plan to allocate the grant funds as follows: $9 million has been allocated for a Competitive Grants Program and $8 million for Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs). Of the $8 million in SOG funding, $1 million has been allocated to each of the six SNC subregions, and $2 million for region-wide projects. In August the SNC publicly announced the availability of Proposition 84 SOG funding and invited eligible entities to submit applications for projects.

At the December 2007 meeting, the Board approved awarding of 39 grants for a total of $2,756,188. The available funds remaining in each of the subregional allocations as of February 29, 2008, are shown in the table below. The amounts reflect the sum of all grants authorized by the Board in December 2007 and five grants authorized by the Executive Officer. Of the total, $44,530 was authorized by the Executive Officer from the region-wide allocation to augment (by 10%) two previously awarded grants to the California Fire Safe Council to pay for administrative costs accidentally omitted in original authorization. A total of $199,275 has been awarded in the five Executive Authorizations and one administrative augmentation to date bringing the total amount authorized to date to $2,955,463.

Table 1 as of Feb. 29, 2008

Subregion	Allocation	Total Authorized to date	Total Remaining
Region-Wide	$2 Million	707,340	1,292,660
North	$1 Million	508,109	491,891
North Central	$1 Million	216,030	783,970
Central	$1 Million	559,668	440,332
South Central	$1 Million	492,945	507,055
South	$1 Million	306,272	693,728
East	$1 Million	165,099	834,901
TOTAL	**$8 Million**	**2,955,463**	**5,044,537**

Current Status

Project Development and Evaluation Process

The SNC Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines encourage potential applicants to consult with SNC staff prior to submitting applications. Many applicants have taken advantage of this consultation and report that it has been very helpful in developing their projects and applications. The consultations have also been beneficial for SNC staff by providing them with a better understanding of potential projects and increasing the likelihood that applications address the purpose of Proposition 84 and the mission of the SNC.

Immediately following the December 31st submittal deadline, program staff began reviewing all applications for completeness and applicant eligibility.

Upon determining that an application was complete and eligible for funding, the SNC provided local governments and water agencies with summaries of proposed projects, consistent with SNC guidelines. The Subregional representatives on the SNC Board were also notified at this time, providing an opportunity for them to communicate with the affected entities as well.

SNC program staff consulted with experts in a number of state agencies to review technical aspects of project proposals. Representatives from the Department of General Services (DGS) Environmental Services Branch and the office of the State Attorney General were consulted relative to CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) compliance and real estate appraisals. This review resulted in a number of projects being found ineligible for consideration at this time.

For those projects found to be eligible, SNC program staff evaluated project applications using the evaluation criteria contained in the Guidelines:

1. Contribution to the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources (Proposition 84);
2. How the project addresses one or more of the SNC program goals;
3. Demonstrated cooperation, community support and leveraging.

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

Summary of Applications Reviewed

As part of the second round of application solicitations, the SNC established December 31st as the last day an application could be submitted and still have the potential to be considered at the March meeting. The SNC received a total 79 eligible new applications by that date. These were added to 29 eligible applications that were deferred from the first round of SOGs, for a total of 108 applications reviewed by staff. The total dollar amount requested for all projects in the second round of SOGs was $12,985,089.

Each of the six subregions produced applications for a broad spectrum of local projects, and several applications were submitted for projects of region-wide significance. Funding requests from subregions varied substantially and reflected a strong interest in the SNC program. Indications are that many more applications are being prepared by entities in all subregions for consideration in the future.

A number of projects are not being recommended for funding at this time. In many instances, these projects lack adequate environmental documentation or may need additional information/refinement. Staff will continue providing feedback to applicants to help improve project ideas for future applications. As previously mentioned, the SNC Grants Guidelines are in the process of being revised to help clarify requirements and streamline application and review processes. A more detailed description of the guideline revision process is described in materials prepared for Agenda Item XIII.

Projects Recommended for Funding

Exhibit A to this report includes both a spreadsheet showing project-specific information as well as individual project summaries for projects being recommended for Board approval at this meeting.

In some cases the recommended grant amount is less than the amount requested. This is primarily the result of some proposed expenditures being ineligible or elements of the projects needing additional refinement before being funded.

Together, the recommended projects directly leverage more than $6 million in additional funding and in-kind contributions being committed by applicants and others.

The recommended projects most strongly meet the evaluation criteria described above, are able to be implemented on a timely basis, and meet all environmental review and documentation requirements. The 58 projects recommended for funding in this round of Strategic Opportunity Grants will contribute to the completion of three acquisition projects, implementation of 13 site improvement projects, and numerous projects to complete environmental review, pre-project planning, and education. The projects specifically include 35 acres of land to be acquired for habitat and resource protection, due diligence work to acquire up to 10 conservation easements protecting 3,856 acres

of working landscapes, planning and restoration activities to protect 36 miles of streams, and treatment of 3,275 acres of forested land for fire prevention.

Table 2 Staff Recommendations

Subregion	Recommended Projects	Total Recommended	Total Remaining
Region-Wide	11	1,252,589	40,071
East	9	731,796	103,105
South	8	536,992	156,736
South Central	8	507,055	0
Central	6	428,967	11,365
North	5	444,095	47,796
North Central	11	673,826	110,144
TOTAL	**58**	**4,575,320**	**469,217**

Region-Wide Significance: $1,252,589

Eleven projects are being recommended for funding as projects with Region-wide significance. Projects recommended for funding under this category will complete research, assessments, appraisals, educational efforts, and publications for much or all of the SNC jurisdictional area.

East Subregion: $731,796

Nine projects are being recommended for funding in the East Subregion. Projects would provide fuels treatment, watershed assessments, water quality monitoring, and implementation of projects to prevent soil erosion and restore public trails. Projects would provide environmental education to school children and the general public and build awareness to encourage participation in volunteer activities. Projects would also complete a recreation plan and support a land tenure planning process. Proposed projects are located in Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties. Full funding of these projects will leave $103,105 of the $1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. It is anticipated that additional projects already submitted to the SNC may be presented to the Board in June 2008 to fully expend these funds.

South Subregion: $536,992

Eight projects are being recommended for funding in the South Subregion. Two of the project would provide visitor access and education plans for two different preserves. Other projects would provide watershed restoration, revegetation, and river clean-up efforts. The projects would also complete the required environmental review process for future site improvement projects and fund environmental education in school classrooms. Finally, projects would conduct agri-tourism workshops and develop and distribute educational resources to support local economic development. Project locations are proposed in Madera, Fresno, and Tulare counties. Full funding of these projects will leave $156,736 of the $1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. Staff recommends that additional

applications be accepted in the South Subregion to ensure that there is an adequate number of projects to recommend during the June meeting to expend the remainder of the funds. In order to meet timeline requirements, applications would be accepted until March 21.

South Central Subregion $507,055

Eight projects are being recommended for funding in the South Central Subregion. Projects would provide for fuels treatment, watershed planning and restoration, pre-acquisition work, resource assessments and a native demonstration garden and education center. Project locations are proposed in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. Full funding of the recommended projects will expend the $1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion.

Central Subregion: $428,967

Six projects are being recommended for funding in the Central Subregion. Projects would provide outdoor education on watershed and forest health issues for high school students, research on potential mechanisms for mitigation of mercury in our watersheds, floodplain and stream restoration design, fire-safe education, and trail alignment work in the Subregion. Projects are located in El Dorado County, Nevada County, and Placer County. Full funding of the recommended projects would leave $11,365 of the $1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion.

North Subregion: $444,095

Five projects are being recommended for funding in the North Subregion. Projects would provide for fuels treatments, watershed restoration, restoration planning, and a how-to guide for considering reuse of mill/mine sites. Projects are located in Lassen County, Modoc County, and one project that covers both Lassen and Modoc. Full funding of the recommended projects will leave $47,796 of the $1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. It is anticipated that additional projects already submitted to the SNC may be presented to the Board in June 2008 to fully expend these funds.

North-Central Subregion: $673,826

Eleven projects are being recommended for funding in the North-Central Subregion to complete appraisal work, fuels reduction, water management planning, hatchery aquaculture and wastewater improvements, noxious weed mitigation, watershed education, and acquisitions of important watershed lands in the Subregion. Projects are located in Butte County, Plumas County, Sierra County, and one project covers all four counties in this Subregion. Full funding of these projects will leave $110,144 of the $1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. It is anticipated that additional projects already submitted to the SNC may be presented to the Board in June 2008 to fully expend these funds.

Reporting of Executive Authorizations: $88,745
The SNC received three applications requesting Executive Officer approval since the last Board meeting. Consistent with the SNC Board Resolution 2007-001 and the Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines, projects in Table 3 were authorized grant funding by the Executive Officer based on the time-sensitive nature of the projects.

Table 3 Executive Officer Authorizations

Project Name	Project #	Grantee	Description	Dollar Amount
Modoc Line Land Acquisition Evaluation and Management Plan	070252	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Complete pre-acquisition activities necessary for the purchase of the Modoc Rail Line to maintain the corridor in single ownership and provide environmental, water quality, recreational and other benefits within the 15 watersheds traversed by the rail line.	$39,090
Smart Growth Conference	070001	Central Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.	Produce the First Regional Smart Growth Conference, a two-day, educational event for the South Central and Eastern Sierra Nevada regions.	$20,000
Big Meadows Post-Project Monitoring and Technique Training	070181	Fly Fishers for Conservation	Conduct post-project monitoring in Big Meadows within Giant Sequoia National Monument.	$29,655
TOTAL				**$88,745**

All of the subregions, except the South, have received enough eligible, quality project proposals to expend the virtually all of the remainder of their allocation by the June meeting. Additional CEQA review and processing will clear these pending projects for possible consideration in June. Pending approval of this recommendation, additional applications for SOG grants will only be accepted for the South subregion for funding up to $156,000. Since all funds from the SNC's current budget must be encumbered by June 30 of this year, staff is seeking Board authorization to consider that any remaining

funds in subregional allocations, along with funds from the SOG Regionwide and Competitive Grant allocation be eligible for funding grants from any subregion subject to Board approval at its June meeting. Efforts will be made to keep funding in the subregion where originally allocated.

CEQA Compliance
A total of 38 projects being recommended do not require CEQA documentation due to the nature of the actions being recommended and have been included in a memo prepared for the Conservancy.

Twenty projects being recommended require the Conservancy to complete a Notice of Exemption and file with the State Clearinghouse. Notices of Exemption have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval.

Addendum 1 to the Board packet contains all notices referenced above.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board authorize Strategic Opportunity Grants listed in Exhibit A, and further authorize staff to enter into all necessary agreements and file the appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse for all projects.

In order to ensure full encumbrance of SNC's FY 07-08 Proposition 84 funds by June 30, staff further recommends that the Board authorize the pooling of remaining funds from the individual Subregional and Regionwide SOG allocations to be used to fund grants in any category or subregion, subject to Board approval at its June meeting. To the extent possible, staff will recommend projects in the subregion where the remaining funds were originally allocated.

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines

FY 07-08 - $17 million*

Other Future Grant Guidelines

(None available at this time)

Competitive Grants [Section II]

- $9 million for entire SNC Region
- Annual application deadline
- For grants between $50,000 and $1,000,000
- Authorized by SNC Board
- Eligible project types:
  - Acquisition
  - Site Improvements/Restoration

Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) [Section III]

- $1 million per Sub-Region ($6 million total)
- $2 million for regionwide projects
- Applications accepted any time
- All project types eligible
- Authorizations and grant amounts differ by SOG Category (see below)

SOG Category 1

- For grants of less than $50,000
- For acquisition and site improvement projects only
- Authorized by SNC Board

SOG Category 2

- For grants of less than $50,000
- For all project types <u>except</u> acquisition and site improvement
- Authorized by SNC Board or Executive Officer, depending on timing needs

SOG Category 3

- For grants of $50,000 or more (no upper limit)
- For all project types <u>except</u> acquisition and site improvement
- Authorized by SNC Board

Agenda Item XI Exhibit A
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS
March 13, 2008

Subregion	Reference #	County	Project Title	Grantee Organization	Amount Recommended
Region-Wide	SNC 070135	**Tuolumne**	Tuolumne Ditch System Sustainability Project	Tuolumne Utilities District	$ 350,000
	SNC 070260	**El Dorado**	Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program	Georgetown Divide RCD	$ 283,480
	SNC 070285	**Nevada**	Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council - Sierra Cascade Foothill Region Conservation	Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council	$ 76,675
	SNC 070287	**Nevada, Sierra**	Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration	South Yuba River Citizens League	$ 84,609
	SNC 070289	**Placer**	Watersheds and Protected Lands for the Sierra Nevada	GreenInfo Network	$ 71,860
	SNC 070294	**Inyo, Tulare**	Kern Plateau Stream and Riparian Restoration	Inyo National Forest	$ 91,300
	SNC 070299	**Lassen, Plumas, Sierra**	Learning Landscapes	Feather River Land Trust	$ 61,820
	SNC 070303	**Merced**	Sierra Nevada Classroom Project (SNCP)	California Institute for Biodiversity	$ 104,640
	SNC 070304	**Lassen, Nevada, Plumas**	Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative- Ecosystem Services Inventory	Sierra Business Council	$ 45,000
	SNC 070314	**Placer**	Enhancing Water Supply and Improving Dam Operations Through Improved Upstream Forest Management	Environmental Defense	$ 80,000
	SNC 070324	**Inyo, Mono**	Aquatic Invasives Brochure	BLM- Bishop Field Office	$ 3,205
Region-Wide Total					**$ 1,252,589**
East	SNC 070005	**Inyo**	Inyo Forest Restoration and Conservation Project	Student Conservation Association	$ 58,000
	SNC 070256	**Alpine**	Alpine Watershed Group Water Quality Monitoring Program	Alpine Watershed Group	$ 60,901
	SNC 070273	**Mono**	Celebrating Conservation - Benton Hot Springs Valley	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	$ 18,435
	SNC 070274	**Mono**	East Walker River Assessment and Watershed Plan	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	$ 81,860
	SNC 070281	**Inyo**	Eastern Sierra Watershed Project	Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education	$ 91,600
	SNC 070307	**Mono**	Mono Basin Resource Stewardship	Mono Lake Committee	$ 96,100
	SNC 070321	**Inyo**	Lower Owens River Project Recreational Use Plan	Inyo County	$ 95,350
	SNC 070322	**Inyo**	South Fork Bishop Creek Watershed Protection and Restoration	USFS, Inyo National Forest	$ 72,000
	SNC 070327	**Inyo, Mono**	Inyo and Mono Counties Community Based Land Tenure Planning	Mono County Community Development Department & Inyo County Planning Department	$ 157,550
East Total					**$ 731,796**
South	SNC 070123	**Fresno, Tulare**	Rangers in the Classroom	Sequoia Parks Foundation	$ 65,000
	SNC 070230	**Tulare**	Tule River Improvement Project	Community Services and Employment Training	$ 99,999
	SNC 070269	**Tulare**	Visitor Access and Outdoor Education Plan for Blue Oak Ranch Preserve	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	$ 22,468
	SNC 070270	**Tulare**	Visitor Access/Outdoor Education Plan and Visitor Guide for Homer Ranch and Dry Creek Preserves	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	$ 45,750
	SNC 070271	**Tulare**	Tule River Site Improvement Project	Community Services and Employment Training	$ 140,000
	SNC 070291	**Tulare**	Tule River Watershed Restoration Project	Tule River Indian Reservation	$ 93,776
	SNC 070310	**Fresno, Tulare**	Agri-Nature Tourism Small Business Development Workshops	Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	$ 20,000
	SNC 070312	**Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Tulare**	Welcome to the Foothills, A Guide to Living Lightly in ___County	Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	$ 49,999
South Total					**$ 536,992**
South Central	SNC 070116	**Calaveras**	Regional Water and Wastewater Reconnaissance Study for Hwy 4 Corridor	Calaveras County Water District	$ 32,610
	SNC 070280	**Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne**	Central Sierra Resource Assessment	The Mother Lode Trust	$ 47,850
	SNC 070297	**Mariposa**	Merced River Center, Phase I, Building Renovation	Mariposa County RCD	$ 93,108
	SNC 070301	**Calaveras**	Love Creek Working Forest Project- Phase II	The Pacific Forest Trust	$ 75,000
	SNC 070308	**Mariposa**	Sierra Nevada Foothills Native Plant Demonstration Garden	Mariposa County RCD	$ 63,998
	SNC 070323	**Mariposa**	Mariposa County Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuel Chipping Program Phase I (Cutting and Piling)	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	$ 99,970
	SNC 070325	**Tuolumne**	Cattle Drive Trail Shaded Fuel Break Phase 3	Hwy 108 Fire Safe Council	$ 48,519
	SNC 070331	**Calaveras**	Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project: Integrating Habitat and Open Space Protection Into the County's General Plan Update	Calaveras County	$ 46,000
South Central Total					**$ 507,055**

Agenda Item XI Exhibit A
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS
March 13, 2008

Central	SNC 070101	**Nevada**	Mercury Bioavailability and Transport in Deer Creek over Lake Wildwood Reservoir	Friends of Deer Creek	$	44,467
	SNC 070108	**Nevada**	Coldstream Canyon: Design and Permitting for Creek and Floodplain Restoration	Truckee River Watershed Council	$	91,500
	SNC 070128	**Nevada**	Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Recognition & Home Tour	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	$	18,000
	SNC 070140	**Placer**	Hidden Falls Regional Park - Trail Connectivity Studies	Placer County Department of Facility Services	$	140,000
	SNC 070150	**Nevada**	Environmental Review: Assessing the Impacts of Removing Mercury-Laden Sediment from Combie Reservoir	Nevada Irrigation District	$	100,000
	SNC 070177	**El Dorado**	2008 California Forestry Challenge	The Forest Foundation	$	35,000
Central Total					**$**	**428,967**
North	SNC 070114	**Lassen**	Robber's Creek Mill Site "How-To" guide	Mountain Meadows Conservancy	$	48,000
	SNC 070145	**Lassen**	Susanville Fuel Reduction & Watershed Restoration Project	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	$	99,999
	SNC 070147	**Lassen**	Day Lassen Bench Fuel Reduction & Watershed Restoration Project	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	$	99,999
	SNC 070283	**Lassen, Modoc**	Lower Ash Creek Restoration Planning Project	Pit RCD	$	53,600
	SNC 070302	**Modoc**	Watershed Restoration Projects, Planning and Development	Central Modoc Resource Conservation District	$	142,497
North Total					**$**	**444,095**
North Central	SNC 070203	**Butte, Plumas, Sierra, Tehama**	"Planning to Plan" for Better Integration of Water Management Among Local Governments in the North Central Sierra Region	Plumas County	$	48,446
	SNC 070210	**Butte**	Big Chico Creek Watershed Linkage Project	Northern California Regional Land Trust	$	15,000
	SNC 070219	**Butte**	Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break Phase III	Butte County Fire Safe Council	$	98,980
	SNC 070253	**Plumas**	Feather River College Hatchery	Feather River college	$	70,000
	SNC 070262	**Plumas**	North Fork Feather River Noxious Weed Management Project	Sierra Valley RCD	$	45,010
	SNC 070278	**Sierra**	Lemon Canyon Ranch	The Pacific Forest Trust	$	50,000
	SNC 070295	**Butte**	Defensible Space Chipper Program	Butte County Fire Safe Council	$	98,445
	SNC 070311	**Plumas**	Sierra Valley RCD Watershed Outreach Event Proposal	Sierra Valley RCD	$	8,445
	SNC 070315	**Sierra**	Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisitions- Giuffre Upper Parcel	Sierra County Land Trust	$	99,000
	SNC 070316	**Sierra**	Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisitions- Biehl Parcel on Lusk Meadow	Sierra County Land Trust	$	41,500
	SNC 070328	**Sierra**	Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisitions Guiffre Lower Parcel	Sierra County Land Trust	$	99,000
North Central Total					**$**	**673,826**
Grand Total					**$**	**4,575,320**

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

Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: TUOLUMNE**

Applicant: **TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT**

Project Title: **TUOLUMNE DITCH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

Reference Number: **SNC 070135**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Tuolumne Utilities District will develop the Tuolumne County Ditch System Sustainability Plan. Specifically, the District will:

- Develop a scalable Geographic Information System (GIS) to manage geospatial information;
- Utilize newly implemented GIS system to support program activities, including alternatives development, cost estimating, CEQA compliance, permitting, and ongoing operation and maintenance including performance monitoring;
- Hire part-time staff and/or consultants to perform field surveys using a Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate and map existing ditch features such as gunite-lined sections, known leaks, valves, weirs, controls, and other features;
- Hire a consultant to evaluate eligibility of the system for classification under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP);
- Hire part-time staff to conduct field surveys to identify features of historic significance for incorporation into GIS system;
- Gather data on wetlands, critical habitat, and sensitive species for mapping and inclusion in GIS;
- Research development of a ditch system wetlands mitigation bank, including market analysis, agency consultation, candidate site identification, pre-design, and analysis of operational costs;
- Identify and map locations on ditch where water quality degradation is occurring, including mapping of storm drains, run-off from developed properties, and septic system leach fields;
- Evaluate the function of the ditch system in flood water conveyance;
- Prepare a capital improvement program containing projects to protect and preserve the ditch, treat and/or eliminate pollution sources, as well as reduce flood water-related ditch failures;
- Develop a long-term ditch operation and maintenance strategy to reduce water loss, enhance and focus water supply for ecosystem and regional hydrology, reduce fluctuations in stream flows, reduce operating costs, and ensure sustainability;
- Identify and map groundwater well locations in vicinity of ditch;
- Complete trail usage mapping to graphically identify high usage areas, usage conflicts, opportunities for improvements to protect water quality and provide access, and develop ditch trail standards to protect water quality;
- Evaluate and document areas for potential increase in natural water storage along ditch, access for firefighting water, and incorporating fuelbreaks as part of the ditch system;
- Evaluate areas at high risk of fire for linkage to increased water storage;
- Research and develop report on land, water quality, and recreation benefits of the development of conservation, open space, or other permanent easements across private property on the ditch system in cooperation with targeted landowners;
- Produce publications on educational opportunities and distribute;
- Develop policy recommendations for incorporation in County land development manuals and plans;

- Develop education program on the history, purpose and conservation of the ditch system, appropriate land use/maintenance practices, and permits and approvals required for private property improvements in ditch right-of-way or drainages;
- Identify appropriate partners to ensure sustainability of the ditch system and integrate partners into maintenance and outreach programs;
- Develop strategies to link ditch system to heritage tourism and recreation;
- Develop and implement outreach programs for all aspects of project, including recreation, biological, fire protection, historical resources, water supply, and quality;
- Conduct outreach to regional entities educating on the approach and processes undertaken;
- Develop, publish, and reproduce case-study on the project, and distribute and make available to interested communities facing similar challenges relative to their ditch system.

The Tuolumne Utilities District will provide $117,150 of in-kind funds, $37,150 of in-kind services, and utilize another $121,000 of matching funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These in-kind funds and services will be applied in part to support the development of deliverables in this grant, in addition to other engineering and assessment work, complimentary to this grant and critical to the overall plan.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has identified this project as a model for other communities facing similar issues with open-ditch raw water delivery systems. The District will produce a case-study on the project, and will make its staff available to individuals or other entities interested in applying these methods in other jurisdictions.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop a GIS database	April 2008 – June 2008
Hire part-time staff and/or consultants to perform GPS field surveys	June 2008
Hire consultant to evaluate eligibility of the ditch system for the National Register of Historic Places	June 2008
Initiate development of capital improvement program	July 2008
Commence evaluations and data collection across entire system	July 2008
Develop and begin outreach and educations programs	August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Conduct field surveys of existing ditch features for incorporation into GIS	October 2008 – February 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Conduct evaluation of ditch system for classification in the NRHP	March 2009 – June 2009
Compile survey data and incorporate into GIS	June 2009 – September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Finalize NRHP evaluation and summarize findings into a report	October 2009 – December 2009
Finalize evaluations and relative documents and reports	January 2010
Finalize populating GIS with all data gathered and provide copies of key maps and layers to the SNC	January 2010 – February 2010
Finalize case study and distribute throughout region	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
GIS Development and Staff	$30,000
Consultant services for NRHP evaluation	$75,000
Data Collection, surveys and Map development	$45,000

Outreach and education programs and publications	$75,000
Development of mitigation bank and capital improvement plans	$75,000
Case study development, reproduction, and distribution	$50,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$350,000**

Letters of Support:

- City of Sonora
- Assemblymember Tom Berryhill; 25th Assembly District
- Twain Harte Community Services District
- Tuolumne Board of Supervisors
- Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
- Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce
- Tuolumne County Farm Bureau
- Tuolumne Group Sierra Club
- Tuolumne Alliance for Resources and Environment

Recommendation:

The original funding request was for $500,000. Staff recommends funding the project at $350,000 to support the District in completing all phases of the plan. The difference of $150,000 was intended for the development of an EIR. The completion of the plan will position the District to move forward with an EIR to implement capital improvements and enhancements to the ditch system.

Email Form

Project Summary

Tuolumne Ditch System Sustainability Project

The Tuolumne Ditch System was originally built to convey water to gold prospectors in Columbia, Sonora and Tuolumne for hydraulic mining needs. At the height of the Gold Rush, the Tuolumne Ditch System had over 250 miles of ditches and canals. Today, approximately 55 miles of ditches still convey source water to fourteen water treatments plants serving 13,000 connections, as well as over 600 agricultural and irrigation customers.

Over time, the Tuolumne Ditch System has developed into an integral part of the region's hydrologic network, and while it does capture runoff from watersheds through the service area, it also offers a stable source of surface water that has societal and ecological values. In addition to the conveyance and storage elements maintained by the TUD, the system supplements local surface waters, sustains isolated riparian areas and presumably recharges local aquifers to some extent. Over the past 150 years, the quality of the water conveyed through the ditch system has been steadily declining due primarily to an increase in discharges resultant from large-scale land management activities, coupled with an increase and concentration of human activity in the South Fork Stanislaus River watershed. At the same time, visitors to the region and the customers of the TUD have recognized the ditch system as an historical symbol of the County's cultural heritage, a region wide source of water for fire protection and an aesthetically pleasing and popular recreational trail.

In 1999, TUD embarked on preparation of a Ditch Optimization Plan (DOP), which was intended to evaluate operational methods and projects to improve water quality and quantity while identifying cultural, biological, recreational and historical resources which may conflict with ditch operation and improvements. Between 1999 and 2004 in completing the DOP, the data gathered and message from the public, agencies and stakeholders was clear; the Tuolumne Ditch System is a community resource of paramount importance to preserve, protect and improve, to serve a myriad of public values.

Data and public input of sufficient quality and quantity were developed in the DOP process to serve as the foundation for the creation of a comprehensive ditch management program. Building on the DOP process, TUD proposes to implement the Tuolumne Ditch System Sustainability Project in a manner that 1) will evaluate and develop partnerships, programs and project plans to sustain and preserve the ditch system as the primary water conveyance; 2) improve and protect water quality and quantity; 3) maximize the system's functionality to support fire suppression and fuels management activities; 4) ensure the integrity of the system is maintained with regards to historical and cultural resources; 5) maintain or enhance the recreational and heritage tourism opportunities offered by the system; and 6) maintain or enhance the ecological benefits offered by the system.

To be successful, the project will require a variety of discretionary actions that would be subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The complexity of the ditch system, combined with the opportunity to consider procedural, programmatic and project specific alternatives provides the basis to consider preparation of a Master Environmental Impact Report.

TUD requests SNC grant funding in the amount of $500,000, to be leveraged with $121,000 in remaining EPA grant funds, $65,000 of in-kind contributions and $78,000 from TUD water funds, for a total project cost of $764,000.

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

Subregion: **REGIONWIDE** **County: EL DORADO**

Applicant: **GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **FISH FRIENDLY FARMING ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

Reference Number: **SNC 070260**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, in collaboration with the El Dorado County Agricultural Watershed Group and the California Land Stewardship Institute, proposes to address water quality impairments and toxicity levels in North Canyon Creek and Coon Hollow Creek in El Dorado County by implementing the Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program. This voluntary, incentive-based program would:

- Provide a series of eight (8) workshops educating landowners in current Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion, conserve water, increase native habitats, and enhance aquatic habitats on private farms and ranches;
- Provide technical assistance from erosion control specialists and restoration/revegetation professionals to landowners to complete Farm Conservation Plans utilizing BMPs;
- Apply Farm Conservation Plans with required implementation actions and timelines to receive environmental certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner, Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, and the California Land Stewardship Institute.

The Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program:

- Provides landowners with technical assistance in creating restoration plans;
- Benefits wildlife and aquatic resources through restoration and revegetation activities;
- Assists landowners with meeting the California Water Resources Control Board's Irrigated Agricultural Lands Program requirements;
- Inventories and documents all existing and potential sediment sources, including natural features, concentrated flow sources, current chemical use, and irrigation practices.

Introduction of the Fish Friendly Farming Program to the 360-plus members of the El Dorado County Agricultural Watershed Group in 2007 revealed that potentially 4,800 acres of agricultural land could be enrolled in the program. As additional properties are enrolled in the Fish Friendly Farming program, benefits will accrue over entire watersheds, ensuring the protection of other streams and creeks, making this project a model for practices that could be applied in other Sub-Regions throughout the SNC area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete revised Fish Friendly Farming workbook	July – December 2008
Schedule, conduct outreach, and advertise for 4 workshops in 2009 Schedule, conduct outreach, and advertise for 4 workshops in 2010	October – December 2008 October – December 2009
Conduct 4 workshops Conduct 4 workshops	January – March 2009 January – March 2010
Perform site visits on enrolled properties	April – September 2009
Conduct certification	October – February 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Outreach, materials development and overall project coordination	$55,680
Operating expenses: Supplies, postage, education/outreach materials	$5,000
Professional and consultant services: Conservation planning technical assistance (CLSI's Fish Friendly Farming program cost)	$222,800
GRAND TOTAL	**$283,480**

Letters of Support:

- none

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding the requested amount of $283,480.

Project Summary

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (RCD), in collaboration with the El Dorado County Agricultural Watershed Group (EDCAWG) and the California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI), are seeking funding to address water quality exceedances and toxicity as identified through the Irrigated Lands Program (ILP) water quality monitoring within El Dorado County. The CLSI, the RCD and the EDCAWG propose to address these known exceedances through water quality monitoring, education and outreach focused on stewardship, and Conservation Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA). The stewardship and CPTA components of this strategy will be met through the implementation of the Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program (FFF) as administered by CLSI.

The FFF program is an incentive-based comprehensive program which incorporates a series of workshops, site assessment of individual farms by technical staff, and development of farm plans (including required implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs)), followed by third-party regulatory certification and yearly photo monitoring. The FFF program strategy is to reduce erosion, conserve water, increase native habitats and enhance and protect aquatic habitats. In this manner, the FFF program addresses the numerous causes of water quality, and riparian and aquatic habitat problems in one comprehensive effort while providing EDCAWG members with documented evidence of ILP compliance.

The goal of this proposal is to reduce water quality exceedances and to ensure irrigated agricultural discharges meet water quality requirements through the following objectives:

1. Reduce or eliminate the discharge of polluted runoff from irrigated agricultural lands.
2. Develop a comprehensive program to implement management measures to provide long-term water quality benefits, and build advocacy for stewardship principles and sound watershed management.
3. Promote continued agricultural presence and working landscapes in the County by assisting in meeting the requirements of the ILP and protecting water quality in an economically feasible manner.
4. Establish a model that can be adapted for use in other watersheds.

The benefits of a comprehensive stewardship effort will provide irrigated agricultural communities with the knowledge, understanding, and tools necessary to make sound resource-based decisions. These decisions will ensure economical agricultural commodity production is balanced with conservation needs of protecting water quality and conserving natural resources.

Proposed Total Cost: $433,480.00

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

Subregion: REGIONWIDE **County: MULTIPLE COUNTIES**

Applicant: SIERRA-CASCADE LAND TRUST COUNCIL

Project Title: SIERRA-CASCADE FOOTHILL REGION CONSERVATION PLAN

Reference Number: SNC 070285

PROJECT SCOPE

The project proposed is a collaborative project to identify, summarize, and synthesize new and existing research, maps, and studies of important natural resources with an emphasis on water, climate change data, and conservation opportunities in the Sierra Nevada Region.

The resulting Plan will:

- Place emphasis on protecting riparian corridors and water resources in the foothills;
- Include lands in the 500-3000 foot elevation that primarily includes oak savanna, foothill hardwood woodlands, foothill chaparral, and foothill riparian habitats;
- Analyze aerial photography for areas lacking plans with an ultimate goal of identifying important natural areas and recognizing missing linkages of conserved lands the region;
- Inform and guide land trusts and planners in their strategic land and water conservation efforts.

A progress report will be submitted six (6) months and a final report submitted twelve (12) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Catalog, summarize, select and synthesize the conservation plans, maps and reports that have been identified, prepared (or are in progress) for the Sierra-Cascade Foothill Region.	April – June 2008
Identify political, economic and social conditions in the Foothill Region that affect prospects for effective landscape scale conservation.	April – May 2008
Identify the overarching Foothill Region conservation priorities.	May – June 2008
Identify changes in land use resulting from development pressures.	June – August 2008
Identify modifications and adaptations necessary to plan for river corridor, wetland, oak woodland and grassland conservation	September – October 2008

Submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 31, 2008
Compile findings and recommendations into draft plan, review and edit plan, print report and maps	October 2008 – February 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Project Administration	$15,775
Consultants: Biologists, botanist, marketing research specialists	$50,900
Mapping: GreenInfo Networks	$10,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$76,675**

Letters of Support:

- None received

Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of this grant application in the amount of $76,675.

(SNC 070285 SCLTC Sierra-Cascade Foothill Region Conservation Plan)
Project Summary:

The Sierra-Cascade Foothill Region Conservation Plan (the Plan), proposed by the Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council (SCLTC), would be a collaborative project to identify, summarize and synthesize new and existing research, maps and studies of important natural resources, climate change data and conservation opportunities in the region. The Plan will consider lands from between approximately 500 to 3000 foot elevation, a band that primarily includes oak savanna, foothill hardwood woodlands, and foothill chaparral and foothill riparian habitats. We would also study aerial photography for areas lacking plans, with an ultimate goal of recognizing missing linkages of conserved lands. SCLTC envisions that, once completed, the Plan would help land trusts prioritize increased land and water conservation efforts. It would also provide the basis for a funding initiative to focus foundation attention on the critical need for increased land conservation in the foothill region.

The project would engage more than a dozen land trusts and land conservation groups, as well as scholars and scientists working in the Sierra Nevada/California Cascade foothill regions (the Region), with the Geographical Information System (GIS) and mapping support of Green Info Network in this project.

Scientists, land trusts and watershed groups have prepared reports, plans or maps in recent years that have evaluated some aspect of climate change, natural resources and conservation opportunities. University professors have done extensive research in our region but once their work is completed, the reports are not widely disseminated outside the academic community. Many of these plans have thoughtful, well-reasoned recommendations for conservation actions within their respective study areas. None of them, however, address the entire foothill area in a comprehensive manner. The size of this Region and the number and variety of existing plans make it difficult for land trusts and land use decision-makers to see the “big picture,” and to understand from a regional perspective what the high-priority natural resources are, what factors are affecting their future viability, and what can be done to conserve them at a meaningful scale.

Once summarized and integrated, these data would present a wider perspective that is needed now to provide a defensible basis for implementing comprehensive regional conservation programs to address the many complex and competing conservation opportunities in the foothill region. An added benefit of the proposed Plan would be to encourage larger-scale, collaborative conservation projects between neighboring land trusts and other interested partners. Also, the summaries of existing information would be much more accessible and useful to land use planners and decision-makers in the Region.

If we are to have a meaningful impact on prioritizing land and water conservation in the Region, we have a very tight time-line. The average age of our region’s major landowners (ranch and timber owners) is around 62. As many landowners retire within the next 5-7 years, large tracts of land could be sold or transferred to new owners with plans for different land uses.

The Plan’s focus is to assess the overall conservation resources of the region and highlight missing linkages of lands that will preserve the biodiversity of the Sierra foothills. The total cost

of the project is $107,825. SCLTC has already secured $25,000 from the Resources Law Legacy Foundation and in-kind commitments of $6,150. The total grant request from SNC is $76,700.

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

Subregion: REGIONWIDE **County: Nevada, Sierra**

Applicant: SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

Project Title: YUBA 2010: TOOLS AND CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORTED WATERSHED SCIENCE, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Reference Number: SNC 070287

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will integrate a decade of watershed assessment, planning and monitoring activity to establish a scientifically rigorous water quality monitoring program that leverages broad local community support through a publicly-accessible database and information sharing web tools.

The project is built on three interrelated components with the following objectives:

1. Community Supported Watershed Science: Implement a cohesive and comprehensive program that optimizes the use of citizens to support assessment, planning and management of watershed resources.
2. River Monitoring Database: Provide a transportable model database to serve Sierra Nevada groups measuring water quality in streams and rivers.
3. Yuba Watershed Information System: Provide a sustainable information system for supporting watershed-based education and cooperation.

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months, twelve (12) months and eighteen (18) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Task 1: Implement the Community-Supported Science Program	
Revise water quality monitoring plan and QAPP	August 15, 2008
Develop new protocols for citizen programs	October 15, 2008
Provide updated training to citizens	December 15, 2008, then ongoing
Publish annual "State of the Yuba" science reports in 2009 and 2010	February 15, 2009 and February 15, 2010
Develop program materials for use by others in region	June 1, 2009
Task 2: Build a Model River Monitoring Database	
Redesign architecture with Advisory Council	September 1, 2008
Develop middle-tier and front-end applications	December 15, 2008
Customize Access queries and reports	Jan and Feb 2009

Database testing and re-customization	March 2009
Register database creative commons	April 1, 2009
Draft technology transfer materials	May 2009
Outreach and training for organizations in region	Summer 2009
Task 3: Produce a sustainable Yuba Watershed Information System	
Expand technical advisory group in regional/state-wide expertise	June – Aug 2008
Survey user needs and preferences	June – Aug 2008
Develop architectural plan building on 2008 system/website	December 15, 2008
Contract programmer of webbuilder customization	January 15, 2009
Expand content of bibliography, photos, and data	March 15, 2009
Update Mapserver project with expanded content and dynamic linkages within system	April 15, 2009
Conduct trail postings, review and revisions	Feb – May 2009
Enhance web portal for building cooperation and providing community interaction	Feb – July 2009
Establish and publish maintenance protocols	August 1, 2009
Develop materials/outreach for supporting adoption of system in other watersheds	October 1, 2009
Submit 6 month report to SNC	**October 31, 2008**
Submit 12 month report to SNC	**April 20, 2009**
Submit 18 month report to SNC	**October 31, 2009**
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**February 15, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Task 1: Implement the Community-Supported Science Program	$43,600
Task 2: Build a Model River Monitoring Database	$17,380
Task 3: Produce a sustainable Yuba Watershed Information System	$19,600
Administrative Overhead	$4,029
GRAND TOTAL	**$84,609**

Letters of Support:

- None submitted with application

Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding for this grant request in the amount of $84,609.

(SNC 070287)
Project Title: Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration

2. Project Summary

The Yuba River watershed was the epicenter for the extractive economy that catalyzed the creation of the modern State of California, and which suddenly and dramatically transformed ecological function and human interaction within the greater Sierra Nevada Watershed (also known from an upstream perspective as the San Francisco Bay Watershed). Placer, hardrock and hydraulic mining—and the associated and inherited water system engineering, massive-scale sediment transport, and mining toxics legacy-- were all pioneered in the Yuba Watershed. For over 150 years the natural capital of the watershed has been heavily mined, deforested, grazed and diverted out of basin by clever, determined, and ambitious people.

The proposed Project, "Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration," seeks to draw upon this most valuable resource—namely human ingenuity and local experiential knowledge—as the engine for a coordinated approach to water quality protection and watershed restoration in the Yuba basin. The project aims to integrate a decade of watershed assessment, planning and monitoring activity into a cohesive program supported by publicly-accessible database and information sharing web tools.

Previous and current public investments by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program and other sponsors have afforded SYRCL an opportunity to establish and innovate a scientifically rigorous water quality monitoring program that leverages broad local community support.

The Yuba 2010 Project is built on three inter-related components with the following objectives:

1) **Community Supported Watershed Science**: Implement a cohesive and comprehensive program that optimizes the use of citizens to support assessment, planning and management of watershed resources.
2) **River Monitoring Database**: Provide a transportable model database to serve Sierra Nevada groups measuring water quality in streams and rivers
3) **Yuba Watershed Information System**: Provide a sustainable information system for supporting watershed-based education and cooperation.

The Yuba 2010 Project is buttressed by a watershed assessment process currently undertaken as a major task within the Yuba Strategy project, funded by DWR, managed by SYRCL, and directed through a Steering Committee well-represented by local, state and federal agency personnel. Yuba 2010 also coincides with a unique pulse of scientific attention and research coordination drawn to the Yuba watershed through a series of hydropower project re-licensings.

The Yuba 2010 Project supports a long term plan to complete the transition of the Yuba Bioregion from its historic reputation for resource extraction and environmental destruction to its

current and future role as an epicenter for community renewal through engagement in ecological restoration.

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

Subregion: **REGIONWIDE** **County: ALL**

Applicant: **GREENINFO NETWORK**

Project Title: **WATERSHEDS AND PROTECTED LANDS FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA**

Reference Number: **SNC 070289**

PROJECT SCOPE

GreenInfo Network proposes to increase understanding of and access to information about protected lands in the watershed of the Sierra Nevada by:

- Improving base data on protected open lands through research and inter-agency collaboration;
- Supporting public education about protected lands in watersheds by preparing a system of watershed maps available from the SNC website;
- Expanding visitor access to watershed-based protected lands information through web map browser application made available on the SNC website.

GreenInfo proposes to design and print maps to engage viewers and convey layers of information for use in meetings, research, and education. In association with the maps, they offer to partner with Google Earth in developing a simple web-based application where users can download “KML” files to see watersheds and protected lands, and then click to see details about the areas.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Development of a series of map files that display watersheds and protected lands at regional, sub regional, county, major watershed; and watershed scales;
- Convert files to Adobe PDFs or JPEGS and post on the SNC website for downloads to print for posters or smaller applications;
- Develop a Google Earth web browser application that provides users with information about each Sierra watershed and protected land holdings in each area (gathered from public info sources);
- Post the application on the SNC website for download by any agency or organization.

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months, twelve (12) months and eighteen (18) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project 1: Improved Protected Lands Data	
Improve Protected Lands Data	On-going
Establish Key Contacts	May, 2008
Review Data	June, 2008
Resolve Issues	July 2008
Updates and Documentation	June 2008, December 2008
Project 2: Create Educational Materials on Watersheds	
Develop Watershed Materials	April, 2008
Watershed maps/Google Earth Application	May, 2008
Watershed geo-browser	November, 2008
Project 3: Expand web-based Visitor Access to Protected Lands Information	
Develop Visitor Web Information	April, 2008
Parkinfo for Sierra	June, 2008
Watershed Explorer	June, 2008
Watershed Explorer Outreach	October, 2008
Web Mapping Review	January, 2009
Submit 6 month progress report	**October 31, 2008**
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project 1: Improve Protected Lands Data:	
Contracts	$4,560
Data Review	$8,760
Resolve Issues	$6,240
Update and Publish	$5,280
Documentation	$2,180
Project 2: Public Education Materials:	
Map Series	$11,960
Google Earth Application	$7880
Project 3: Visitor Access:	
ParcInfo Sierra	$3,520
Watershed Browser	$10,120
Outreach	$4,120
Assessment	$5,240
GRAND TOTAL	**$71,860**

Letters of Support:
None

Recommendation: Staff recommends full funding of this project in the amount of $71,860.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here:

Project Goal: Increase understanding of and access to information about protected lands in the watersheds of the Sierra Nevada

Objectives:

- Improve base data on protected open lands, through research and inter-agency collaboration
- Support public education about protected lands in watersheds by preparing system of watershed maps at all scales
- Expand visitor access to watershed-based protected lands information through web map browser application

Budget and schedule: $71,860 over one year

Fit with SN Conservancy Grants Program:

- Overall focus is on watersheds and protected lands, critical mission elements for the Conservancy
- Tourism/Recreation: creates improved web-based information to support tourism and recreation throughout region
- Protect, Conserve and Restore: technical support to enable better use of geographic information about the Sierra's watersheds and protected lands
- Improve Water and Air Quality:
- Undertake Efforts to Enhance Public Use of Public Lands: accurate protected lands data supports this mission, in terms of helping with needs assessments, public access projects and educational efforts that contribute to public use and enjoyment
- Reduce Natural Disaster Risk: Highly accurate protected lands data is important information for fire planning and operations

Other factors:

- Groups supporting this project include: the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council, Sierra Nevada Alliance, the California Council of Land Trusts, California Department of Parks and Recreation, CERES/The Resources Agency).

· This project builds on protected lands work funded by other state agencies (Parks, Coastal Conservancy, etc.) and non-profit organizations (Resources Legacy Fund, Bay Area Open Space Council, California Council of Land Trusts, etc.) – the Sierras benefit from the prior investment of these organizations in the protected lands data set and the ParkInfo web portal

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

Subregion: **EAST, SOUTH** **Counties: INYO, KERN**

Applicant: **INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

Project Title: **KERN PLATEAU STREAM AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION**

Reference Number: **SNC 070294**

PROJECT SCOPE

This restoration project consists of repairing existing erosion control structures, installing new grade stabilizing and erosion control structures, and conducting treatment effectiveness monitoring on streams in the Kern Plateau. Three of the six projects are located along tributaries of the Kern River and three are located in the Cottonwood Creek watershed which flows to the Owens River. This project will directly benefit water quality, stream channel stabilization, meadow hydrologic function, and aquatic and riparian habitat. This restoration project is part of a larger project with the Inyo National Forest, Patagonia, and the San Diego Flyfishers organization and has matching funds from these organizations totaling $42,600.

The project includes:

- Completing site designs for two Monache Meadows projects;
- Installing new erosion control structures and maintaining and repairing existing structures in Monache Meadows;
- Completing four site designs for projects in Round Mountain/Horseshoe Meadow, Dutch Meadow, Ash Meadow, and Bullfrog Meadow;
- Installing new erosion control structures and maintaining and repairing existing structures in these four meadows;
- Monitoring stream stabilization work and making necessary repairs;
- Establish photo-points at the project sites and maintain a record of pre and post project photos;
- Provide progress reports to the Conservancy every six months for the project duration and a final performance report on the project once completed.

These efforts will complement the larger Golden Trout Project which has the goal of restoring habitat and increasing the geographic distribution of California Golden Trout.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish photo points at sites and take pre-restoration photographs	April – May 2008
Complete site designs for two Monache Meadow projects	April 2008 - September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Insall new erosion control structures and maintenance/repair of existing structures in Monache Meadows	October 2008 – December 2008
Initiate site designs for four projects in Round Mountain/Horseshoe Meadow, Dutch Meadow, Ash Meadow and Bullfrog Meadow	January 2009 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Complete site designs for four projects in Round Mountain/Horseshoe Meadow, Dutch Meadow, Ash Meadow and Bullfrog Meadow	April 2009 – June 2009
Install new erosion control structures and maintenance/repair of	June 2009 – September

existing structures in these four meadows	2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Monitor erosion control stabilization work and make necessary repairs	November 2009 – April 2010
Take post-restoration photographs for inclusion in final report	April 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Crew leader and Hand Crew	$73,500
Monitoring	2,500
Pack Stock rental for Wilderness trips	9,300
Administrative fees	6,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$91,300**

Letters of Support:
None submitted.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested $91,300.

Project Name: Kern Plateau Stream and Riparian Restoration

2. Project Summary

This project consists of repairing existing headcut structures, and placing new grade stabilizing and headcut structures and conducting treatment effectiveness monitoring on streams on the Kern Plateau. Three of the 6 project sites are on tributaries of the Kern River and three are in the Cottonwood Creek watershed, which is in the Owens River.

In 2004, the Inyo National Forest, the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service developed the "Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the California Golden Trout" (Strategy). This spurred the creation of a successful public-private partnership - The Golden Trout Project (www.Californiagoldentrout.org). Participants have included California Trout, Trout Unlimited, Agua Bonita Flyfishers, various retailers and other groups. The goal is restoring habitat and distribution of the California Golden Trout. This project would compliment these efforts.

Much of the project area is a working landscape. Commercial livestock has been a historic activity and continues today. However, many challenges and conflicts exist between uses that require management and collaboration to overcome. Historic and current uses include public stock use, commercial stock use, livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, backpacking (including Pacific Crest Trail hikers) and Off-highway Vehicle use (outside wilderness).

A portion of this project would be within the headwaters of the South Fork Kern River and Golden Trout Creek, which provide the last remaining habitat for the California Golden Trout (a decision to list or not to list under the Endangered Species Act is pending). In addition, Mountain Yellow Legged Frog (MYLF), a Forest Service Sensitive Species, is found in this project area. These watersheds also provide water for downstream users including Lake Isabella, the Lower Central Valley, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Owens Valley residents.

Restoration Work would include: 1) Repair and maintain failing headcut and grade stabilizing structures in Olivas, Casa Vieja, Horseshoe, Dutch, and Ash Meadows. 2) Install new structures in Casa Vieja, Olivas, Bullfrog, and Kingfisher Stringer Meadows. 4) Perform headcut and grade stabilization effectiveness monitoring.

Other watershed/fisheries improvement projects in these watersheds are funded by other sources. The Forest received a $200,000 OHV restoration and conservation grant from the State of California to improve water quality and recreation experience (to be used 2007-2009). We expect $90,000 in-kind volunteer and DFG participation in these efforts from 2008 to 2011. Patagonia is donating approximately $17,000 to The Golden Trout Project to continue restoration outlined in the Strategy. The above projects would have cumulative benefits with this project.

There would also be direct matches for this project. Of the $17,000 donated by Patagonia, $5,000 would be used for this project. The San Diego Fly Fishers would contribute about $1,600 in cash, plus volunteer labor, and the Forest Service would contribute about $36,000.

The total grant being requested is $91,500, with a total project cost of $133,900.

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

Subregion: **REGIONWIDE** **County: PLUMAS, SIERRA and LASSEN**

Applicant: **FEATHER RIVER LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **LEARNING LANDSCAPES**

Reference Number: **SNC 070299**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust proposes to complete an effort entitled "Learning Landscapes", for the northern regions of the Sierra Nevada. For past years the Land Trust has developed partnerships with community members and landowners to conserve approximately 1,800 acres of undeveloped watershed lands. A primary goal of the Learning Landscapes program is the permanent conservation of 12 properties and the natural resources they support (530 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, 16 miles of perennial streams, 700 acres of mixed conifer and eastside pine forest. 250 acres of irrigated pasture, and 200 acres of montane meadow). SNC Strategic Opportunity funding would provide for key pre-acquisition costs (e.g. appraisals, Phase I hazmat surveys, title reports, legal review, etc).

[Through communication with SNC staff this proposal has been reduced from a request of $115,973 to $61,820. The original request also provided for an education program that utilizes each property, since the targeted lands are situated next to area schools in each community. Plans included curriculum development, some interpretive site development, and restoration efforts by students. SNC Staff has requested FRLT to secure land tenure on the properties prior to funding development of curriculum.]

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Successful completion of due diligence, baseline documentation and title review for twelve (12) properties.
- Match: Permanently conserve twelve (12) top priority properties via title acquisition or conservation easement, or other permanent legal instruments.

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months, twelve (12) months and eighteen (18) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Due diligence, baseline documentation, title review for 6 properties.	**Year 1**: April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009
Six-month progress report	September 30, 2008
Due diligence, baseline documentation, and title review documentation for remaining 6 properties.	**Year 2**: April 1 2009 – March 31, 2010
Twelve month progress report	March 31, 2009
Eighteen month progress report	September 30, 2009
Remaining due diligence, baseline and title review documentation completed.	**Year 3**: April 1, 2010 – May 1, 2010,
Final Report/Final Payment Request (Submit photos, press releases, final documentation.)	**May 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Pre-acquisition work for 12 properties ($40/12)	$21,600
Title, deed restriction/easement, (16 hrs X 12X $200/hr w/attorney-$38,400.) SNC portion:	$10,000
Baseline—environmental assessments/pre acquisition costs [40 hrs(12) @ 45/hr]	$21,600
Travel and Lodging	$2,000
Materials	$1,000
Administrative Costs	$5,620
GRAND TOTAL	**$61,820**
(FRLT MATCH)	$2,7000,000

Letters of Support:

- **Plumas County Office of Education**

Recommendation: Recommend funding at the $61,820 level.

12/31/07

(SNC 070299 Learning Landscapes)

FRLT Learning Landscapes Project Summary

The Learning Landscapes Project is an innovative, multi-partner effort to permanently conserve natural areas adjacent to every public school within the Feather River Watershed, to implement an ongoing program of watershed education on these lands, and to manage and restore these lands in manner that maximizes educational benefit and watershed health. The project area includes all of Plumas County and portions of Lassen and Sierra Counties.

The fourteen priority Learning Landscape properties contain approximately 1,800 acres of undeveloped watershed lands. These lands support 530 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, 16 miles of perennial streams, 700 acres of mixed-conifer and eastside pine forest, 250 acres of irrigated pasture, 200 acres of montane meadow, and more than 125 species of breeding birds. One of the primary goals of the Learning Landscapes Project is the permanent conservation of 12 of these properties and the natural resources they support. The vast majority of the Learning Landscapes are located on private land and many are threatened with development. Strategic Opportunity funding from the SNC will help directly protect these properties and natural resources by paying for the key pre-acquisition costs (e.g., appraisals, Phase I hazmat surveys, title reports, legal review, etc.) necessary to move each transaction toward completion.

Another goal of Learning Landscapes is to maintain and restore the ecological health of each property, with an emphasis on stream restoration. Strategic Opportunity funding from the SNC will help move restoration projects forward by providing funding for restoration planning and environmental compliance.

Finally, SNC funding will allow FRLT to coordinate with a variety of partners, including the Plumas Unified School District, Feather River CRM, local teachers, and the students themselves to plan and implement a program of watershed education on each of the Learning Landscape properties.

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

Subregion: **REGIONWIDE** **County: ALL**

Applicant: **CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR BIODIVERSITY**

Project Title: **SIERRA NEVADA CLASSROOM PROJECT (SNCP)**

Reference Number: **SNC 070303**

PROJECT SCOPE

The California Institute for Biodiversity, (based in the Bay Area) proposes to provide 30 high school and middle school teachers with a Summer 2008 hands-on, six-day institute at an outdoor facility in the foothills south of Yosemite NP. The training will present curriculum developed by the Institute that features regional biodiversity and topical issues related to the effects of global climate change. The Institute plans to present this training as a pilot program. They would like to secure funding and partners to continue future trainings into the year 2010, targeting potentially 1,860 teachers and 183,500 students in California and the Sierra Nevada. The lead instructor for the pilot project is Jack Laws, naturalist and environmental educator. His Laws Field Guide will serve as the basis for the curriculum.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Development of syllabus for the training, including a CD ROM;
- Enrollment of 30 teachers;
- Completion of a Rapid Biological Assessment Guide;
- Obtainment of educational materials and equipment (books and media);
- Prepare for and present pilot institute;
- Evaluation and reporting.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Final six day syllabus	April 15, 2008
Montane Frog CD ROM: Sierran Frog Experiment	May 1, 2008
Rapid Biological Assessment Guide:	May 15, 2008
Equipment, Media and Books Requisition	June 12, 2008
Instructional Field Guide: ("Using the Laws Field Guide")	June 13, 2008
Documentation and Evaluations: Pre-Institute training for instructors and staff	July 1-2, 2008
Invoicing: Supplies purchasing	July 3, 2008
Pilot Institute	July 11-20,2008
Distribution list, Evaluation: 50 copies of Frog disc to teachers in Sierra Nevada region; Evaluation of pilot program	October 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request (includes all deliverables)	**December 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Personnel: Project Coordinator	$66,750
Travel: Project Related	$3,200
Housing	$9,500
Sampling Equipment	$11,055
Supplies: Printing, copies, media, books, etc.	$12,135
GRAND TOTAL	**$102,640**

Letters of Support:

- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- California Academy of Sciences
- Fresno Unified School District
- Department of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation: Recommend for requested amount.

070303 per email request, updated 2C 1/4/07

SNC 070303
Sierra Nevada Classroom Project
SNCP

SUMMARY

Studies show that the most effective way to capture students' attention and effectively teach science is through real-world, inquiry-based learning in which students formulate questions and work to find the answers. Critical to creating the next generation of environmental stewards is teaching students about the local environment and giving them the opportunity to participate in hands-on, outdoor environmental learning opportunities. However, before students can have this opportunity, *teachers* must have the knowledge, confidence, and experience to lead their students in inquiry-based science. We will provide 30 high school and middle school teachers with hands-on professional development opportunities as well as a correlated, standards-based curriculum and a Field Guide. The intensive six-day teacher institute will take place over the course of two weeks in July 2008. With this knowledge base and skills, teachers will develop meaningful classroom and outdoor experiences that they will implement with approximately 1,500 students, pending funding, at outdoor sites throughout the Sierra Nevada during the following school year. This pilot program will feature regional biodiversity and topical issues related to the effects of global climate change on the local Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

Category	SNC portion	Other source	Total
Personnel			
Project Coordinator	5,815	11,688	17,503
Project Assistants	10,000	0	10,000
Instructor	**25,000**	5,853	30,853
Trainers	21,000	0	21,000
Total Salaries	$61,815	$17,541	79,356
Fringe Benefits			
Project Coordinator	1,815	3,647	5,462
Project Assistants	3,120	0	3,120
Instructor	0	0	0
Trainers	0	0	0
Total Fringe Benefits	$4,935	$3,647	8,582
Travel			
Project-related	3,200	0	3,200
Housing, Food	11,500	0	11,500
Total Travel	$14,700	$0	14,700
Equipment			
Sampling equipment	2,055	0	2,055
Planting material, soil, flats	4,445	0	4,445
Technical equipment	4,200	0	4,200
Total Equipment	$10,700	$0	10,700
Supplies			
Printing & copying	1,500	0	1,500
Curricula for teachers:media	4,800	0	4,800
Curricula for teachers:books	**2,500**	0	2,500
Disposable material	3,690	0	3,690
Total Supplies	$12,490	$0	12,490
Other			
Transportation grants	0	15,000	15,000
Total Others	$0	$15,000	15,000
Total Direct Cost	$104,640	$36,188	$140,828

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

Subregion: REGIONWIDE **County: PLUMAS, PLACER, NEVADA**

Applicant: SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Project Title: NORTHERN SIERRA CARBON COOPERATIVE – ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INVENTORY

Reference Number: SNC 070304

PROJECT SCOPE

The project proposes to utilize California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) Forest Protocols to inventory carbon and other ecosystem services on two properties (Waddle Ranch in Martis Valley outside Truckee and Heart K Ranch in Plumas County). The project also proposes a series of workshops to build capacity among the professional forestry community and other natural resource and land managers and students in the Sierra. The purpose of the workshops will be to help these groups understand and develop skills to work with the CCAR protocols for conducting inventories on other forestlands in the Sierra Nevada so that payments for carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services might begin to fund critical forest management and restoration activities in Sierra watersheds. The project will dedicate funds to support Sierra Business Council's active engagement in the CCAR forest working group and other forest groups working to address climate change. Engagement with these groups will allow Sierra Business Council to support efforts to establish a viable carbon credit market in the Sierra Nevada region.

A final report will be submitted six (6) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop draft inventory methodology for carbon and other ecosystem services	April-May 2008
Two educational workshops for professional foresters and natural resource and land managers to develop sampling methodology and field methods for inventories.	May-July 2008
Two hands–on educational workshops for students in ecosystem inventory field methods.	August-September 2008
Accurate inventory measurements for Waddle and Heart K properties that will meet third party certification through CCAR and state-approved certifiers.	September 2008

Participation in 80% of the CCAR Forest Working Group meetings and other appropriate Forest/Climate Change Working Group meetings that take place between April 2008 and September 2008.	April 2008 – September 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Develop Inventory Methodology and actively engage in CCAR and other Forest working groups	$9,900
Educational Workshops	$6,075
Complete Inventories	$29,025
GRAND TOTAL	**$45,000**

Letters of Support:

- Feather River Land Trust

Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of this application in the amount of: $45,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: SNC 070304 Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative-Ecosystem Services Inventory

The Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative is a program developed by the Sierra Business Council (SBC) to develop and market a portfolio of forest conservation, management, and reforestation projects in accordance with the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) Forest Protocols. The goal of the program is to encourage the sequestration of carbon and the creation of verifiable emission reduction credits in the Sierra Nevada as a means of hastening the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through private markets. The carbon sequestration method used will be the removal of CO2 from the atmosphere and long-term storage of carbon in terrestrial ecosystems through photosynthesis.

SBC will work in partnership with land trusts, land owners, and other conservation partners in the northern Sierra Nevada, guiding these partners through the process to meet the strict standards and emerging policy developments in California. SBC will market the projects as value-added forest carbon offset projects in order to capture the value of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services, such as water quality, provided by the rich forest landscapes of the Northern Sierra. The projects focus on and support a variety of co-benefits including rural economic development, recreation, water quality, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

In piloting this program, SBC has selected two forest properties in the Northern Sierra. One property is Waddle Ranch in Martis Valley, a 1481 acre property of which approximately 1100 acres is dominant Jeffrey Pine mixed conifer forest. The second property is the 883 acre Heart K Ranch in Plumas County, about half of which has mixed conifer forest cover. The first step in establishing a project with CCAR is conducting a complete forest carbon inventory on both properties. The forest management plans will have significant overlap. Educational opportunities in measuring ecosystem services for high school and college students as well as for forestry professionals will be linked to the required sampling activities, thus achieving the added benefit of lowering the costs of on-the-ground measurements.

SBC has identified a purchaser for the Verified Emission Reduction credits from these projects, secured an option agreement, and begun to outline the Purchase and Sale Agreement for these credits. Completion of the forest inventory will allow the agreement to be completed and the value created from the sale to be applied to forest management on site, and the expansion of the ‘portfolio project’ approach to continue in the Northern Sierra.

The Sierra Business Council estimates that the financial need to conduct the forest inventories and provide educational opportunities will be approximately $79,500. SBC is applying for $45,000 of this amount through SNC SOG funds.

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

Subregion: **REGIONWIDE** **County: ALL**

Applicant: **THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

Project Title: **ENHANCING WATER SUPPLY AND IMPROVING DAM OPERATIONS THROUGH IMPROVED UPSTREAM FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070314**

PROJECT SCOPE

Environmental Defense, in partnership with the University of California, proposes conducting applied research to understand future management strategies for Sierra Nevada forests to provide additional benefit for downsteam users. This project addresses promotion of improved forest management practices that will manipulate watershed evapotranspiration to increase the availability of water and to optimize the timing of its delivery. A sound optimization strategy will be developed to protect the ecological integrity of the upland forests, mitigate the risks associated with catastrophic disturbances and increase resilience to climate change.

For this project a multidisciplinary team will launch a twelve month planning phase of a 5 year study to further refine applied research already begun by the Environmental Defense Fund and UC partners.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Deployment of a forester and a hydrologist to conduct a detailed assessment of specific potential research sites in the American River watershed and initiate a project GIS system for both planning and implementation;
- Conduct a literature review on improving water use efficiency in forests;
- Identify a sub watershed for treatment and negotiate with landowners for use of properties;
- Collect baseline hydrology information and develop hydrology modeling framework;
- Initiate economic analysis and develop an economic research framework.

During the five year research project, knowledge gained through the planning phase for the American River watershed will be translated to other Sierra Nevada watersheds, thus providing a strong basis for developing partnerships among dam operators and other water users- including upstream public and private forestland owners.

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months, twelve (12) months, and eighteen (18) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Literature review; improving water use efficiency in forests	July 1, 2008
Written assessment of potential research sites in the American River watershed	July 1, 2008
Six Month Progress Report	September 1, 2008
Identified sub watersheds for treatment/ proof of landowner permission/negotiations.	September 1, 2008
Baseline hydrological information collected	September 1, 2008
Hydrological modeling framework developed/initial simulations analysis	December 1, 2008
Economic analysis initiated and preliminary hypothesis developed.	December 1, 2008
Full written project proposal: including funding strategy for the remainder of the study period.	December 31, 2008
Twelve Month Progress Report	January 1,2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
PERSONNEL:	$57,371
Travel	$4,572
Meetings (Room rental, supplies)	$762
Misc Expenses (printing, postage, IT, telecom, supplies, media, accounting)	$1,524
Hydrology Monitoring Equipment	$5,333
Overhead	$10,438
GRAND TOTAL	**$80,000**

Letters of Support:

- Placer County Water Agency
- University of California: Sierra Nevada Research Institute, Merced; Center for Forestry, Berkeley.

Outstanding:

- Tahoe National Forest
- UC Forest Service Research Station

Recommendation: (LC)

This project addresses long-term water conservation and water quality improvement in upper watershed forests. One of the first to address effects of existing and possible improved forest treatment techniques in areas above water catchment facilities. Addresses climate change scenarios.

(SNC 070314 Enhancing Water Supply and Improving Dam Operations Through Improved Upstream Forest Management)
Section 2 - Project Summary

Forest management decisions upstream of Sierra Nevada dams impact the operations and finances of dam operators and other downstream water users. In fact, water users are strongly interested in promoting improved forest management, but knowledge about the types of optimal treatments and their hydrological, economic, and ecological consequences is relatively weak. Also weak are the financial incentives to influence forest stewardship decisions of public and private landowners.

Managing for hydropower production and water supply involves manipulating watershed evapotranspiration to increase the availability of water and to optimize the timing of its delivery. A sound optimization strategy must protect the ecological integrity of the upland forests, mitigate the risks associated with catastrophic disturbances (e.g, wildfire-driven erosion and damage to water conveyance structures), and increase resilience to climate change. Existing research in this arena has focused mainly on reducing forest evapotranspiration through the removal of a significant proportion of vegetation. This research has rarely led to implementation because the resulting recommendations often conflict with other ecosystem values. We suggest that a more innovative goal is to focus on increasing *water use efficiency* of forested watersheds while maintaining essential ecosystem services such as the provision of wildlife habitat and long-term sequestration of carbon.

A multidisciplinary team will participate in the design and implementation of a multi-year research effort to examine these questions, focusing initially on the American River Watershed. This team will be advised by a stakeholder group including representatives of conservation organizations, water agencies, the US Forest Service, and others. Research will explore three main areas. First, data from instrumented catchments receiving different vegetation and fuel management treatments will be used to establish and validate a predictive modeling capability for both forest and hydrological systems. Selected treatments will then be designed to provide benefits to downstream water operations. Second, economic implications and financial mechanisms to invest in improved watershed management (with attention to hydropower) will be evaluated. Third, we will explore the institutional arrangements and possible financial incentives to link the interests of downstream dam operators and water users to upstream forestland managers.

In the current proposal, we seek $80,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to launch a 12 month planning phase (total cost $125,000) to further refine our applied research concept and prepare for the launch of a five-year research project. During this phase, we will conduct the following activities:

- Deploy a forester and a hydrologist to conduct a detailed assessment of specific potential research sites in the American River watershed and initiate a project geographic information system for both planning and implementation
- Conduct a literature review on improving water use efficiency in forests
- Identify sub-watersheds for treatment and negotiate with landowners for use of property
- Collect baseline hydrology information and develop hydrology modeling framework
- Initiate economic analysis and develop an economic research framework

During the 5-year research project, knowledge gained through the planning phase for the American River watershed will be translated to other Sierra Nevada watersheds thus providing a strong basis for developing partnerships among dam operators and other water users including upstream public and private forestland owners.

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

Subregion: **REGIONWIDE** **County: ALL**

Applicant: **BLM BISHOP OFFICE**

Project Title: **AQUATIC INVASIVES BROCHURE**

Reference Number: **SNC 070324**

PROJECT SCOPE

The BLM Bishop office proposes to create a humorous educational brochure for anglers and other recreationists that drives home the threat of invasive aquatic species of flora and fauna on Sierra Nevada aquatic ecosystems. Included in the text will be easy measures that fishermen and recreationists can follow to reduce transport of these species into sensitive areas. The brochure will be printed and distributed in partnership with the CA Department of Fish and Game, the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests, and community organizations. This brochure would be appropriate for most aquatic ecosystems throughout the Sierra Nevada.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Create and develop text and illustrations for the brochure;
- Print a pilot run of 10,000 copes;
- Distribute throughout the east side of the Sierra (possibly in accordance with DGF fishing license applications).

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months and twelve (12) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Collaborators identified	June 1, 2008
Draft mock-up sent out for review	August 1, 2008
Six month progress report-	August 31, 2008
Finalized: text, art, graphic design, brochure layout	February 1, 2009
Brochure online in PDF format	February 14 , 2009
Twelve month progress report-	February 28, 2009
Brochure printed	March 1,2009
Finalized: poster version	March 15, 2009
Brochure and poster distributed in Eastern Sierra	April 15, 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request (Distribution plan/ partner comments/outline for long term commitments)	**May 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Staff time to develop brochure	$2,560
Printing and shipping for 10,000 copies	$645
GRAND TOTAL	**$3,205**

Letters of Support:

- None/verbal agreements with agency partners

Recommendation:
Such a brochure would have far reaching and very effective impacts, and the office has a reputation for creating quality publications.

070324

(SNC 070324)
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Project Proposal
Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant, Category 2

Project: **Aquatic Invasives Brochure**

Applicant: **Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office**
351 Pacu Lane
Bishop, CA 93514

Contact: Joy Fatooh, (760) 872-5029, jfatooh@blm.gov

Invasive aquatic organisms threaten to destroy both the native habitat and the recreation potential of virtually every stream, lake and wetland in the Sierra Nevada region and elsewhere. These plants, fish and invertebrates are brought by people who have no idea that they're spreading massive destruction. Some are spread intentionally but without awareness of the consequences; others unknowingly, by going from place to place without cleaning equipment.

We propose a brochure for anglers and other recreationists, showing how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives – a brochure that they'll actually enjoy, remember, and give to their friends. A box with information on how to thoroughly clean and dry all gear to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic organisms will be the central piece of information. This will be surrounded by a series of limericks that were generated by biologists and interpretive specialists. Duane Chapman of the U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia Environmental Research Center initially sent several out to a list serve including Steve Parmenter, CA Dep't of Fish & Game Senior Biologist in Bishop, which he forwarded to Joy Fatooh, BLM Wildlife Biologist and Visual Information Specialist who sent it to Carolyn Schimandle, California State Parks Interpreter. As we composed more limericks for the "insider" amusement of professionals, it dawned on us that these have the potential to stick in the public's mind better than the average boring brochure. We offer the following rough draft text as a starting point and to demonstrate what we have in mind.

The requested funding will be used to further develop the text, create illustrations and graphic design, and print a pilot run of 10,000 copies (full color, three fold, 8.5 x 11 inch folding to 3.5 x 8.5 inch) to be distributed throughout the Sierra Nevada region.

Can something called "rock snot" ruin your favorite fishing spot? You bet. It's just one of the invasive aquatic species that can get into your fishing spot, swimming hole, canoeing river, duck-hunting lake… and completely take over, making the water useless for the native fish and wildlife – and for you.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **Counties: INYO and MONO**

Applicant: **STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

Project Title: **INYO FOREST RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070005**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will restore specific sites in order to minimize soil bank erosion and excessive runoff into seven creeks which are tributaries to the Owens River, while supporting sustainable off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. The restoration of these sites will support the collaborative efforts that the Student Conservation Association has established with the U.S. Forest Service and OHV Commission in other areas of the Sierra with similar conditions. The watershed restoration projects included in this grant provide an opportunity to demonstrate that non-profit organizations can support the Forest Service with public stewardship of public forest land. This project currently has $94,395 in matching funds and in-kind services from U.S. Forest Service, the Off Road Vehicle Commission, and student volunteers.

The sites to be restored are impacting the water quality of the following adjacent creeks:

- Glass Creek
- Deadman Creek
- Parker Creek
- Rush Creek
- Walker Creek
- Sawmill Creek
- Olancha Creek

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Restoring 4.7 miles of illegal trail spurs near Mammoth Lakes by eliminating multiple trails and establishing one sustainable trail for continued motorized and non-motorized recreation and public access and restoring four illegal roads and four spur roads entering the Golden Trout Wilderness by:
    - Utilizing native materials, such as boulders and logs, to block illegal trails
    - Sub-soiling, grading, and raking soils to disguise the areas
    - Applying vertical mulch and revegetation to restore habitat and control soil erosion and excessive runoff
- Placing educational signs explaining need to stay on roads and the purposes of the restoration project;
- Monitoring both sites for effectiveness of restoration efforts by establishing photo points and providing before and after photos of the restoration sites;
- In the final report, providing an explanation of techniques used and the plan for long-term sustainability of the project;
- Providing progress reports to the Conservancy every six months for the project duration, and a final performance report on the project once completed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Recruit and hire intern and project leader	April 2008-July 2008
Establish photo points and take pre-restoration photographs	April 2008 – May 2008
Utilize native materials from the field to implement restoration on Mammoth Lake sites	May 2008 – September 2008
Place educational signage along main roads	September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress reports to SNC	October 2008
Utilize native materials from the field to implement restoration on West Olancha, Inyo site	–October 2008 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Begin effectiveness monitoring on sites in both Inyo/Mono	April 2009 – September 2009
Take post-project photographs from established photo-points for inclusion in final report	September 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Conservation Intern Stipends	$26,850
Project Leader Stipend	14,710
Intern Housing, Utilities, Phone	4,000
Intern Training, Orientation, Field Equipment, Supplies, Technology	12,000
Project Administration	440
GRAND TOTAL	**$58,000**

Letters of Support: None submitted.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends authorization of this grant for the requested $58,000.

2. Project Summary: Inyo Forest Restoration and Conservation Project:

The Eastern Sierra is a dramatic landscape encompassing a breath-taking array of wildlands, natural resources, and a topography shaped by weather, wind, rain, snow, and immeasurable geologic and tectonic At the heart of the region lies the 2.1 million-acre Inyo National Forest -- an outdoor playground providing opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities including hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, cross country and downhill skiing, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, off highway vehicles, and snowmobiles. It is not uncommon for the forest to receive over three million visitor days every year. Without question, the Inyo National Forest is inextricably linked to the custom, culture, and economy of the Eastern Sierra.

That landscape, along with its custom and culture, is an increasing need for a management framework of stewardship, focused on maintaing economic and ecological sustainability in the region. Within that framework, landscape and watershed restoration efforts are vital, as there are acute restoration needs throughout the forest to correct and reverse the impacts of various recreational activities, particularly off highway vehicles. At the same time, restoration efforts and site improvement efforts focused on motorized and non-motorized trail systems on the forest must be designed to provide sustainable public access and recreation of all types.

Accordingly, the Student Conservation Association will work in partnership with the Forest Service/Inyo National Forest based in Bishop, California to undertake a forest watershed restoration project on the Inyo National Forest in Mono and Inyo Counties. SCA is well situated to undertake this project and already has a rich partnership in place with the Inyo National Forest. For example, in 2005, the value of SCA's conservation service on the Inyo was valued at $551,000 by the Forest Service – more than any non-profit organization active on the forest. The total cost of the project is just over $152,000. A grant of $58,000 is requested from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

The Inyo Forest Restoration and Conservation Project includes watershed restoration and site improvement components. The project will focus on watershed restoration, reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, promoting sustainable OHV recreation, and OHV route removal and restoration. **Specifically, a total of 62 illegal OHV routes and roads will be removed and reclaimed, resulting in the restoration of 12 acres of land.** The project also incorporates community outreach components, as the SCA Restoration Team will coordinate its activities at the Mammoth Lakes project sites with volunteer efforts of Friends of the Inyo, a non-profit organization based in Bishop, California. The project will focus on the following sites on the Mammoth Lakes and Mt. Whitney Ranger Districts:

1. Trails between Crestview Rest Area and Deadman Creek.
2. Along the Mammoth Scenic Loop Road north of the Highway 203 junction.
3. Shady Rest Park area along the Sawmill Ridge north of Mammoth Lakes.
4. Casa Diablo Hot Springs near the Geothermal Energy Development area.
5. West Olancha on the eastern edge of the Golden Trout Wilderness.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: ALPINE**

Applicant: **ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP**

Project Title: **ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM**

Reference Number: SNC 070256

PROJECT SCOPE

This project is for monitoring in Alpine County at a minimum of 12 locations in an area that encompasses the headwaters of five watersheds including, the American, Carson, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, and Truckee. Monitoring will be conducted by the Alpine Watershed Group (AWG), which has conducted a similar monitoring effort at eight of these sites for the previous three years. AWG proposes to monitor water quality and discharge at specific locations to assess watershed health and provide recommendations to improve watershed health. In-kind and financial support of $33,749 has been provided by Carson Water Subconservancy District, Alpine County, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, The Rose Foundation, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and Friends of Hope Valley.

Project work includes:

- Ambient monitoring for water chemistry, turbidity, physical habitat, flow;
- Bioassessments including benthic macroinvertebrate collection, physical habitat, flow;
- Bacterial and nutrient sampling;
- Peak flow monitoring for turbidity and discharge;
- Summer low flow monitoring;
- Data entry, analysis, interpretation, and reporting;
- Mapping and documenting point and non-point sources of pollution and sediment;
- Identifying various land use practices and associated adverse impacts;
- Developing recommendations for alternative land-use methods to positively impact the watershed;
- Identifying and map areas in need of restoration, conservation, and enhance
- Washoe Tribe youth education and field training events (2) focused on water quality, riparian functions, invasive plants;
- Complete and submit six month progress reports to SNC.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Ambient monitoring for water chemistry, turbidity, physical habitat, and flow	Quarterly beginning September 2008
Bioassessments including benthic macroinvertebrate collection, physical habitat, flow	Fall 2008 & Spring 2009
Complete and submit six month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Bacterial and nutrient sampling	Monthly beginning Summer 2008
Peak flow monitoring for turbidity and discharge	Storm and High water events (2)
Summer low flow monitoring	Weekly July-October
Complete and submit twelve month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Data entry, analysis, interpretation, reporting	Ongoing
Complete and submit eighteen month progress report to SNC	October 2009

Mapping and documenting point and non-point sources of pollution and sediment	January 2010
Identify various land use practices and associated adverse impacts	February 2010
Develop recommendations for alternative land-use methods to positively impact the watershed	March 2010
Identify and map areas in need of restoration, conservation, and enhancement	March 2010
Conducting Washoe Tribe youth education and field training	TBD
Final Report/Final Payment request	**April 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Coordinator-Project Management salary	$30,480
Equipment & supplies	1,800
Lab fees	18,350
Carson Water Subconservancy District field staff compensation	1,875
Washoe Tribe Education & Training Days	2,400
Mileage to travel to monitoring sites	970
GRAND TOTAL	**$60,901**

Letters of Support:

- Alpine Health and Human Services Department
- Sierra Nevada Alliance

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the reduced amount of $60,901. The funding request was originally submitted for $105,650 for data collection and analysis for two years. Staff worked with the applicant to identify an adequate amount of funds to complete data collection and analysis for one year, while allowing the grantee more time to secure the funds needed to complete the next year of monitoring.

SNC 070256
Alpine Watershed Group
Water Quality Monitoring Program
Years Four and Five

2. Project Summary

Alpine County encompasses the headwaters for five watersheds, and is composed of several interacting landscapes and river systems. These watersheds are the American, Carson, Mokelumne, Stanislaus and the Truckee. Approximately 94% of land within Alpine County watersheds is publicly owned. This project implements procedures for assessing land use/land cover and impacts of particular water quality stressors. The Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) is currently conducting its third consecutive year of water quality monitoring within Alpine County watersheds. The water quality monitoring program enjoys widespread community support, and is anchored by a core group of 18 highly trained citizen water quality monitors. AWG is seeking funding for years four and five of the monitoring program, running from June 2008 through May 2010.

The focus of this project is on measuring chemical, physical habitat and biological parameters in order to assess land use impacts on water quality and watershed health. In partnership with environmental non-profit Earth Spirit Rejuvenation, this project will also incorporate an educational outreach component focused on youth participants from the area's Washoe Tribe.

This project will monitor a minimum of twelve sites over two years within Alpine County watersheds for the following parameters:

1. Water chemistry
2. Nutrient analysis
3. Bacterial analysis
4. Peak-flow turbidity and discharge
5. Low-flow discharge
6. Benthic Macro Invertebrate populations
7. Streamwalk Habitat Assessments

The total project cost is $139,400. The Alpine Watershed Group has secured a total of $33,750 in cash and in-kind match already committed to this project. The total request for SNC funds is $105,650.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: MONO**

Applicant: **EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **CELEBRATING CONSERVATION: BENTON HOT SPRINGS VALLEY**

Reference Number: **SNC 070273**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust will host an outreach event at the newly acquired Benton Hot Springs Valley conservation easement site. The purpose of the event is to make the public aware of the new easement by inviting them onto the property and to build a volunteer base to help manage the land in the long-term. Specifically, the Trust will:

- Conduct initial planning meetings;
- Develop informational resources and signage to be made available on the site;
- Compile comprehensive list of invitees, dignitaries, and other participants;
- Compile necessary materials and equipment for volunteer trainings;
- Initiate production of environmental lesson plans;
- Coordinate with landowner on event logistics and accessibility;
- Produce and distribute invitations;
- Develop plan for ongoing volunteer participation;
- Coordinate with local press to advertise event;
- Host event and track attendees and stakeholder groups represented;
- Conduct a survey of participants to gauge impact of event.

The unveiling event for the Trust's newest conservation easement will serve primarily as a recruitment tool to acquire volunteers in anticipation of future invasive species removal efforts. In addition, the interpretive materials and signage will serve as a resource for visitors to the site in perpetuity.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Conduct initial planning meetings	April 2008
Initiate development of informational resources and signage	April 2008
Produce and distribute invites	April 2008
Compile list of invitees, dignitaries, and other participants	April 2008
Acquire necessary materials for volunteer trainings	April 2008
Initiate production of environmental lesson plans	April 2008
Coordinate with landowner on event logistics and accessibility	April 2008
Place interpretive signage on site	May 2008
Develop plan for ongoing volunteer participation	May 2008
Coordinate with local press to advertise event	May 2008
Host event and track attendees and stakeholder groups represented	June 2008 – August 2008
Conduct a survey of participants to gauge impact of event	August 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**September 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Invitations, advertisement, informational resources development	$2,000
Tools and Supplies for Volunteers	250
Interpretive signage design and production	3,000
Brochure production	1,000
Staff Salary – AmeriCorps member	2,100
Staff Salary – Lands Director	3,500
Staff Salary – Investment Opportunities Coordinator	4,050
Administration	2,535
GRAND TOTAL	**$18,435**

Letters of Support:

- Benton Hot Springs Valley Property Owner
- California Native Plant Society
- Eastern Sierra Audubon Society
- Mono County District 2 Supervisor
- Mono-Inyo Agricultural Commissioner
- Department of Fish and Game

Recommendation:
Recommend for funding at requested amount of $18,435.

Project Summary

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust has successfully completed eight conservation easements with private landowners in the past six years. One of the most recently completed projects preserves 900 acres of prime grazing, water resources, and meadowlands near the historic town of Benton Hot Springs. Several unique natural features are found on this property, and the landowner is eager to share it with the public in some specially crafted community events. Since this property has been held privately for four generations, the public has not had the opportunity to visit and appreciate the exceptional natural resources here.

The commencement of this project would be a public celebration of the acquisition of a conservation easement held by the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. The public, along with local and state officials, will have the opportunity to come to the property to "Celebrate Conservation" and learn about the benefits of preserving this land in perpetuity. Special events would continue throughout the year with various events and activities focused on restoration, environmental education, history and culture, photography, and other topics of relevance.

Several community groups have expressed interest in programs on this property because of the diversity of resources found here. For example, more than 114 bird species have been documented, a rare springsnail was discovered during a preliminary site assessment, and the rare Inyo County star tulip covers portions of the meadows. A teacher at Benton Elementary has requested a service learning project with his students. The Eastern Sierra Audubon and the CA Native Plant Society would like to offer public field trips to their membership, and the Eastern Sierra Land Trust has committed to do a thistle eradication project with the help of community volunteers. The CA Department of Fish and Game would like to research the possibility of creating a native fish refugio due to the consistent water quality and temperature of the springs. The ranch, which stands in the shadow of Boundary Peak, the highest peak in Nevada, also offers excellent opportunities for geology excursions. In addition, the landowner would like the ESLT to produce a self-guided tour brochure for guests visiting his Bed & Breakfast in nearby Old Benton.

To date, the ESLT has conducted limited environmental education programs within its service area. In September 2007, it coordinated a "Living With Wildlife" festival, which focused on the Round Valley deer herd migration corridor near Bishop, CA. This community event featured hands-on activities for children and visual displays and was in cooperation with several other groups such as CA Dept. of Fish and Game, CA Deer Association, Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care, Eastern Sierra Valentine Reserve, and CA Dept. of Forestry. From this event the ESLT was invited into the Bishop School District to teach school children about the migratory deer population in the area. ESLT staff and volunteers presented two days of lessons for third and fourth grade students in December.

This project is an opportunity to expand our offerings to various audiences regarding resource protection of unique habitats and ranchlands through conservation easements. It is designed to be a pilot program to bring together various community groups and agencies in a single place, in a location previously not accessible to the public. We hope to expand these services in the future on other properties for which there is a demand.

The total budget for the project is $19,435 and includes event organizing, outreach materials, equipment, signs, and transportation. The total request from SNC is $18,435.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: MONO**

Applicant: **EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **EAST WALKER RIVER ASSESSMENT AND WATERSHED PLAN**

Reference Number: **SNC 070274**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust will conduct an assessment of the East Walker River from the Bridgeport Valley to the California-Nevada border, and produce a management plan for the East Walker River watershed. Specifically, the Trust will:

- Conduct a watershed assessment, including the following actions:
    - Summarize hydrologic and geographic information such as climate variability, stream flow averages and extremes, diversions and storage, aquifer descriptions, wells and pumping history, geology and soil types, erosion processes, channel networks, elevation range, and topography;
    - Describe current, historical, and possible future environmental conditions such as wetland and riparian zones, upland vegetation, land and water uses, and land management practices;
    - Catalog and summarize existing water quality data such as dissolved constituents, nutrients, sediments, temperature, toxics, and other data from available sources;
    - Conduct field work to examine and describe natural anthropogenic influences on water quality, wetlands, and aquatic habitat including probable causes of problems, sources of pollutants, risks, and opportunities for improvements or enhancements;
    - Conduct field work to examine and describe agricultural lands and examine opportunities for their long-term conservation.

- Develop a watershed management plan, including the following actions:
    - Describe quantifiable characteristics for water quality improvements and potential load reductions using standard methodology such as dissolved constituents, nutrients, sediment, temperature, toxics, and other available information;
    - Define methods individually designed for achieving and sustaining water quality improvements in the basin, such as best management practices, preservation, restoration, conservation easements, education, and mitigation banking;
    - Estimate the financial and technical resources necessary to implement these practices;
    - Collaborate with willing parties to identify potentially effective projects to improve watershed conditions through cooperation with local land and resource management agencies, the watershed council, other agencies and private parties;
    - Propose a schedule for initiating and implementing measures, practices, and site-specific projects;
    - Propose a schedule for implementation milestones to evaluate whether the proposed practices and projects are being introduced and implemented;
    - Establish criteria for evaluating progress in the water and waterways and outline future monitoring programs to measure attributes relevant to those criteria;
    - Propose and adopt conservation measures for agricultural and other lands with critical resources.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish criteria for evaluating progress	April 2008 - July 2008
Summarize available hydrologic and geographic information	July 2008 – September 2008
Describe current, historical, and possible future environmental conditions	July 2008 – September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Catalog and summarize existing water quality data	October 2008 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Describe natural anthropogenic influences on water quality, wetlands, and aquatic habitat	March 2009 - May 2009
Describe quantifiable characteristics for water quality improvements	May 2009 – September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Define methods individually designed for achieving and sustaining water quality improvements	October 2009 – January 2010
Collaborate with willing parties to identify potentially effective projects	January 2010 – March 2010
Propose a schedule for initiating and implementing measures	March 2010
Propose and adopt conservation measures assessment outcomes	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Salary for Watershed and Resource Specialists	$ 52,000
Land Associate Salary (Map development and production)	$ 3,260
Lands Specialist Salary (Stakeholder and agency cooperation)	$ 16,000
Supplies and Materials	$ 500
Administration	$ 11,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$81,860**

Letters of Support:

- Mono County District 4 Supervisor
- Bridgeport, California – Private Citizen

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at requested amount of $81,860.

East Walker River Watershed Assessment and Management Plan

Project Summary: The proposed project will first prepare an assessment of environmental conditions that influence water quantity, water quality, and aquatic habitat in the East Walker River watershed (i.e., the Bridgeport Valley, upstream of the California-Nevada border). Based on that assessment, a watershed management plan will be developed to address the main problems identified in the watershed assessment.

The assessment will be based on existing data, will catalog current information from available sources, and will identify any obvious gaps in information. A wealth of relevant information already exists for the basin but has not been assembled and synthesized within a watershed context.

The fundamental goals and objectives of the proposed project are to understand the physical and biological processes and related water quality problems within the watershed in sufficient detail to recommend strategies for addressing those problems, and ultimately reduce anthropogenic impacts to the water resources of the watershed. The East Walker River watershed provides a significant fraction of the potential (undiverted) inflow to Walker Lake that has lost volume and increased in salinity in the past century. Some of the smaller tributaries to the East Walker River may provide critical habitat for the recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout. The East Walker River watershed includes the Bridgeport Valley, which is the largest contiguous area of wetlands in Mono County. The East Walker River watershed is the only remaining significant watershed in the county without an assessment and plan.

In the past year, Mono County has completed assessments and plans for the West Walker River watershed, Mono Basin, and Upper Owens River watershed. The Eastern Sierra Land Trust was awarded a subcontract from the county regarding wetlands conservation in the previous projects. The Mono County Resource Conservation District is expected to take an active role in this project in the way of providing historical information and current land use practices in this area. They will also be critical in any type of implementation when the plan is completed. The Bridgeport Regional Planning Advisory Committee, which would act as the initial watershed council, represents a cross-section of the community of the Bridgeport Valley. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest would also be interested in augmenting information they have collected previously for the assessment of watershed conditions on federal lands.

The budget for this project is $81,860 and includes staff and contractual time, transportation, and all supplies and materials.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: INYO**

Applicant: **EASTERN SIERRA INSTITUTE FOR COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION**

Project Title: **EASTERN SIERRA WATERSHED PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070281**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will expand and extend a school-based watershed education program that reaches over 1,000 students in Inyo County focused on one of the largest river restoration projects in the United States. In December 2006, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power returned water to 63 miles of the Lower Owens River that had been dry since water was diverted to Los Angeles in 1913. This project is a collaborative educational effort of Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education (ESICE), Inyo Office of Education, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and has leveraged funding from public and private sources in the past. Currently this project includes matching funds and in-kind services from numerous sources, including the Inyo County Office of Education, California Department of Fish and Game, BLM, the Inyo/Mono Fisheries Commission, and private donations in the amount of $57,985.

Field programs will include:

- Creek studies to help assess the health of the watershed;
- Monitoring to determine how rewatering affects native and introduced species;
- Stream monitoring to assess physical changes to the channel and riverbed;
- Archeological, geological, plant, and aquatic ecology studies of Fish Slough, a designated area of critical ecological concern.

Other aspects of the program will include:

- Developing online access to water quality, wildlife, soils, plants, aquatic invertebrates, and stream channel morphology data collected in the Lower Owens River area;
- Developing a program focusing on traditional uses of water with current scientific practices, and integrating the program into the Paiute Mountain School Camp - an annual five-day wilderness experience for over 60 Paiute youth.

The project steps include:

- Summarizing existing data, designing data analysis curriculum, designing a new website, conducting online data analysis workshops, and evaluations with teachers, scientists, docents, and students;
- Reviewing Paiute Mountain School Camp activities and integrating in the Eastern Sierra Watershed Project activities; recruiting and training School Camp staff and speakers, and evaluating the School Camp program;
- Conducting series of staff and docent trainings;
- Conducting five field programs for grade school students from multiple classes in multiple schools;
- Conducting a survey to report the degree to which the knowledge, skills, and resources for teachers and student have been positively impacted or enhanced;
- Providing progress reports to the Conservancy every six months for the project duration, and a final performance report on the project once completed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Web design, develop data analysis workshop, summarize existing data, integrate ESWP activities into School Camp Program	April – September 2008
Conduct teacher/scientist online data analysis workshop, review School Camp activities, design online data analysis curriculum, conduct camp staff training workshop	June 2008- August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Conduct teacher/docent online data analysis workshop, conduct first series of field programs, class room data analysis, camp evaluation	September 2008-November-2008
Revise data analysis, web revisions, evaluate data analysis curriculum, recruit School Camp staff and speakers	December 2008-February 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Conduct second series of field programs, classroom data analysis, School Camp registration	March 2009- May 2009
Conduct teacher evaluation of online data analysis and curriculum, web revisions, conduct School Camp staff training	June 2009-August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project managers salaries	$69,400
Teacher development/speakers/ training	3,000
Supplies	1,600
Transportation	2,200
On-line data costs	5,000
Administrative cost	10,400
GRAND TOTAL	**$91,600**

Letters of Support:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bishop Union Elementary School

Recommendation:

Staff recommends authorization of this grant for the amount of $91,600, decreasing the requested amount by $20,000 to account for the Paiute Mountain School Camp matching funds.

Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education
P O Box 454 Bishop, CA 93515 (760) 873-9855

www.esice.org www.esice-eswp.org

(SNC 070281) Eastern Sierra Watershed Project Summary

The Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education (ESICE) is a non-profit organization in Bishop, California, providing innovative approaches to education. For seven years our **Eastern Sierra Watershed Project (ESWP)** has provided every Inyo County middle school student the opportunity to participate in the monitoring of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP), one of the largest river restoration projects in the United States, which is being implemented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Inyo County. Through ESWP local students learn about the complex factors affecting watersheds and practice critical thinking skills necessary to make wise decisions on issues affecting the environment. This proposal is to maintain, enhance and extend the existing project through the following:

> **Maintain ESWP's school-based watershed education program.** Over 1,000 students participate in ESWP's field and classroom activities each year. 6th grade students are introduced to watershed studies through field investigation on local creeks. 7th and 8th students participate in data collection and analysis on the Lower Owens River. In 2004, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, ESWP was expanded from the middle schools to include programs for 2nd and 4th grade students introducing younger students to aquatic systems through the *Fish Slough Hands on the Land Program*. The key to making these field trips a valuable learning experience for each individual student is small group activities led by volunteer community docents. In addition, ESWP provides classroom materials, backed by professional development workshops, which integrate the field trip experience into the classroom curriculum.

>**Develop online access to student data**. Since 2002, local students have been collecting data on water quality, wildlife, soils, plants, aquatic invertebrates, and stream channel morphology on the Lower Owens River. In December 2006, the LADWP reintroduced water into the river. In the fall of 2007 students began documenting changes that have taken place due to the rewatering. Over the past several years, we have received numerous inquiries from teachers, scientists, community members and students for access to the student data online. We are working to create an online database of student-collected data, which can be queried to answer a variety of questions related to the effects of the rewatering on the Lower Owens River ecosystem.

>**Paiute Mountain School/Camp.** The Paiute Mountain School is a summer camp program developed by the Traditional Ecological Knowledge program (TEK). This five-day wilderness experience, for over 60 Paiute youth ages 10-17, is held in July in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Together the Paiute counselors, elders and students learn about fishing, hunting, traditional foods and medicine. Embedded in the activities are exercises, language, and stories instilling in the Paiute youth their responsibility to protect and respect the earth and the life it supports. In partnership with ESWP, the traditional uses of water will be integrated with current scientific practices, helping the Paiute youth to appreciate the importance of taking care of the water and land for future generations.

ESWP operates in tandem with several major partners. Inyo County Office of Education coordinates the teacher professional development workshops. The Fish Slough program is jointly run with the Bureau of Land Management. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power collaborates on the Lower Owens River programs. Over the last seven years, funding has come from a variety of sources. We currently operate under grants from the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation, Ringing Rocks Foundation, and donations from private businesses and local community organizations. We are asking the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for $71,600 to continue the Eastern Sierra Watershed Project's school-based program and create online access to student data and $40,000 to fund the Paiute Mountain School/Camp for a total of $111,600.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: MONO**

Applicant: **MONO LAKE COMMITTEE**

Project Title: **MONO BASIN RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

Reference Number: **SNC 070307**

PROJECT SCOPE

The stewardship project will focus on restoration, monitoring, interpretation, education, and other visitor services in the Mono Basin. This project will focus on Mono Lake, Lee Vining Creek, Rush Creek, Mill Creek, and the De Chambeau Ponds. The overall goals of the project are:

- To assist in restoration efforts that will help the riparian and lakeshore ecosystems recover from previous damage;
- To maintain the land and water resources in relation to increased use and visitation that has grown to over 250,000 annual visitors.

Monitoring is a key component to this project and provides data that will help guide future decisions about recreational uses, grazing, development, and other land and water uses. Public education that includes outreach to urban youth has been a major focus of the Mono Lake Committee's mission to build an understanding of this unique watershed and the natural resources of the Eastern Sierra region.

This monitoring, stewardship, and restoration project is a collaborative effort of the Mono Lake Committee, Friends of the Inyo, and the U.S. Forest Service and has matching funds and in-kind services in the amount of $67,400.

The project includes:

- Creek flow and groundwater monitoring;
- Water quality monitoring;
- Invasive plant species control;
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) impacts monitoring;
- Education and interpretation;
- Public education events (2 per year);
- Air quality site monitoring;
- Restoration projects along creeks and ponds.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Staffing for Resource Monitoring & Interpretation	
• Hire seasonal resource staff to perform restoration, monitoring and reporting • Coordinate, recruit and train volunteers as needed	• April 2008 • April 2008 through October 2009
Creek Flow Monitoring:	
• Establish monitoring locations along Mill, Wilson, Rush and Lee Vining Creeks • Collect stream-flow data on Mill and Wilson Creeks and collect piezometer data on Rush and Lee Vining Creeks • Review available data available from Mono Lake Committee and Mono Basin Research website	• April 2008 through February 2010
Water Quality Monitoring:	
• Conduct quarterly ambient water chemistry monitoring 4 times per year, during 2008 and 2009	• April, June, August, November in 2008 & 2009
• Conduct annual Benthic Macroinvertebrate Inventory (BMI) collection and analysis	• September 2008 &

	2009
• Submit data summary, analysis, and annual report to public and Regional Water Quality Control Board	• December 2008 & 2009
Vegetation Monitoring:	
• Conduct annual streamside vegetation survey including native and non-native species	• May & June 2008 & 2009
Invasive Species Control & Monitoring	
• Establish research plots in the annual streamside vegetation survey locations and assign invasive removal treatments to each plot	• May 2008
• Conduct non-native, invasive species removal in plots and monitor removal effectiveness monthly	• June 2008 through September 2009
• Conduct summer volunteer invasive removal "pulling parties" minimum two/yr, outside treatment plot locations	• Summer 2008
• Present findings of non-native invasive species experiment results to California Invasive Plant Council	• Fall 2009
Creek Restoration:	
• Conduct site assessment information for each restoration site prior to initiating restoration activities	• May 2008
• Initiate restoration of DeChambeau Ponds OHV trespass rehabilitation and collect appropriate restoration data	• May through September 2008
• Initiate restoration of Mono Craters and collect appropriate restoration data	• May through September 2008
• Identify 2009 restoration projects	• May through September 2008
• Compile and analyze restoration data	•October 2008
OHV Monitoring and Reporting:	
• Assist with patrolling and monitoring for resource damage from OHV impacts around Mono Lake, Mono Craters, DeChambeau Ponds, and Sierra tributary creeks and other off-site OHV areas	• April 2008 through October 2009
• Post and block off illegal access areas, improve directional and regulatory signage, rehabilitate illegal use areas	• April 2008 through October 2009
• Conduct restoration and monitoring activities at Mono Lake, Mono Craters, DeChambeau Ponds, and Sierra tributary creeks and other off-site OHV	• May 2008 through October 2009
• Conduct outreach to dispersed recreational users— describing appropriate recreational use, resource concerns, and natural history interpretation	• May 2008 through October 2009
Air Quality Site Management Monitoring:	
• Retrieve air quality data retrieval from IMPROVE air quality monitoring station on Conway Summit, weekly	• May 2008 through December 2009
• Compile and submit data compilation to Forest Service and University of California, Davis every three weeks for EPA analysis	• May 2008 through December 2009
Reporting:	
• Complete bi-annual and annual comprehensive monitoring reports and submit to SNC & Forest Service. Reports will include the results of the data analyses for air quality, water quality, creek flow, vegetation monitoring, invasive species control and restoration activities.	• October 2008, April 2009, & October 2009
• Report on recreational contacts, use trends, accomplishments and future needs	• December 2008 & 2009
Education:	
Bird Chautauqua event Assist with coordinating	June 2008
Educational stewardship projects • Plan and coordinate 1 to 2 projects with local, visiting, and/or MLC Outdoor Experiences students each year including: • Jeffrey pine planting along Rush or Lee Vining Creek spring 2008 • Invasive plant control at appropriate sites Identify education project to be implemented in 2009	• May 2008 through December 2009 • September through December 2008
Final report/final payment request	**April 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Invasive species control	$6,400
Restoration	$7,200
Public education, interpretation	$5,400
Supplies and Equipment	
Incidental supplies and Equipment	$5,000
Vehicle (surplus FS pick-up) and fuel	$24,000
Staff	
Water monitoring/Air monitoring (staff salaries)	$38,400
Training	$1,500
Administration	$8,200
Grand Total	**$96,100**

Letters of Support:

- Inyo Forest Service
- Friends of the Inyo
- California Resources Agency

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested $96,100.

2. Project Summary – Mono Basin Resource Stewardship

This project proposed by the Mono Lake Committee (MLC), in partnership with Friends of the Inyo (FOI), and the Inyo National Forest (USFS), is focused on resource stewardship, with a focus on restoration, monitoring, and interpretation and visitor services in the Mono Basin. The project property is USFS land in the Mono Basin, mostly within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

The project area spans the USFS land in the Basin, and includes the following specific components:

- Creek flow and piezometer monitoring, both surface and subsurface flows
- Water Quality Monitoring sites established on Lee Vining Creek
- Invasive plant monitoring and control along riparian corridors and lakeshore
- Creek restoration; campsite and motorized route delineation on Parker Creek, native tree planting on Rush Creek
- Off-route off-highway vehicle (OHV) use monitoring, education, and restoration
- Resource monitoring and interpretation
- Assistance with the annual Mono Basin Bird Chatauqua event
- Educational stewardship projects with local and visiting school and community groups
- Management of the Conway Summit Air Quality Station
- Wildlife habitat restoration ongoing at the DeChambeau Ponds

These projects will all aid the recovery of the Mono Lake ecosystem, which has been gaining momentum as of 1994 with the State Water Board ordered rise in the lake level and mandated restoration. The projects above illustrate the broad resource needs in the Mono Basin. Located at the eastern gateway to Yosemite National Park, annual visitation to the Mono Basin is over 250,000 people and expected to rise. Increasing impacts from visitors and recreational users make these resource restoration and monitoring needs even more apparent.

Committed funds include $7,000 annually for the weekly management of the Conway Summit Air Quality Station, and $3,000 annually for restoration ongoing at the DeChambeau Ponds from USFS. In-kind services include housing provided by USFS ($6,000); oversight of the 3 monitoring sites on Lee Vining Creek from the Eastern Sierra Water Watchers program ($3,000 annually); and volunteers' time ($14,700 annually). MLC, FOI, and USFS will provide tools, supplies, and other equipment ($5,000 annually).

The total Grant Request from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is $96,100.

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: INYO**

Applicant: **INYO COUNTY**

Project Title: **LOWER OWENS RIVER PROJECT RECREATIONAL USE PLAN**

Reference Number: **SNC 070321**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project is the first phase in developing a Recreational Use Plan for the Lower Owens River Project (LORP), one of the largest river restoration efforts in the United States. Developing a Recreational Use Plan will provide a mechanism to comprehensively identify possible recreational uses and to evaluate them in relation to:

- Environmental objectives to protect the river and the surrounding natural resources;
- Community concerns that cultural resources and working landscapes be protected;
- Feasibility of implementation and maintenance of new programs and uses.

Phase I of this project will result in the completion of a draft Recreational Use Plan.

Steps necessary to accomplish Phase I include:

- Hiring a facilitator and plan writer;
- Preparing a Memorandum of Understanding for relevant parties to sign;
- Conducting stakeholder interviews to get input on recreational uses, impact concerns, and management questions;
- Conducting two technical review meetings to discuss recreational uses, integration of uses into management plans, and resource protection;
- Holding public workshops, stakeholder meetings/presentations to disseminate and discuss information gathered in stakeholder interviews and technical review meetings;
- Preparing a draft Recreational Use Plan that will include potential recreation uses on the LORP, possible enhancement to current recreation uses, identification of potential adverse impacts, and management requirements for recreation uses.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Hire a facilitator and plan writer	April- May 2008
Develop and sign MOUs	June 2008
Stakeholder interviews	July - September -2008
Technical review meetings	August & October 2008
Public workshops, stakeholder meetings/presentations	August – October 2008
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Preparing draft plan	November 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**January 30, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Consultants (facilitator & plan writer, travel, lodging, mileage, per diem)	$94,350
Printing & Postage	1,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$95,350**

Letters of Support:

- The Conservation Fund
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Independence Chamber of Commerce
- Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the revised amount of $95,350. This request has been reduced from the original request of $202,059 in order for this phase to proceed in this funding year given available funds.

2. PROEJCT SUMMARY

The County of Inyo is applying for a Proposition 84 Category 3 Strategic Opportunity Grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the purpose of hiring consultants to assist in developing a Recreational Use Plan for the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). The Lower Owens River Project is the largest river restoration effort ever attempted in the western United States. The cost of the LORP Recreational Use Plan Project is $246,153.

The Project consulting team will consist of a highly skilled facilitator and a writer with experience preparing recreation and access planning documents. The LORP has a long and complex history, and it is essential that the Project consultants be familiar with the constellation of agreements, court orders, environmental documents (including several resource management plans), and County planning documents (e.g., the County General Plan, Inyo County Bicycle Plan, etc.) that will directly or indirectly govern the recreational uses that can be considered in the LORP project area.

The Project consultants will conduct up to 60 individual and confidential interviews with stakeholders identified by the County and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), as well as self-selected from the general public. Based on these stakeholder interviews, the consultants will prepare an "Issues Report" that identifies and weights issues pertaining to recreational uses on the LORP.

A series of facilitated Public Workshops will be held in communities neighboring the LORP project area, to gather input regarding recreational uses on the LORP and review and comment on drafts of the LORP Recreational Use Plan. The consultants will need to balance diverse community interests and opinions on recreational uses on the LORP within a highly complex and structured legal framework governing maintenance of the LORP. The facilitated Public Workshops will be interspersed with meetings between the consultants and the stakeholder group (these meetings will also be open to the public) to share findings and ideas, as well as meetings between the consultants and staff from the County and LADWP to discuss technical issues. Ultimately, both the County Board of Supervisors and LADWP Board of Water and Power Commissioners must approve the Recreational Use Plan.

The consultants will develop the final Recreational Use Plan that potentially will include the following components:

- Identification of likely or potential recreational uses on the LORP
- Possible enhancements to recreational opportunities on the LORP
- Identification of potential adverse impacts of recreational uses
- Potential mitigations for adverse impacts
- Management requirements for LORP recreational uses

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

Subregion: **EAST** **County: INYO**

Applicant: **INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

Project Title: **SOUTH FORK BISHOP CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070322**

PROJECT SCOPE

The restoration project will realign a section of the Bishop Pass Trail, a hiking and equestrian trail in the John Muir Wilderness, around an active rock fall area to reduce soil erosion. The project will also relocate and reconstruct trails, between Bull and Chocolate Lakes and near Ruwau Lake, to protect creek crossings, sensitive riparian areas, and lakeshore, as well as, revegetate riparian areas along Bishop Creek. Th project is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Forest Service, Friends of the Inyo, Nevada Conservation Corp, Eastern Sierra Packing Association, and the Rainbow Pack Station and includes matching funds and in-kind services totaling $25,600.

Steps to accomplish this project include:

- Develop contracts and hire trail crew members;
- Establish photo points and photograph pre and post-project conditions to include in final report;
- Develop design plans for trail improvements near Bull, Chocolate, and Ruwau Lakes;
- Construct trail improvements near the lakes;
- Revegetate specific sites;
- Mark trail to re-route Bishop Pass trail users;
- Construct a realignment of several hundred yards of Bishop Pass Trail.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop contracts and hire trail crew members	July 2008
Establish photo points and photograph pre and post project conditions to include with final report	June 2008 & October 2008
Develop design plans for trail improvements near the lakes	August 2008
Construct trail improvements	July - August 2008
Revegetate specific sites	Mid September 2008
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Mark trail to re- route trail users	July 2008
Complete Bishop Pass re-route	July – September 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**January 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Inyo Forest Trail Crew member stipends	$48,000
Nevada Conservation Corp and AmeriCorp member stipends	24,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$72,000**

Letters of Support:
None submitted

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested $72,000.

South Fork Bishop Creek Watershed Protection and Restoration
Strategic Opportunity Grant (Category 1) Proposal by the Inyo National Forest

(SNC 070322)

2. Project Summary

The Inyo National Forest proposes a watershed protection and restoration project for portions of the Bishop Creek watershed within the John Muir Wilderness. The project area is administered by the White Mountain Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest. The grant funds will be expended on the salaries of a backcountry restoration crew and on a cost reimbursable agreement with the Nevada Conservation Corps. The project area is within the Upper Owens Hydrologic Area of the Owens Hydrologic Unit (HU No. 603.20). Water from the project area flows into South Lake. The beneficial uses identified for South Lake by the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region include: municipal and domestic supply; water contact recreation; noncontact water recreation; commercial and sport fishing; warm freshwater habitat; cold freshwater habitat; and wildlife habitat.

Project Strategic Opportunities and Outcomes:

- Protect alpine habitat and the beneficial uses for the water flowing into South Lake.
- Reopen the Bishop Pass trail to allow the public access to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park via an important trail route through the Inyo National Forest. A section of trail was buried by rock slide during the summer of 2007.
- Assist the regional economy by reestablishing one of the important wilderness access trails in the eastern Sierra.

Watershed projection and restoration work includes:

- Realign a several hundred yard section of the Bishop Pass Trail around an area covered by rockslides during the summer of 2007. Project work will establish an alignment that is no longer susceptible to rockfall and reduces soil erosion. This project has the additional benefit of contributing the the SNC program goals related to tourism on public lands. This trail is the second most traveled route into Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, and is of vital importance for public access to the park from the east side of the Sierra Nevada.
- Protect and restore 1/2 mile of stream and associated 20 acres of adjacent riparian areas between Bull and Chocolate Lakes. The Forest Service system trail through the area will be relocated or reconstructed to protect creek crossings, sensitive riparian areas and lakeshores from trail-related erosion.
- Protect a meadow and slopes below Ruwau Lake from erosion related to hiking trails.

Partnerships:

The project will be completed through a partnership between the Forest Service and Friends of the Inyo, Nevada Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, and Eastern Sierra Packing Association.

Project Cost

Category	Cost	Description
SNC grant amount requested	$72,000	Restoration crew & Nevada Conservation Corps cost reimbursable agreement
Forest Service and partner contributions	$25,600	Forest Service non-cash contributions; partner in-kind and non-cash contributions

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

Subregion: **EAST** **Counties: INYO AND MONO**

Applicant: **MONO COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Project Title: **INYO AND MONO COUNTY'S COMMUNITY BASED LAND TENURE PLANNING**

Reference Number: **SNC 070327**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project is to conduct education and visioning in Inyo and Mono counties to identify land tenure adjustment opportunities that best balance community needs, private property rights, land agency missions, and protection of critical land and water resources. Maintaining the integrity of riparian resources in this area, where such habitat is comparatively rare, is critical for many plant, fish, and wildlife species. The Owens River Watershed provides water to California's largest municipality, the City of Los Angeles. This educational and visioning project is supported through funds and in-kind donations from Mono County, Inyo County, Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Sierra Business Council in the amount of $31,000. A grassroots community group, CAL-Exchange, has formed to support and encourage this effort. The group consists of business persons, developers, environmentalists, and community activists.

The project will include:

- Preparation of project action plan and visioning workshop's schedule and agendas;
- Community outreach and education workshops to teach participants about existing landownership status; land agency management policies related to exchanges, trades, and sales; agency constraints; land exchange; and acquisition opportunities;
- Eight visioning workshops to elicit input from participants on their ideas related to land use, community expansion, economic development, and protection of natural resources held throughout the region;
- Preparation of draft report including input from the education workshops and visioning workshops;
- Presentations (4) to County Supervisors and land agencies;
- Preparation of final report incorporating feedback from County Supervisors and relevant land agencies.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project action plan and visioning workshops - develop schedule, agendas, maps, photos, presentations, press releases, outreach flyers and posters	April – June 2008
Community outreach and education workshops and visioning workshops (8)	July 2008 - June 2009
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Complete and submit 12 month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Preparation of draft report with presentations (4) to County Supervisors and land agencies	July 2009 - January 2010
Complete and submit 18 month progress report to SNC	October 2009

Preparation of final report based on Supervisor and land agencies feedback	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Planning	$9,000
Educational outreach	24,000
Visioning workshops	81,000
Draft and final reports preparation	23,000
Administrative fees	20,550
GRAND TOTAL	**$157,550**

Letters of Support:

- Sierra Business Council
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested $157,500.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: Inyo and Mono Counties Community-Based Land Tenure Planning

With almost 97% of the land base in Inyo and Mono counties owned by the federal government and City of Los Angeles, there is a distinct lack of private land within and adjacent to existing communities available for community expansion and sustainability. As growth demands increase, many isolated private parcels are being proposed for residential subdivision. Development of the these isolated parcels may be at odds with both counties' general plans and citizen desire to encourage growth adjacent to existing communities. Creating new subdivisions on these isolated parcels can also result in significant new demands for county services and infrastructure. These new developments can impact key wildlife habitat, compromise scenic values, and impair water quality and quantity. Additional groundwater pumping to provide water to these isolated subdivisions has the potential to impact aquifers and dependent ecosystems. The City of Los Angeles already diverts a significant amount of the surface and groundwater from the region.

In 2005, the Owens Valley Interagency Committee chartered a subcommittee to explore coordinating land ownership adjustment planning to meet both land agency and community expansion goals, as much as possible. The standing subcommittee consists of representatives from Inyo and Mono Counties, CA Department of Fish and Game, LADWP, City of Bishop, BLM, and the U.S. Forest Service. The subcommittee developed the Eastern Sierra Land Tenure Project to achieve the following: inventory all land agency potential disposal properties and make accessible on-line (http://gis.mono.ca.gov/LandTenure/Index.htm); widely disseminate database and information pertaining to land disposal policies, constraints, and opportunities; conduct community workshops to identify and prioritize areas and key land parcels desired by communities for expansion; and encourage all land agencies to use the inventory and community input to facilitate mutually beneficial land disposals and institutionalize policies to guide future land tenure adjustment in the region.

Inyo and Mono counties submit this SOG3 to fund completion of the Land Tenure project described above. $157,550 in grant funds are requested to enable the counties and land agencies to contract with the Sierra Business Council and other qualified consultants to educate local residents and interested public about agency land policies and opportunities for expansion (expanding on an existing database and other information); seek community consensus on the desire for community expansion or not; and identify specific expansion needs and appropriate locations by conducting community visioning workshops in 8 or more east-side communities; and prepare and present summary workshop findings and recommendations, identifying short and long term land adjustment opportunities alternatives to the various land agencies.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **Counties: TULARE AND FRESNO**

Applicant: **SEQUOIA PARKS FOUNDATION**

Project Title: **RANGERS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Reference Number: **SNC 070123**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will develop model curriculum and activities to address the topics of watersheds, air quality, and global climate change focused on the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Full implementation of the program will involve up to 22,500 students and 300 teachers annually in hands-on, experiential learning in Tulare and Fresno counties. This project is a collaborative effort of public/private partners to educate youth on the importance of protection and conservation of the diverse Sierra Nevada resources. While over $60,000 in matching funds and in-kind services have been donated to this project to date by the Mt. Whitney Society, Whole Foods Market, the Monsanto Fund, and the National Park Services, it is anticipated that an additional $300,000 will be received in 2008-09.

The goals of the overall program are:

- Beginning conversations with students in strategic Central California communities about protecting, valuing, and conserving Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks;
- Building intellectual capital through environmental education in Central California's underserved schools and communities;
- Motivating students and their communities to steward Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as well as natural sites in their own communities.

SNC funding will be utilized to:

- Produce curriculum;
- Produce "Traveling Trunks" of visual aids and other materials for in classroom use by Park Rangers;
- Facilitate teacher workshops;
- Employ two seasonal Park Rangers to conduct educational outreach;
- Facilitate curriculum review and testing through observation, analysis, and evaluation;
- Complete and submit six month progress reports to SNC;
- Assist with transportation costs;
- Conduct a survey to gauge impact of project on knowledge and skills of participating teachers.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Employ program planner to facilitate curriculum review and testing	April 2008- April 2009
Produce curriculum and "Traveling Trunks"	April 2008 – June 2008
Conduct teacher workshops	June 2008 – September 2008
Employ park rangers to conduct educational outreach	June 2008 - August 2008
Complete and submit six month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Conduct teacher workshops	June 2009 – September 2009
Employ park rangers to conduct educational outreach	June 2009 - August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Curriculum and Traveling Trunks production	$14,000
Teacher workshops	4,500
2 Seasonal Park Rangers	29,500
Facilitate curriculum review & testing (Program Planner)	11,000
Transportation	6,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$65,000**

Letters of Support:

None submitted

Recommendation:

Staff recommends authorization for this grant for the requested $65,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: RANGERS IN THE CLASSROOM: Engaging a New Generation of Sierra Nevada Stewards

The Sequoia Parks Foundation is seeking a Category 2 Strategic Opportunity Grant in the amount of $45,000 in support of Phase II & III implementation of "Rangers in the Classroom" (RITC), a multi-year environmental advocacy and educational outreach pilot program.

Through RITC, Park Rangers will visit Central Valley elementary schools, engaging students in standards-based activities that will increase their understanding of the Parks and the environmental ethic needed to preserve and protect the numerous lakes and rivers and their watersheds, associated lands, and other natural resources in this important area of the Sierra Nevada Region. RITC will focus on schools with high numbers of English-language learners and low-income students in Tulare and Fresno Counties. Planning for this new program began January 2007, with a goal to test it in select schools beginning in fall 2007, followed by phased implementation in 2008-2009. The total cost of the program is $397,550. To date, RITC has received wide appeal and support from a broad base of program partners, stakeholders, and funders.

RITC will utilize best practices in environmental education, while serving as a model program designed specifically to meet the unique needs of Sierra Nevada communities. Exceptionally forward-thinking, RITC responds to a nexus of issues including:

- The need of youth and families, many of whom are newly arrived to the U.S. and have little understanding of national parks, to embrace the concept of shared public lands in order to best enjoy and protect Sequoia and Kings Canyon.
- The need of schools--especially those serving English-language learners and low-income students--for standards-based curriculum that connects in-class learning to out-of-class experiences in real and meaningful ways in an effort to strengthen the social and economic well-being of Sierra Nevada communities.
- The need of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and their surrounding communities, in the face of increasingly grave threats posed by a declining water supply, poor air quality, and global climate change, for an engaged and empowered constituency committed to addressing these problems.

Sequoia Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, raises funds to support much-needed projects and programs in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks—which receive over 1.5 million visitors annually. With support from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, RITC will reach and engage an underserved constituency, creating a new generation of Park supporters--and environmental stewards of the greater Sierra Nevada Region.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **County: TULARE**

Applicant: **TULARE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING**

Project Title: **TULE RIVER SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Reference Number: SNC 070230

PROJECT SCOPE

This site improvement project will decrease river and associated land pollution on 35 acres, along ten miles of the Tule River, near the community of Springville. The litter associated with heavy visitor use is found along the north and middle forks of the Tule River and has resulted in water quality and habitat degradation. This restoration project is a collaborative effort of CSET, the U.S. Forest Service, and the non-profit organization WildPlaces. The project has matching funds and in-kind services from U.S. Forest Service and the applicant, CSET, totaling $252,959.

The activities in this project include:

- Implementing a permanent recycling collection area;
- Conducting volunteer river clean-up days;
- Sponsoring and participating in public education events;
- Recruiting and training volunteers to conduct outreach to diverse groups of visitors and residences and creating bilingual recruitment tools;
- Completing 6 month progress reports to SNC.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Purchase receptacles for recyclable materials collection	April 2008
Initiate development of all publications	May 2008
Keep America Beautiful – Great American Clean Up	July 2008
Organize and set materials collection schedules	August 2008
Local community event booths at Tulare County Fair and International Agriculture Show	September 2008
Public Lands Day Event	September 2008
Deliver and setup recycling materials collection area	October 2008
Finalize all publications and make available for distribution	October 2008
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Ribbon Cutting for new recycling collection site	November 2008
Weekly collection of recyclables	November 2008 – April 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Earth Day Event	April 2009
Educational flyers (5000) to businesses and residents	April 2009 – September 2009
Local community event booths at Tulare County Fair and International Agriculture Show	September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Weekly collection of recyclables	November 2009 – April 2010
Determine if permanent recycling bins are needed at alternate sites	April 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Forest Service Coordinator's salary to lead volunteer cleanup days	$17,000
Coordinator's salary to develop, print and disseminate marketing materials, develop and print educational materials, coordinate large clean up events and recruit volunteers, develop and schedule media	$40,000
Permanent recycling collection center equipment	$10,000
Gas Mileage for collection and transport	$5,959
Weekly pick-up fees for recycling materials	$19,040
Direct administrative expenses (8%)	$8000
GRAND TOTAL	**$99,999**

Letters of Support:
None submitted

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested amount of $99,999.

2. Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

The Tule River Site Improvement project will improve the health of the Tule River watershed through innovative solutions designed by Community Services & Employment Training (CSET), a local conservation corps, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and WildPlaces. These partners have collaborated to bring to bear their distinct expertise and resources to decrease river and associated land pollution through clean ups, permanent recycling options, graffiti mapping and education. Both WildPlaces and the Tulare County Youth Corps (TCYC) are experienced in providing experiential learning opportunities and job training. Their expertise will benefit this project by teaching corpsmembers to map graffiti along the river using GIS technology, while weaving in gang prevention strategies. Routine clean ups and reliable opportunities for recycling will reduce trash and contamination of the river. Education that targets the specific needs of the river's diverse users will mobilize stakeholders and garner the community support needed to sustain the enhancements achieved by this project. All elements of this project will be easily adaptable and replicable to other forests and agencies resulting in long-term benefits.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **County: TULARE**

Applicant: **SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST**

Project Title: **VISITOR ACCESS AND OUTDOOR EDUCTION PLNA FOR BLUE OAK RANCH PRESERVE**

Reference Number: **SNC 070269**

PROJECT SCOPE

Sequoia Riverlands Trust will develop and produce interpretative and educational materials for a preserve in Tulare County. Specifically, the Trust will:

- Conduct resource assessments to determine the prevalence of important biological, aquatic, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted or avoided by visitors;
- Develop a plan and partnership for providing outdoor education programs in cooperation with the Tulare County Office of Education's School of Science and Conservation (SCICON) Campus, which is adjacent to the site;
- Develop and produce a visitor access plan for the Blue Oak Ranch preserve, including:
    - Identify appropriate activities
    - Assess amenities and define additional needs
    - Develop and produce signage and interpretative materials
    - Define management methods for access and liability.

Upon completion of this planning effort the Blue Oak Ranch Preserve will be open to the public.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate resource inventory at both preserves	April 2008 – July 2008
Develop baseline plan to be populated with inventory data	July 2008 – August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	September 2008
Conduct stakeholder meetings to determine essential components	September 2008 – November 2008
Initiate conversations with interested educational institutions	November 2008
Compile and finalize resource inventory data	November 2008 – February 2009
Complete and submit twelve month progress report to SNC	March 2009
Define level of participation from interested educational institutions	April 2009
Solicit feedback on concepts for visitor guide	April 2009 – June 2009
Finalize visitor guide and signage components and reproduce	June 2009 – August 2009
Complete eighteen month progress report and submit to SNC	September 2009
Finalize resource inventory and make available for public input	October 2009 – February 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Oversight, stakeholder meetings and visitor plan preparation	$12,830
Resource Inventory	$ 7,995
Development of partnership and coordination plan with SCICON Campus	$ 1,643
GRAND TOTAL	**$22,468**

Letters of Support:

- Tulare County Board of Supervisors District One

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at $22,468. Amount was reduced from $24,465 to remove the small site-improvement component of this planning project.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070269 Blue Oak Ranch Visitor Access and Outdor Education Plan) SNC Grant Program: SOG 2
Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust [www.sequoiariverlands.org] Visalia, CA
Title: Develop Visitor Access Plan for Blue Oak Ranch Preserve
Location: North Fork Tule River drainage, Tulare County
Contact: Dan Bell, Associate Director
Phone: (559) 738-0211 Email: dan@sequoiariverlands.org

Proposal: SRT is the primary land trust working in the southern Sierras with a sphere of influence that stretches from Kern to Fresno counties. SRT works to conserve the southern Sierra Nevada's natural and agricultural legacy. SRT owns and manages more than 4500 acres, with an additional 2500 acres protected under conservation easements. Where appropriate and managed, SRT provides public access and outdoor education programs on its nature preserves.

SRT requests that SNC fund a public access and interpretive education plan, along with limited improvements, for SRT's Blue Oak Ranch (BOR) Preserve. BOR comprises 928 acres of streamside forest and blue oak woodland. BOR is adjacent to Tulare County's SCICON facility- an outdoor science and conservation campus that reaches nearly 10,000 6th graders per year. Lack of appropriate planning and infrastructure currently make SRT's only Tule River watershed preserve unavailable for public recreation. A Visitor Access Plan would initiate SRT's development of compatible recreational access at BOR. Specific activities include:

* Identification of important aquatic, biological, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted or avoided by visitors
* Preparation of Visitor Access Plan (including recommendations for appropriate activities, amenities, signage, interpretive materials, managing access and liability)
* Develop recommendations to coordinate programs and provide access to Tulare County 6th grade students at SCICON campus
* Repair public access boardwalk overlooking pond and riparian areas

The proposal furthers SNC's Strategic and Program Goals of: (1) promoting private creation of recreational use on private land; (2) providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; (3) protecting the resources; and (4) improving water quality.

This activity is consistent with SNC's Education and Communications Plan by supporting education programs that promote the importance of working landscapes and stewardship of natural resources.

TOTAL SNC REQUEST: $24,465

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **County: TULARE**

Applicant: **SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST**

Project Title: **VISITOR ACCESS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION PLANS FOR DRY CREEK AND HOMER RANCH**

Reference Number: **SNC 070270**

PROJECT SCOPE

Sequoia Riverlands Trust will develop and produce interpretative and educational materials for two preserves in Tulare County. Specifically, the Trust will:

- Conduct resource assessments to determine the prevalence of important biological, aquatic, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted or avoided by visitors;
- Develop a plan and partnerships for providing outdoor education programs at both preserves;
- Develop and produce a visitor access plan for both preserves including:
    - Identify appropriate activities
    - Assess amenities and define additional needs
    - Develop and produce signage and interpretative materials
    - Define management methods for access and liability
- Produce a bilingual visitors' guide covering both preserves.

Upon completion of this planning effort, both the Homer Ranch and Dry Creek preserves will be open to the public.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate resource inventory at both preserves	April 2008
Develop baseline plan to be populated with inventory data	May 2008
Conduct stakeholder meetings to determine essential components	June 2008
Initiate conversations with interested educational institutions	July 2008
Initiate development of bilingual visitor guide and signage	August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Compile and finalize resource inventory data	October 2008 – November 2008
Define level of participation from interested educational institutions	December 2008
Solicit feedback on concepts for visitor guide at both preserves	January 2009 – February 2009
Complete and submit twelve month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Finalize visitor guide and signage components and produce	April 2009 – May 2009
Finalize resource inventory and make available for public input	June 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**August 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Oversight, stakeholder meetings and plan preparation	$12,405
Resource Inventory	$ 6,630
Development of partnerships with educational institutions	$ 5,640
Visitor Guide for Dry Creek and Homer Ranch Preserves	$21,076

GRAND TOTAL	**$45,751**

Letters of Support:

- Tulare County Supervisor District One

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at requested amount of $45,751.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070270 Visitor Access and Outdoor Educaton Plan and Visitor Guide for Homer Ranch and Dry Creek Preserves) SNC Grant Program: SOG 2
Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust [www.sequoiariverlands.org] Visalia, CA
Title: Visitor Access / Outdoor Ed Plan and Visitor Guide
Location: Dry Creek & Homer Ranch Preserves, Tulare County
Contact: Dan Bell, Associate Director
Phone: (559) 738-0211 Email: dan@sequoiariverlands.org

Proposal: SRT is the primary land trust working in the southern Sierras with a sphere of influence that stretches from Kern to Fresno counties. SRT works to conserve the southern Sierra Nevada's natural and agricultural legacy. SRT owns and manages more than 4500 acres, with an additional 2500 acres protected under conservation easements. Where appropriate and managed, SRT seeks to provide public access and outdoor education programs on its nature preserves.

SRT requests that SNC fund visitor access and outdoor education planning, and production of bilingual visitor guide at two SRT-owned preserves in northeast Tulare County. Dry Creek Preserve is a retired aggregate mine bisected by Dry Creek, a major tributary of the Kaweah River. Homer Ranch Preserve also lies along Dry Creek less than three miles to the north. Homer Ranch is an 1800-acre working cattle ranch which protects critical blue oak and sycamore alluvial woodlands.

Specific project activities include:

* Identification of important aquatic, biological, cultural and archaeological resources to be highlighted to visitors, or protected from visitor impacts, at Homer Ranch
* Preparation of a Visitor Access Plan for the entire Homer Ranch (including recommendations for appropriate activities, facilities, and access management)
* Development of a plan and partnerships for providing outdoor education programs (especially for young people) at both preserves
* Production of a bilingual visitors guide covering both preserves

The proposal furthers SNC's Strategic and Program Goals of: (1) promoting private creation of recreational use on private land; (2) providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; (3) facilitating and fostering good planning and education efforts and (4) promoting watershed-scale education.

This activity is consistent with SNC's Education and Communications Plan by supporting education programs that promote the importance of working landscapes and stewardship of natural resources.

TOTAL SNC REQUEST: $45,751

ADDITIONAL SECURED FUNDING: California River Parkways- $315,650

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **County: TULARE**

Applicant: **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING**

Project Title: **TULE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Reference Number: **SNC 070271**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will assist in the completion of environmental and heritage resource reviews to meet CEQA and or NEPA requirements for trail restoration, maintenance, graffiti abatement, and interpretive projects planned to be implemented along a 15 mile stretch of the Tule River near the community of Springville. This area provides wildlife habitat, municipal water, hydroelectric power, farm irrigation water, educational opportunities, and many recreational choices. Bilingual surveys will be conducted to evaluate public response for trail restoration, identify issues and concerns, and receive feedback to a proposed automated permit system. This project leverages the funds and in-kind services of the Forest Service, CSET, and the non-profit organization WildPlaces to prepare these reviews and conduct public surveys. Current donations and in-kind services total $200,994.

These reviews will lead to projects that will:

- Protect and conserve Native American archaeological resources during graffiti removal;
- Identify potential impacts to natural resources;
- Protect and enhance wildlife habitat during trail restoration;
- Improve watershed health with erosion control.

Steps to complete this project are:

- Posting reviews on archaeologist schedules;
- Conducting environmental and heritage resource reviews;
- Notifying the public and conducting public surveys;
- Surveying cultural resources;
- Evaluating documents and including feedback;
- Finalizing heritage and environmental resource reviews;
- Completing and submitting 6 month progress report to SNC.
-

This project will also complement the Forest Service's efforts to address growing management challenges of this heavily used area, specifically seeking feedback on a proposed automated permit system on land surrounding the Tule River Watershed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Post heritage resource review on archaeologist schedule	July 2008
Post environmental review on archaeologist schedule	July, 2008
Begin heritage and environmental reviews	August 2008
Public notification/public surveys	September 2008
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Survey cultural resources	November 2008
Evaluation documents	January 2009
Complete heritage and environmental reviews	February 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Heritage resource review	$75,000
Environmental review	50,000
Surveys, evaluations, public notifications	5,000
Administrative expenses	10,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$140,000**

Letters of Support:
None submitted.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested $140,000.

2. Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

The Tule River watershed education, conservation and restoration project is a long-term plan proposed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) in partnership with Community Services & Employment Training (CSET), the Tulare County Youth Corps (a certified local conservation corps) and WildPlaces. These partners have collaborated to bring to bear their distinct expertise and resources to restore and protect the Tule River. The USFS will provide trail restoration job opportunities to CSET's Tulare County Youth Corps such as brush removal, tread maintenance, erosion control and graffiti removal. WildPlaces and CSET will provide educational opportunities and gang prevention strategies through media campaigns, interpretive signs, publications, events and outdoor education camps. The USFS is investigating and developing an automated cash system to support a permit system on adjacent surrounding lands within the Tule River watershed.

This Tule River Environmental Review Project proposal (Phase 2) is the catalyst for the Tule River watershed education, conservation and restoration project. *(Phase 1 is the Tule River Site Improvement Project proposed in the SNC competitive grant).* An environmental and heritage resource review is a required component prior to trail restoration, maintenance, graffiti abatement and the placement of interpretive signs. The United States Forest Service will hire an archaeologist to conduct a Heritage Resource Review, which will identify potential impacts to natural heritage resources (rare animals, rare plants, exemplary natural communities and significant geologic features). In addition, an environmental review to include wildlife and plant surveys will be conducted to ensure that the proposed work will not negatively impact the existing habitat.

The **Tule River Environmental Review Project** will culminate with improved health to the Tule River through the innovative solutions proposed by the partnership. These solutions include the restoration of 10 miles (30E29) of the popular Tule River Trail, which includes removal of brush, graffiti, and invasive species as well as placement of interpretive signs. Additionally, CSET will conduct bilingual surveys to evaluate general public response for trail restoration; identify issues, concerns and receive feedback to the proposed permit system solution; and create a template for electronic public notification.

Budget Summary

Anticipated Funding Committed	$ 83,319
In-Kind Services Committed	$117,675
SNC Grant Request	$140,000
Total	$340,994

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **County: TULARE**

Applicant: **TULE RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION**

Project Title: **TULE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070291**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will restore ten miles of riparian corridor along four creeks, and five acres of adjacent wetland and meadow in the Tule River watershed near Bear, Rocky, and Kessing Creeks. This project has matching funds and in-kind services totaling $22,000 from the Tule River Tribe.

The restoration project includes:

- Recruitment and hiring of seasonal staff, purchasing supplies and renting equipment;
- Assessment of damage to specific sites;
- Clean-up of marijuana cultivation waste materials located along riparian areas;
- Removal of access trails, leading to the marijuana cultivation areas, and illegal campsites;
- Installing temporary protective fencing around highly environmentally sensitive areas;
- Enhancing riparian and meadow areas with native plant revegetation;
- Testing water quality of tribe's primary water source and surveying revegetated sites;
- Establish photo-points at the project sites and maintain a record of before and after project photos;
- Provide progress reports to the Conservancy every six months for the project duration, and a final performance report on the project once completed.

This project will augment watershed and streambed improvements implemented by the Tribal Environmental Protection Agency Program.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish photo-points at project site and take pre-restoration photos	April 2008 – May 2008
Recruit and hire staff, purchase supplies, rent equipment, conduct site assessments	April 2008 – July 2008
Clean-up waste materials, remove illegal campsites and access trails, install temporary fencing along highly sensitive areas	July 2008- September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Revegetate riparian areas and wetland meadow	October 2008 – January 2009
Conduct water quality assessments and revegetated site assessments	January 2009 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Complete water quality assessments and revegetate site assessments	May 2009 – August 2009
Take post-restoration photographs for inclusion in the final report	September 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Ten seasonal staff stipends	$15,000
Contract for water testing, surveillance, crew supervisor	40,000
Supplies (field tools, protective gear, GPS unit, fuel)	15,500
Equipment rental (ATV & trailer)	15,000
Administrative fee	8,276

GRAND TOTAL	**$93,776**

Letters of Support:

- Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Porterville Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested $93,776.

Tule River Watershed Restoration Project

2. Project Summary

The Tule River Watershed Restoration Project, initiated by the Tule River Tribal Council in partnership with the tribe's environmental program, Tribal Dept of Public Safety, the Tulare County Sheriffs Dept., the Tule River Natural Resources Program, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, proposes to restore approximately 5 acres of riparian watershed and wetland areas and approximately 10 miles of waterways, which comprise the greater Tule River watershed of the Tule River Indian Reservation. The property is located within the Tule River Indian Reservation and is managed by the Tule River Tribal Council since its inception in 1873. The Reservation consists of approximately 56,000 acres.

Since 2003, the Sequoia National Forest has seen a major increase in marijuana plantations run by Mexican traffickers. As a result of investigative efforts involving the Tulare and Kern County Sheriffs Department, and the U.S. Forest Service, numerous arrests have been made, including mid to upper level Cartel members. In November, 2004, Gerardo Arreola, Florin Arreola Avalos, and Hilario Villasenor, three upper level members of a major drug organization, were convicted and sentenced to prison terms for their involvement in cultivation on the Greenhorn Ranger District.

In 2004, there 153,889 plants removed from the Sequoia National Forest, making the SNF "number one" in the nation for marijuana cultivation.

To date, approximately $60 million dollars of large marijuana cultivation operations, consisting of growing materials, plants have been discovered and shut down by the Tulare County Sheriffs Department; furthermore, there is documented evidence that major methamphetamine production operations exist in clandestine locations on the Tule River Indian Reservation. The discovery, eradication and convictions of persons responsible for developing large marijuana operations on the Reservation have been positive. However, following the eradication of the marijuana plants, and subsequent arrests, several tons of trash associated with marijuana cultivation in remote areas of the Reservation, are left unmitigated. Materials that have been abandoned include: pesticides, fertilizers, plastic, irrigation pipe, opened and unopened cans of food, and camping gear. These items, when left behind, impose a serious threat to water quality in forest creeks, which flow downstream into the larger river. In addition, irrigation pipe, if left unattended remains to be used by illegal growers who return the next year to engage in illegal growing activities.

The project is a collaborative effort utilizing professional staff from the tribe's Natural Resources Program, Environmental Program, applicable US Forest Service personnel (may include biologists, archeologists, Hot Shot Crews) and law enforcement staff.

This project also complements the tribal EPA and Natural Resources programs, which function to safeguard watershed and forested areas through best-management principles by implementing restoration activities aimed at specific problem areas. Finally, this

project will enhance recreation activities of these areas due to the presence of illegal trespassers.

Restoration activities include:
(1) Assessments of damage to specific site(s); (2) Photo documentation, including GPS/GIS map layering of specific materials, chemicals left at site(s); (3) Removal and transfer of materials away from the site(s); (4) Water quality and soil testing of waters and soils affected by the abandoned waste materials; (5) Revegetation of marijuana-operations impacts in the meadows and wetlands with native plant species; and (6) Removal of access trails leading to these areas;

The Tule River Watershed Restoration Project total cost is $115,776. The Tribe has contributed $22,000 through in-kind services through EPA, BIA and NRCS.

Authorization to Apply or Resolution (Reference to attached)

A. Land and Water Benefits
The Tule River Tribe is currently planning a comprehensive water supply enhancement project on the Reservation to solve current water supply deficiencies and to provide water for future development. The tribe's existing water supply relies on various springs within the Tule River watershed. Various investigations of the tribe's water resources have been performed and as a result the South Fork of the Tule River and its tributaries have been identified as the most likely source of water for existing and future development on the Reservation. These existing and future needs include domestic use, commercial enterprises, tribal administration buildings, health center, and irrigation.

The tribe has an immediate and ongoing need to develop additional water supplies for the reservation. After exploring the nature and extent of both its surface and ground water resources, the Tribe has identified the South Fork of the Tule River and its tributaries as the best source of available water and the Tribe has decided to develop this resource.

Prior to developing this water resource, the Tribe has undertaken measures, largely through its EPA program, to monitor all surface and ground water for water quality. Now, with the advent of unexpected illegal marijuana cultivation in the high mountain areas of the Reservation, and the impact on the watershed areas and subsequent surface water, the tribe is moving forward to mitigate affected watershed areas through clean up and restoration.

The proposed project will significantly augment watershed and streambed improvements undertaken by the tribal EPA program and the Natural Resources Program within the watershed. The overall result of the project will be approximately 10.miles of Pigeon Creek, Rocky Creek, Kessing Creek, and Bear Creek, respectively, being restored to historic beneficial uses.

During restoration, "best management practices" will be followed regarding the elimination of abandoned waste materials and chemicals and mitigation of adverse

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
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Subregion: **SOUTH** **Counties: FRESNO AND TULARE**

Applicant: **YOSEMITE SEQUOIA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Project Title: **AGRI-NATURE TOURISM SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOPS**

Reference Number: **SNC 070310**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council will build upon the successes of similar efforts across California relative to the establishment of agri-nature tourism venues on existing working landscapes. By empowering landowners to retain ownership of their property, development is curbed resulting in widespread watershed protection. Specifically, the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council will:

- Build upon recent efforts to host these workshops within an expanded geographic range, namely Fresno and Tulare Counties;
- Conduct outreach to potential participants;
- Schedule workshops, acquire venues, and secure subject-matter professionals to present;
- Provide reasonable accommodation for professionals presenting to workshop audiences;
- Provide materials for a series of agri-nature tourism workshops for interested farmers, landowners, and entrepreneurs;
- Provide additional business planning assistance after the workshops have been conducted in collaboration with the Small Business Development Center;
- Develop and reproduce workshop material for workshops in Fresno and Tulare Counties;
- Provide a staff position and salary for a Volunteer In Service to America (VISTA) volunteer to assist in the coordination and implementation of the workshops.

The Council will ensure participants understand the benefits of land preservation to watershed health, and will encourage participants, where possible, to incorporate a watershed stewardship component into the overall business plan as a result of these workshops.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate outreach to potential participants	April 2008
Schedule workshops and secure venues	May 2008 – August 2008
Schedule presenters for workshops	May 2008 – August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Develop and reproduce workshop materials	September 2008 – January 2009
Host workshop in Fresno County	February 2009
Host workshop in Tulare County	March 2009
Conduct a survey of participants to gauge effectiveness of workshops	February 2009 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Conduct business development follow-up assistance as needed	April 2009 – September 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Business Counseling Services	$10,000
VISTA Program Costs	$3,000
Presenter Fees	$2,000
Presenter Travel	$2,000
Administration	$2,000
Volunteer and Staff Travel	$250
Workshop Materials	$750
GRAND TOTAL	**$20,000**

Letters of Support:

- None Submitted

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at requested amount of $49,999

Project Summary
Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant, Category II
Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D
Agri-Nature Tourism Workshops & Participant Support, Tulare & Fresno Counties

With one of the greatest threats to watershed protection being the possibility of development on working and natural landscapes, the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council will be holding a series of six workshops in the Fresno County area, and six workshops in the Tulare County area. These workshops will be aimed at providing information for interested participants on diversifying or adding agri-tourism business components making it economically feasible for small agricultural producers to hold onto their land. Through these workshops, participants will be lead through a process to decide if the addition of an agri-nature tourism enterprise is a fit for their current operation.

A main goal of the project is to reach out to small-scale farmers and ranchers who are finding it difficult to make a living on the income generated solely by their agricultural outfit. To further include traditionally underserved populations we will be giving out some scholarships that will cover the cost of attending the workshops and obtaining the materials.

While a primary focus of these workshops is to run participants through a series of activities so that they may better understand the realities of expanding to agri-nature tourism, another goal is to simply facilitate networking. We hope that getting people together in this fashion will aid in networking between those with similar interests. Along these lines we hope to provide a neutral space for participants to interact with local regulators and experts.

To be able to better follow the workshops and retain the knowledge gained, each participant will take home a binder with supporting materials from each module, and supplemental information from the UC Small Farm Center, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Sonoran Institute. By the end of the workshops we will have gone through five modules including "Is it for us?" "Your Community's Potential," "Assessing Your Resources," "Meeting Legal and Regulatory Challenges," "Managing Risk," and "Marketing and the Enterprise Plan." During the meetings we will provide experts on these topics to walk everyone through the realities of each topic. For one of the sessions, the group will meet at a field location to see an established agri-tourism site. From these modules, participants will determine if they are ready to start up an agri-tourism or nature tourism venture and if so they will have the tools to hit the ground running.

This funding will allow for follow-up assistance in developing realistic business plans, which will be provided by skilled counselors from the local Small Business Development Corporation.

Total Project Cost: $70,000. **This request: $20,000.**

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

Subregion: **SOUTH** **Counties: MADERA, MARIPOSA, FRESNO, TULARE**

Applicant: **YOSEMITE SEQUOIA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Project Title: **WELCOME TO THE FOOTHILLS: A GUIDE TO LIVING LIGHTLY IN ___ COUNTY**

Reference Number: **SNC 070312**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council will continue work on the Welcome to the Foothills publications, including adjusting the publication to apply to Tulare County, and also reproducing an updated version to be redistributed to Fresno, Mariposa, and Madera counties. These publications include the following topics:

- What is a Watershed?
- Water Conservation
- Living with Wildlife
- Fire Hazard Reduction
- Identifying and Dealing with Invasive Weeds
- Landscaping with Native Plants
- Oak Woodlands Preservation
- Coniferous Forest Management
- Septic System Care
- Preventing Erosion

With the grant the Council will:

- Conduct initial scoping for content to be included in the newly produced version for Tulare County;
- Make revisions, as necessary, to existing versions and reproduce for distribution;
- Produce 10,000 copies of the publication for each participating county;
- Distribute newly printed copies to appropriate organizations;
- Prepare electronic files of each version in anticipation of web publishing;
- Incorporate content about the Sierra Nevada Conservancy into each version in cooperation with Conservancy staff;
- To the extent possible, utilize environmentally preferable materials in producing the publications.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate revisions to Madera, Mariposa, and Fresno County's existing versions	April 2008
Initiate development of Tulare County version	May 2008
Arrange printing services for reproduction	June 2008
Initiate gathering and organizing of new content for all versions	July 2008 – September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Complete organization of content and finalize for all versions	October 2008 – March 2009

Complete and submit 12-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Send all versions to printer for reproduction	April 2009
Convert files for all versions into internet format	May 2009 - July 2009
Finalize contacts for placements and begin distribution	August 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Complete distribution of materials	October 2009 – January 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Editing/revision/reproduction of Madera, Mariposa, Fresno versions	$30,000
Development and production of Tulare version	15,000
Administration	4,999
GRAND TOTAL	**$49,999**

Letters of Support:

- Central Sierra Watershed Committee

Recommendation:
Recommend for funding at requested amount of $49,999.

Project Summary
Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant, Category II
Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D
"Welcome to the Foothills, a Guide to Living Lightly in Eastern Madera, Mariposa, Fresno and Tulare Counties"

With the influx of new people moving to our area from urban settings, the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council (Y/S RC&D) and its' many partners recognized a need to educate new residents about important natural resource issues affecting our rural foothill and mountain communities. Urban interface issues, and the need to reduce the threat of catastrophic fires to our communities, were key motivations for the Resource Conservation Districts, Tribal Governments, Fire Safe Councils, other environmental and community organizations, and the Y/S RC&D Council. Other key resource issues included degradation of water quality, reduced water availability, invasive non-native plants, soil erosion, human impacts on wildlife habitat, increasing numbers of conflicts with wildlife, declining forest health, and poor air quality. Critical social issues included: conflicts between neighbors, increasing insurance costs, growing fire suppression costs, and health care costs relating to asthma and lung problems.

To address these issues, the Y/S RC&D worked with partners to develop a handbook that introduced these critical issues in easy to understand terms, provided simple things that people could do to care for the resources on their property, and offered sources for additional information, as residents became interested and wanted to learn more. Topics include: What is a Watershed?, Water Conservation, Living with Wildlife, Fire Hazard Reduction, Identifying and Dealing with Invasive Weeds, Landscaping with Native Plants, Oak Woodlands Preservation, Coniferous Forest Management, Septic System Care, Preventing Erosion, and more. The Y/S RC&D was also committed to providing a template for others to use in developing similar information for different areas. This is how "Welcome to the Foothills, a Guide to Living Lightly in _____ County" was born.

"Welcome to the Foothills..." has been produced for Eastern Madera, Fresno and Mariposa Counties, and the demand is so great that supplies are dwindling rapidly. Brochures have been distributed to community members through local realtors, title companies, Fire Safe councils, land management agencies, Resource Conservation Districts, chambers of commerce, state and federal agency offices, visitors' bureaus and others.

The goals of this project are to: First, keep the existing brochures current and up to date by improving and updating the materials, and then re-print and distribute 10,000 more of the "Welcome to the Foothills..." booklets for each of the three counties that have already been covered. Second, develop and produce 10,000 Tulare County brochures. And third, convert the files for all four counties within the Y/S RC&D area (Mariposa, Madera, Fresno and Tulare) to a format that can be accessed via the world wide web.

The benefits of this project are many. The value of having informed citizens making positive contributions to environmental health in our area is priceless. Land owners are utilizing "Welcome to the Foothills..." to care for the resources on their property, providing the potential for widespread benefits to resources on a larger regional scale.

Total Project Cost: $119,999. **This request: $49,999.**

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Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
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Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: CALAVERAS**

Applicant: **CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

Project Title: **REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY IN THE HIGHWAY 4 CORRIDOR**

Reference Number: SNC 070116

PROJECT SCOPE

This study proposes Phase I of a collaborative project to investigate strategic opportunities to correct water and wastewater facility deficiencies along the Highway 4 corridor in the Stanislaus River Watershed located in Calaveras County. The primary goal of this project is to seek cross jurisdictional partnerships so that infrastructure improvements, replacement needs, and facility expansions and upgrades can be coordinated in a manner that acknowledges and respects connections between water, wastewater, land use, and development within the region. This project will receive matching funds and in-kind services from the Calaveras County Water District in the amount of $36,000.

Tasks included to achieve this goal include:

- Collecting and reviewing existing data resulting in an annotated outline and a detailed base map developed with Geographic Information System (GIS) software;
- Identifying issues and opportunities through regional agency meetings, stakeholder outreach meetings, and meetings with regional programs;
- Preparing an issues and opportunities report and conducting a public presentation;
- Outlining alternatives of options to regionalize the individual facilities to meet an efficient economy of scale.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Collecting and reviewing existing data- creating an annotated outline & base map • ***Technical Memo Summarizing Multi-Agency Data, GIS Map Showing Facilities, Communities, and Environment***	April – September 2008
Identifying issues and opportunities, developing alternatives • ***Technical Memo Summarizing Issues and Opportunities And Alternatives, Meeting Outcomes, and Sign-In List***	August 2008-April 2009
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Complete and submit 12 month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Preparing an issues and opportunities report and conducting a public presentation • ***Develop Final Planning Report Conduct Public Presentation of Phase I Findings***	February – August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 29, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Consultant contract to review existing data, develop GIS map, identify issues and opportunities, develop alternatives and conduct public presentations	$32,610
GRAND TOTAL	**$32,610**

Letters of Support:

- Angels Camp
- Murphys Sanitary District
- Union Public Utility District
- Local Government Commission

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the reduced amount of $32,610. The funding request was originally submitted for $90,000. Staff worked with the applicant to identify an adequate amount of funds to initiate the project, while allowing the grantee more time to secure the funds needed to complete the project.

2. Project Summary: HIGHWAY 4 CORRIDOR REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY

Introduction: The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) proposes a collaborative project to investigate strategic opportunities to correct water and wastewater utility deficiencies along the Highway 4 corridor in the Stanislaus River Watershed in Calaveras County (See attached map). The regional approach to utility solution solving will increase coordination and collaboration between utilities and land use agencies and lead to a regional, watershed-based approach to long-standing planning, resource management, and capital facility improvement programs.

Problem: Currently, wide-ranging financial and institutional obstacles collide with the unique demographic and geographic dynamics of the Sierra Nevada. This unplanned meeting of issues creates barriers for constructing necessary upgrades to water and wastewater facilities, which often means capital facility replacement programs and state and federal regulatory mandates go un-met. Poor economy of scale (i.e., insufficient number of ratepayers to spread the huge, fixed and variable costs of capital facilities), and often under-staffed or ill-equipped staff and expertise, sets in perpetual motion this system of inefficiency for the Sierra Nevada Utility.

Solution: Utility regionalization and improved coordination are needed to support sustainable practices in the Sierra Nevada. This requires looking beyond traditional jurisdictional boundaries to create partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies so that infrastructure improvements, replacement needs, and growth decisions can be coordinated in a manner that respects connections between water, wastewater, land use, and development within a watershed or region.

Through an inclusive, team-based approach, various goals and priorities can be examined. Cost-effective, big picture, regional alternatives must be made available to compete with the narrowly defined traditional treatment technology. A financial base could emerge through regional collaboration to make necessary improvements to upgrade facilities, build infrastructure necessary for reuse and recycling, and coordinate efforts to improve public education, water conservation, wetland restoration biological treatment demonstration projects.

This proposed project will partner CCWD, Calaveras County, the City of Angels, Murphys Sanitary District, Union Public Utility District, and the Utica Power Authority. A 'living' model will be developed to examine strategies for regionalizing water and wastewater facilities. A technical team consisting of project partners will develop preliminary concept plans based on goals, objectives, and priorities. Information will be shared with stakeholders, the public, and non-governmental organizations. The model will then be refined to evaluate what is working to ensure a sustainable, cost-effective concept plan emerges for regional implementation. The result will be a regional planning model that integrates multi-party water/wastewater solutions.

Total Project Cost: Total *HIGHWAY 4 CORRIDOR REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY* project cost is $130,000. CCWD, and its partners, will provide $40,000 in project funding made up of a local cost share match of $25,000 in cash and $15,000 through in-kind services. The total grant request for the proposed project from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is $90,000.

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Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: AMADOR, CALAVERAS, TUOLUMNE**

Applicant: **MOTHERLODE LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **CENTRAL SIERRA RESOURCE ASSESSMENT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070280**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Motherlode Land Trust will conduct a multi-county resource assessment to:

- Identify areas with strong conservation and resource values in eastern Amador County and all of Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties;
- Assess resource values in partnership with relevant local interests and landowners;
- Focus on working landscapes, river and creek corridors, wilderness areas, natural resource values such as threatened or endangered species, mitigation corridors, and oak woodlands;
- Conduct assessment to include agricultural and recreational values, in addition to natural resource values;
- Utilize the data acquired to guide the Trust's priorities for acquisition projects in the future; and
- Make the information compiled available as a resource to the Counties and other organizations with interest.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop GIS resources and reproduce for staff use	April 2008 - September 2008
Preliminary identification of key areas to be assessed	April 2008 - September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Conduct preliminary meetings with interested landowners	October 2008 – December 2008
Begin on the ground assessment of targeted properties	January 2009 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Complete on-the-ground assessments of targeted properties	April 2009 – August 2009
Develop and produce informational resources for distribution	August 2009 – September 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Staff salary	$10,000
GIS Development and Printing	$28,000
Informational Resource Development and Printing	$ 3,000
Meeting Development and Expenses	$ 2,500
Administrative	$ 4,350
GRAND TOTAL	**$47,850**

Letters of Support:

- Wallace Citizens Serving Residents
- Amador Resource Conservation District
- Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability
- Natural Resource Conservation Service - Jackson, CA
- Sierra Foothills Conservancy
- Calaveras Planning Coalition
- Citizens for San Andreas

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at the requested amount of $47,850.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070280 Central Sierra Resource Mapping) Founded in 1991, the mission of the Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT; formerly the Amador Land Trust) is to help protect agricultural and rangelands, historic and scenic sites, and natural habitats. MLLT holds seventeen conservation easements in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Alpine counties, protecting over 2,600 acres. MLLT currently has eight board members with expertise in water resources, education, forestry, farming and ranching, and native plants.

MLLT is applying for a Category 2 Special Opportunity Grant to identify areas with strong conservation values in eastern Amador County (western Amador County has already been mapped), and all of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties--in partnership and cosultation with other, local organizations. The mapping will pay particular attention to working landscapes, river (Mokelumne, Cosumnes, Stainislaus, etc.) and creek (Sutter, Dry, Calaveritas, Calaveras, etc.) corridors, wilderness areas and WSAs, natural resource values such as threatened and endangered species, migration corridors, and oak woodlands.

Specifically, MLLT will use funds from a one-year, $47,850 grant to conduct resource mapping in eastern Amador County, and all of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties to identify areas with high natural (water, plants, animals, etc.), agricultural, and recreational values. Funds would also be used to conduct a series of outreach meetings in each of the counties. MLLT would conduct extensive mapping of the resource values in the three counties, identify areas with the highest concentration of resource values, and prioritize conservation efforts. MLLT would partner with a number of organizations in the three counties to identify their highest resource values for inclusion in the mapping. The maps--once completed--will assist the land trust, as well as water districts, recreation districts, watershed and fire safe councils, local governments, and landowners with their long-term land use planning efforts. Following the development of the maps, two series of outreach meetings will be held. The first series will have a broad audience with a focus of simply educating the general public about conservation needs in the three counties. The second series will be small groups of select landowners with whom MLLT would like to work. By partnering with other agencies and organizations MLLT plans to find areas for collaboration amongst the various organizations.

This grant will support many Sierra Nevada Conservancy program areas by clearly identifying lands for conservation in the three counties and developing a plan for protecting these working landscapes, waterways, and other physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources. It should also be noted that comprehensive mapping has never been conducted in the central Sierra. The long-term

benefits of the compilation of this data is immense and will be experienced locally for years to come.

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Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: MARIPOSA**

Applicant: **UPPER MERCED RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**

Project Title: **MERCED RIVER CENTER PHASE I**

Reference Number: **SNC 070297**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Merced River Watershed Council will remodel and improve the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Visitor Center at Briceburg, located where Highway 140 meets the Merced River, including the following actions:

- Change the name of the center to the Merced River Center at Briceburg;
- Install a french drain to protect the building from moisture;
- Remodel the interior by removing a non-historic wall;
- Install new carpet and repair a damaged section of the floor;
- Update lighting and replace doors;
- Construct a counter and movable bookshelves;
- Paint walls, soffits, and railings;
- Purchase community-room equipment, including chairs and tables;
- Install signage and flags to communicate the building's purpose and hours of operations;
- Install storage to relocate items currently stored within the building;
- Install year-round portable restrooms in the parking lot;
- Work through CalTrans to lower the speed limit, install better signage, and construct turn lane.

The Council will also engage high school students to create a Merced River Mural, which will be the first of many interpretative displays to occupy the updated facility inside and outside.

This project is the first of two phases, with the second to result in the opening of the Center as an educational venue for students of all ages, community groups volunteering to protect the Merced River, and tourists and recreationalists visiting the Center and its peripheral recreational sites, including river access trails and campgrounds.

The Council will utilize in-kind services from the BLM and other partners, totaling $11,160, in meeting the scope of this grant as defined above.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop bid package for building renovations	April 2008 - July 2008
Initiate bid process, evaluate bids, and award contract	April 2008 - July 2008
Initiate building renovations	July 2008 - September 2008
Initiate mural design with Mariposa High School	July 2008 - September 2008
Initiate work with Cal Trans for road signs, turn lane, and speed limit	July 2008 - September 2008
Install gravel pad and replacement storage unit	July 2008 - September 2008
Complete and submit 6-month progress report to SNC	September 2008

Purchase building fixtures (heater, sink, tables, chairs)	October 2008 - December 2008
Design welcome flag; Buy and install pole and flags	October 2008 - December 2008
Procure materials for mural and begin production	October 2008 - December 2008
Contact and procure contractor for signage design production	October 2008 - December 2008
Post job announcement for Educator/Naturalist for Summer 2009	January 2009 – March 2009
Conduct community forum on Phase II components	January 2009 – March 2009
Conduct interviews for advertised position	January 2009 – March 2009
Install building signage	January 2009 – March 2009
Complete and submit 12-month progress report to SNC	March 2009
Complete and install mural	April 2009 - June 2009
Complete building renovations and prepare facility for opening	June 2009
Host "Grand Opening" event for public	June 2009
Conduct second community forum on Phase II components	July 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	September 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Project Management Staff	$ 34,320
Workers Compensation	$ 412
Small Room Rehabilitation	$ 10,000
Large Room Rehabilitation	$ 20,000
Storage Container	$ 2,250
Flagpole, flag, and open sign	$ 1,000
Fixtures	$ 1,830
Security Cameras	$ 3,500
Building Signage	$ 3,000
Mural design and production	$ 5,000
Administration	$ 11,796
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 93,108**

Letters of Support:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Yosemite Area Audubon Society
- University of California, Merced

Recommendation:

Recommend at requested amount of $93,108.

SNC 070297
Project Name: Merced River Center at Briceburg
Phase I – Building renovation

Project Summary: The Briceburg Visitor Center on the Merced River is an underused historic stone building managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is located on a well-documented archeological site and the building itself has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Although the center is located at the very point where the Wild and Scenic Merced River is first seen by in-bound Yosemite National Park tourists, it averages only 1,600 visitors annually. Most of the park's 800,000 visitors that travel past the center are oblivious to the center as well as their first opportunity to view the raging river that carved the park's crown jewel, Yosemite Valley.

Why is this gem so overlooked by the area's 18,000 local inhabitants, nearly a million Yosemite tourists, and the thousands of campers and visitors that use the adjacent BLM Recreation Area? It is a result of limited hours (open only on weekends during the summer, closed the remainder of the year), poor signage, inadequate public outreach and marketing, and limited educational displays. This project addresses these issues and transforms the center to a place that welcomes visitors and showcases the Merced River watershed and its diverse ecosystem.

This proposal is a collaboration between the BLM and the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's Upper Merced River Watershed Council (UMRWC) as an effort to protect and enhance the Merced River Watershed.

Proposed Work: Phase I: To remodel and improve the center in preparation for Phase II, SOG 3 grant under separate application. Phase II: Provide a secure, appealing watershed education facility with an increase in educational staffing for the public and community.

1. Change the name of the center to the Merced River Center at Briceburg.
2. Install a French drain to protect the building from moisture
3. Remodel the interior by removing a non-historic wall, installing new carpet, repairing a section of floor, enhancing lighting, replacing doors, constructing a counter and movable bookshelves, painting walls, soffits and railings, purchasing community room equipment (chairs, tables, etc.).
4. Engage high school students to create a Merced River mural.
5. Install signs and flags to communicate the building's purpose as well as hours of operation.
6. Install a storage container to relocate items currently stored in the building.
7. Install year-round portable restrooms in the existing parking lot.
8. Work with Caltrans to lower the speed limit and install better signage and a left turn lane entry.

Anticipated Results: 1) provide opportunities to learn about the Merced River and its watershed, 2) increase tourist and community visitation to the center, 3) diversify as well as increase use of the center by enhancing interpretive displays and creating a multi-purpose room available for community education.

Estimated Cost: Total project cost is $104,718. Over $11,610 has been donated through in-kind services by the BLM and other community partners. The total grant being requested is $93,108.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: CALAVERAS**

Applicant: **PACIFIC FOREST TRUST**

Project Title: **LOVE CREEK WORKING FOREST PROJECT PHASE II**

Reference Number: **SNC 070301**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Pacific Forest Trust will undertake preliminary actions toward the acquisition of a conservation easement on a 300-acre property in Calaveras County. Actions to be taken include:

- Project planning, development, and management;
- Negotiations and legal review;
- Appraisal of the property under consideration for conservation easement;
- Production of baseline report and monitoring plan.

The Trust will utilize significant in-kind contributions from the landowner, CA State Parks Foundation, in addition to substantial in-kind from the Trust itself. These in-kind items will be applied to preliminary title reports, escrow fees, title insurance, closing costs, project management, and a portion of the appraisal to be conducted on the site.

The main in-kind component will be a below-market sale of the easement by the landowner, valued at $800,000.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Completion of preliminary title reports	July 2008
Completion of easement negotiations	August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	September 2008
Completion of legal review	December 2008
Conduct and complete appraisal for the property	March 2009
Complete and submit 12-month progress report to SNC	March 2009
Produce and make available baseline report	June 2009
Produce and make available monitoring plan	August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project planning, development, and maintenance	$ 20,000
Easement negotiations and legal review	$ 20,000
Appraisal Services	$ 15,000
Production of baseline report and monitoring plan	$ 20,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$75,000**

Letters of Support:
None Submitted

Recommendation:
Recommend funding at requested amount of $75,000.

2. Project Summary

The 300-acre Alford working forest property is located in Calaveras County, CA just outside the historic town of Arnold. The property is adjacent to the Stanislaus National Forest and is 2.5 miles from the Big Trees State Park. The property consists of Sierran Mixed Conifer forestland, including a stand of old-growth sugar pines, and lies within the Love Creek Watershed, a major tributary to the North Fork of the Stanislaus River.

Sharing multiple boundaries with the Stanislaus National Forest, the property creates a scenic and ecological buffer for popular public lands. Nearly 1.5 miles of the main stem of Love Creek runs through the center of the property and flows into the North Fork of the Stanislaus River, a proposed Wild and Scenic River, and eventually into the Calaveras County water supply. The Alford property provides a diversity of wildlife habitat including: Sierran Mixed conifer forest, wet meadow, and montane riparian, which provide habitat for a number of rare and threatened species.

In the last decade, people seeking recreational amenities, open space, and rural historical character have spurred residential and second home development in Calaveras County, creating major changes in the County's land use patterns and rapid growth of subdivisions in the Love Creek Watershed where the Alford property is located. These subdivisions threaten water quality in tributaries to the North Fork of the Stanislaus River, existing wildlife habitat and corridors, and the historical working forest landscape. The acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on the Alford working forest property will address the threats to water quality and wildlife habitat through its restrictions, which will dedicate the property to relatively natural forest and meadow habitats and its traditional use of forestry.

The conservation easement on the Alford working forest property is the second phase in a larger conservation effort to protect approximately 1,200 acres of neighboring forestlands. This larger conservation effort seeks to create a corridor of protected private working forests that will act as a buffer between the subdivisions off of Highway 4 and the relatively wild landscape of Big Trees State Park and the Stanislaus National Forest. This corridor will maintain a working forest land-base in this part of the County; it will protect a majority of the Love Creek Watershed; and create a North-South wildlife migration corridor. The successful acquisition of a conservation easement on the Alford property will add to the protection being completed in Phase I of the Love Creek Working Forest Conservation Project this year and will further protect the wildlife habitat corridor between public and private lands, provide additional protection to the Love Creek Watershed, and serve as a model for additional landowners in the Watershed who want to permanently protect their properties. The Pacific Forest Trust respectfully requests $75,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in order to cover the costs associated with project planning and management, appraisal services, easement negotiations, and baseline/monitoring report development. The Conservancy's grant funds would be leveraged by nearly $821,000 of in-kind and monetary match from the landowner and other public and private partners.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: MARIPOSA**

Applicant: **MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **SIERRA NEVADA FOOTHILLS NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN**

Reference Number: **SNC 070308**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District will develop an interpretative garden of Sierra Nevada Foothills native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, grasses, and wildflowers in an accessible setting suitable for public use.

The demonstration garden shall include plants that are drought-tolerant, require little or no irrigation, and effectively stabilize the soil and control erosion on an impacted site. Additionally, Mariposa RCD will:

- Develop interpretative signage for use in educating visitor's on the principles associated with planting with native species as a means of watershed protection;
- Ensure the final product is accessible to the public, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance;
- Partner with the Upper Merced River Watershed Council on the installation of watershed protection measures, such as stormwater best management practices (BMP's) in and around the project site;
- Partner with local educational agencies to provide this as a resource for students in the area;
- Develop and produce educational pamphlets and posters for distribution to area schools and other interested parties;
- Generate volunteers to participate and contribute to the completion of the overall project;
- Incorporate the finished project into the Mariposa County Agri-Nature Trail events;
- Develop and distribute educational materials for use by students and teachers based on California Academic Content Standards;
- Conduct volunteer recruitment and compile roster of volunteers.

Mariposa RCD will partner with the following groups to ensure an inclusive approach to the project:

- Upper Merced River Watershed Council
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Mariposa County
- Xerces Society
- Yosemite Area Audubon Society
- California Native Plant Society
- Woodland Elementary School
- Mariposa County 4H
- Mariposa County Juvenile Probation Community Service Program

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Conduct volunteer recruitment and compile roster of volunteers	April 2008 – May 2008
Procurement of plants, seeds, materials and equipment	May 2008 - September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC for review	October 2008
Development of interpretative signage, informational resources and curriculum component	September 2008 – March 2009
Complete and submit 12-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Preparation of site for grading, trenching, and redistribution of gravel	April 2009 – July 2009
Installation and completion of baseline design features (irrigation system, ADA path, drains, plant bed, posts for signage)	July 2009 – September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Populate demonstration garden with native plantings	October 2009 – December 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**February 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Plants	$ 2,011
Rental Equipment	$ 554
Planting Mixes and Mulches	$ 2,462
Irrigation and Garden Amenities	$ 5,459
CA Dept of Corrections (Inmate Labor)	$ 400
Interpretative Signs and Brochures	$ 7,000
Student Transportation Expense	$ 300
Project Coordinator Salary	$ 36,400
Payroll Tax	$ 3,147
Administrative	$ 6,265
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 63,998**

Letters of Support:

- Mariposa County Fairgrounds
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
- Yosemite Area Audubon Society
- California Native Plant Society
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners
- Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Woodland Elementary School
- Mariposa County Firesafe Council
- Intermountain Nursery
- Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government
- American Indian Council of Mariposa County

Recommendation:
Recommend for funding at requested amount of $63,998.

2. Project Summary

Proposed project: Demonstration garden of Sierra Nevada foothill native plants

Principal proponent: Kris Randal, Education Outreach Coordinator
Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
5009 Fairgrounds Rd. (P.O. Box 746)
Mariposa, CA 95338

Recent and continuing population growth in the Sierra Nevada foothills is impacting this region's natural resources and ecosystems. The long-term sustainability and quality of water supplies are major development-related issues, making the need for water conservation imperative. Protecting and cultivating plants indigenous to the foothills not only contributes to water conservation, but can help maintain healthy, functional ecosystems by preventing soil erosion, stemming the spread of invasive nonnative species, and reducing fragmentation and degradation of oak woodlands, other native plant communities and wildlife habitats. Educating foothill residents on the ecological roles and values of local native plants, their water-conserving adaptations and how to use them effectively in fire-safe landscaping and gardening can help realize these conservation goals.

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) proposes a two-year project, commencing May 1, 2008, to develop an interpretive demonstration garden of Sierra Nevada foothill native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, grasses and wildflowers in a public, home-like setting suitable for public use. The proposed site is the public area outside the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Mariposa office at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds. The garden will feature plants that are drought-tolerant, require little irrigation and effectively stabilize the soil and control erosion on a site now essentially barren. The plants selected will have important wildlife values, attract birds and butterflies, and exploit the pollination abilities of native bee populations. Interpretive signs and a pamphlet will describe these qualities and local Native Americans' uses of these plants.

Partnering with the MCRCD will be the Upper Merced River Watershed Council (UMRWC), which will complement this proposed project with a $22,000 grant to address nonpoint source pollution, erosion control, water conservation, and protection of water quality. Other major partners will include the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners of Mariposa County, the Mariposa County Fairgrounds and the Yosemite Area Audubon Society. We will also invite as collaborators the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the regional chapter of the California Native Plant Society, the Mariposa Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the California Oak Foundation.

The MCRCD board of directors, UMRWC stakeholders, the UCCE Master Gardeners and other volunteers will maintain the garden with assistance from the Mariposa County Fairgrounds staff. The garden will be free to the public, self-guiding, and accessible to people with disabilities. We will offer scheduled tours, led by trained volunteers and docents, intermittently throughout the year, on request to school groups, and during the popular biannual Mariposa Agri-Nature Trail tour.

Project budget: $48,798 with an additional value of $69,895 in in-kind services.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: MARIPOSA**

Applicant: **MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **MARIPOSA COUNTY FUEL CHIPPING PROGRAM PHASE I**

Reference Number: **SNC 070323**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council will cut hazardous fuel, meaning brush and limbs within 100 feet of structures and long driveways and along routes of ingress/egress, and will specifically:

- Provide the service to senior, low-income, disabled or deployed individuals who are unable to physically or financially do it themselves;
- Cut and pile material within the 10 foot easement along existing roads and driveways to be chipped at a later date;
- Provide both an education and brush cutting crew, project management, and all necessary insurance and equipment maintenance;
- Provide all necessary equipment and insurance relative to the project.

Upon completion, the Council will host a tour for interested stakeholders to view the work done and provide feedback.

In addition, the Council will follow-up with those served to ensure they are content with the services received and solicit feedback for incorporation into future efforts by the Council.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Hire contractor and crew and conduct training	April 2008 – July 2008
Advertise project and begin scheduling work	August 2008 -September 2008
Complete and submit six-month project report to SNC	October 2008
Cut and pile brush and limbs at multiple sites in Mariposa County	September 2008 – March 2009
Track project through photograpy, acres treated and tonnage	September 2008 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Cut and pile brush and limbs at multiple sites in Mariposa County	April 2009 – August 2009
Continue to track project through photography, acres treated and tonnage	April 2009 – August 2009
Complete and submit eighteen month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Complete cut and pile on remaining project sites	October 2009 – January 2010
Follow-up with participants	February 2010
Conduct project tour for interested stakeholders	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Crew payroll	$53,200
ER Taxes	$ 6,930
Workman's Comp	$14,350
Equipment and Fuel	$10,500
Mileage	$ 5,075
Liability Insurance	$ 3,185
MCFSC Personnel	$ 4,711
Administrative	$ 2,019
GRAND TOTAL	**$99970**

Letters of Support:

- None Submitted

Recommendation:

Recommend at requested amount of $99,970.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title:
Mariposa County Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuel Chipping Program Phase I (Cutting and Piling)

Project Cost:
$99,970.00

Project Summary:
Wildland fire is the number one natural disaster that threatens the lives and property of residents and visitors, as well as our resources including the vast and important watersheds of Mariposa County.

This Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuel Chipping Program Phase I (Cutting and Piling) will give the Council the opportunity to raise awareness in each community and get residents and visitors focused on fire safe and conservation issues. We will provide an education and brush cutting crew, project coordination, all necessary insurance and equipment maintenance. Our crew will cut hazardous fuel (brush and limbs within 100 feet of structures and along driveways and routes of ingress/egress) for senior, low-income, disabled and deployed residents who are physically or financially unable to do it themselves. We will pile cut material within 10 foot easement along existing roads and driveways to be chipped at a later date (Phase II.)

The Program will include an aggressive community outreach and education component designed to educate developers, homeowners, citizen groups and visitors to the concepts of watershed protection, fire prevention, fuels management, fire management and natural resource conservation education.

When a wildfire occurs, firefighters must act first to protect lives, then property, before they can focus on wildland protection and fire suppression. If all residents in the County have done everything they can at home and in their neighborhoods to protect themselves from wildfires, this frees firefighters to concentrate their efforts on protecting our precious resources, both natural and manmade. Among these resources are our National Forests and National Parks, our watershed, wildlife habitat, and sites with cultural and historical significance.

Among the most important things residents can do to prepare themselves for wildfire is to create and maintain a "defensible space" around their homes and other structures. This Program is designed to educate and assist residents in reducing the risk of losing their homes, property, and even their lives to wildfire, while encouraging them to practice proper conservation of historical, archaeological, natural resource and watershed values.

Second to completion of our countywide CCWPP (Community Conservation and Wildfire Protection Plan) this Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuel Chipping Program (Phases I and II) is our highest priority, and in action the program will continue to improve quality of life for our residents and visitors as well as improve the health of the Sierra Nevada watershed in which we live.

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

Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: TUOLUMNE**

Applicant: **HIGHWAY 108 FIRESAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **CATTLE DRIVE TRAIL SHADED FUEL BREAK PHASE III**

Reference Number: **SNC 070325**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Highway 108 Fire Safe Council will create the eastern part of a planned five mile shaded fuel break between the South Fork Stanislaus River and the Columbia area. The Council will treat the shaded fuel break using a combination of hand crews and mastication equipment.

The fuelbreak is located on Bureau of Land Management property and will protect adjacent structures, including single-family homes and structures related to agricultural operations. Landowners along the fuelbreak are in compliance with required defensible space standards.

The Council, when treating the area and thus creating the shaded fuel break, will also provide control points, anchor points, and safety zones from which fires in the area can be aggressively controlled.

The Council will chip all slash and brush on-site to prevent erosion and provide weed control. The Council will ensure that upon completion, vegetation conditions allow adequate penetration by retardant during air attack operations.

The Council will track all progress, including acquiring photographs before and after the project to be included in their final report.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Hire contractor and crew and conduct training	May 2008
Set dates for implementation	June 2008
Complete pruning and mastication of project area	June 2008 – September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Pile slash/debris and chip/burn as necessary	October 2008
Conduct CDF inspection of treated area	January 2009
Determine acres treated and tonnage of fuel removed and chipped	January 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Mastication Equipment and Operation	$31,200
Mobilization of Equipment	$400
Hand Crew Payroll	$12,000
Coordinator Payroll	$1,125
Supplies and Equipment	$ 200
Administrative	$ 3,594
GRAND TOTAL	**$48,519**

Letters of Support:

- None Submitted

Recommendation:

Recommend at requested amount of $48,519.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here:
Prop 84 Grant Funding is requested to complete Phase 3 of the
Cattle Drive Trail Shaded Fuel Break in Columbia,Ca.(Tuolumne County)
Phase 1 & 2 of the Shaded Fuel Break was funded by CDF Prop 40 grant to treat the private lands in the project area.
Phase 3 of the Shaded Fuel Break is to treat BLM owned land in the project area.It will be 200 feet wide by .5 mile long on two roads (200ft X 1mile=24 acres).
This project offers the following Strategic Goals:
1/ Protection of a Community at Risk
2/ Watershed Protection
3/ Fire Fighter Safety
This project is located on a "Strategic Ridge" that seperates the S. Fork of the Stanislaus River Canyon from the Columbia Area.
Stony Gulch and Woods Creek and the Columbia Ditch provides "Drinking Water" for the Community of Columbia and adjacent areas.The Shaded Fuel Break will protect this critical water supply from catastrophic wild fires.
The South Fork of the Stanislaus River which is designated as a "Wild & Scenic River" lies less than 1 mile directly down hill from Project area.
All slash & brush will be chipped on site to prevent erosion and provide weed control.
Plus adding nutrients to the ground in the project area.
Estimated Project Costs are as follows:

Mastication	$1300.00/acre
Mast Mobilization	$200.00/ea time
Hand Crew (clean up)	$500.00/acre
Coordinator Fee	$15.00/hr
Supplies	$200.00/lt
In Kind Contribution	$2800.00

Mastication	$1300.00/ac X 24/ac	= $31,200.00
Mobilization	$200.00X2/ea	= $400.00
Hand Crew	$500.00X24/ac	= $12,000.00
Coordinator	$15.00X75/hrs	=$1125.00
Supplies		= $200.00
H108 FSC Admin Fee 8%		= $3594.00

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sub total	$48,519.00
In Kind Contribution by H108FSC	$ 2,800.00

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Grand Total	$ 51,319.00

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

Subregion: **SOUTH CENTRAL** **County: CALAVERAS**

Applicant: **CALAVERAS COUNTY**

Project Title: **CALAVERAS COUNTY CONSERVATION PLANNING PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070331**

PROJECT SCOPE

The funding for the Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project will be used to develop applications requesting funds from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to develop a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Specifically, Calaveras County will:

- Complete a study to address ecosystem, endangered species and habitat protection for incorporation into the General Plan Update;
- Develop a framework to define the preservation of open space and agricultural lands component of the ensuing HCP/NCCP;
- Compile findings into resources to be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors
- Initiate application process for DFG and FWS grant programs;
- Establish and initiate process for public input relative to applications for HCP and NCCP funding;
- Develop framework for the institution of a Science Panel per DFG and FWS requirements;
- Complete fundraising and capacity building plan and initiate the plan in anticipation of HCP and NCCP applications and associated processes;
- Finalize HCP and NCCP planning agreement with DFG and FWS;
- Develop, complete and submit applications for funding under the NCCP and HCP grant programs;
- Make finalized applications available to the Board of Supervisors for review and adoption.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors has expressed their support for this effort, and will review and adopt plans and applications associated with the grant as a means of advancing their pending General Plan Update.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate study to address ecosystem, endangered species and habitat protection for incorporation into General Plan Update	April 2008 – September 2008
Initiate development of framework to define the preservation of open space and agricultural lands component of the ensuing HCP/NCCP	April 2008 – September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Continue work on initial study and framework including the incorporation of public input	October 2008 – December 2008
Compile findings into resources to be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors	January 2009 – April 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Initiate application process for DFG and FWS grant programs	April 2009
Establish process for public input relative to applications for HCP and NCCP funding	May 2009 – June 2009
Complete fundraising and capacity building plan in anticipation of	June 2009 – August 2009

HCP and NCCP applications and associated processes	
Finalize HCP and NCCP planning agreement with DFG and FWS	September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Develop and complete applications for funding under the NCCP and HCP grant programs	October 2009 – January 2010
Make finalized applications available to the Board of Supervisors for review and adoption	February 2010 – March 2010
Submit applications for funding under the NCCP and HCP grant programs	**March 2010**
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	**TOTAL SNC FUNDING**
Consultant costs for HCP and NCCP development and submittal	$22,000
Preparation of DFG and FWS Planning Agreements	$4,000
Consultant costs to initiate Public Participation component of plans	$10,000
Consultant costs for development and coordination of Science Panel	$8,000
Staff costs for development of fundraising plan	$2,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$46,000**

Letters of Support:
None Submitted

Recommendation:
Recommend funding this project for the requested amount of $46,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070331 Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project) In response to ongoing growth pressures within Calaveras County, and as an attempt to reconcile the County's growth and development policies with its goals for the preservation of agricultural lands, protection of open space and habitat areas and improved species conservation, Calaveras County is studying the feasibility and efficacy of developing a federal Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) concurrent with a California Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

HCP's and NCCP's have proven to be successful planning tools to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem scale while accommodating compatible land uses. The plans seek to anticipate and prevent the controversies and gridlock caused by endangered species' listings by focusing on the long-term stability of wildlife and plant communities, and by including key stakeholder interests in the process. By creating an HCP/NCCP for Calaveras County, the County will address the need for broad-based planning that provides for the protection and conservation of the region’s biodiversity and working landscapes while allowing for appropriate development and growth to occur.

In order to initiate this type of habitat conservation planning for Calaveras, the County is seeking an initial investment of funding to reconcile the legal and procedural requirements of state and federal endangered species laws and California’s Natural Community Conservation Planning Act with the County’s General Plan Update process that was initiated in late 2006. The specific goals of this project include:

- Prepare a feasibility study that addresses ecosystem, endangered species and habitat protection issues in an integrated fashion with the Calaveras County General Plan Update
- Develop a framework that illustrates how preservation of open space and agricultural lands, as identified in the 2007 Calaveras County General Plan Update Baseline Report and the 2007 Final Report of the Calaveras County Parks and Recreation Task Force can be achieved through preparation and adoption of an HCP/NCCP
- Develop a framework that illustrates how preparation and adoption of an HCP/NCCP will help protect other natural resources such as water quality, watersheds and the County’s rivers, lakes and streams
- Develop a framework that illustrates how preparation and adoption of an HCP/NCCP will help reserve the natural and cultural heritage of Calaveras County
- Provide a framework to identify and secure sufficient funding for Calaveras County’s efforts to develop a habitat conservation plan/natural community conservation plan

The County is requesting $46,000.00 in funding from the SNC, and has forecast a total of $200,000 for completing Phase One of this effort.

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

Subregion: **CENTRAL** **County: NEVADA**

Applicant: **FRIENDS OF DEER CREEK**

Project Title: **MERCURY BIOAVAILABILITY AND TRANSPORT IN DEER CREEK**

Reference Number: **SNC 070101**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would monitor contamination in algae, macro-invertebrates, and fish above and below Lake Wildwood to determine the potential transport and dissemination of mercury moving over the dam. Specifically the project actions would include:

- Collect water, sediment, algae, and plant and fish specimens above and below Lake Wildwood dam for analysis for mercury;
- Complete parametric analysis of mercury samples from specimens both above and below the dam. Compare for statistically significant differences and mercury TMDL guidelines;
- Develop recommendations for remediation strategies to reduce the methyl/mercury in Deer Creek;
- Address similar associations throughout the Sierra to present results;
- Communicate with other Sierra Nevada watershed groups to discuss findings and recommendations. Publish findings and study results in a report presented to Sierra Irrigation Districts;
- Develop outreach materials for small irrigation districts in the Sierra Nevada regarding findings;
- Introduce remediation options to limit mercury transport through reservoirs.

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PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Collect data (from algae, macro-invertebrates, fish)	September 2008
Analyze data	October 2008
Develop remediation strategies	December 2008
Complete report	March 2009
Disseminate information & outreach materials	September 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Data collection and study design	$24,467
Analysis	$7,000
Remediation strategy development	$2,500
Dissemination/report and outreach materials	$10,500
GRAND TOTAL	**$44,467**

Letters of Support:
- Lake Wildwood Lake Committee.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $44,467.

Project Summary

The Mercury Bioavailability and Transport Project is a pilot project to determine the source and transformation of mercury below Lake Wildwood reservoir. Mercury transport and transformation from source areas along Deer Creek, such as abandon mine waste rock piles and hydraulic mining debris, to downstream reservoirs and periodically over dams needs to be better understood in order to prevent contamination downstream and bioaccumulation in the food chain. Understanding key mechanisms of mercury transport and bioaccumulation will allow for improved remediation of source areas and prevention of human health effects from mercury. Small reservoirs such as Lake Wildwood are common in the Sierra and are a critical component to effective mercury remediation because although mercury contaminated sediments accumulate behind reservoirs, mercury is also transported from the concentrated source area behind reservoirs to downstream reaches. We hypothesize that mercury contaminated algae transported over Lake Wildwood is a significant source of methylmercury to the downstream reaches of Deer Creek. We propose a summary of work for which we are requesting $44,467 in support from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Category 2 Strategic Opportunity Grant Program. Funding would provide money for:

Task 1 Data Collection: Water, sediment, algae, plants, and fish will be collected and analyzed for mercury above and below Lake Wildwood. Stream discharge will also be measured.

Task 2 Analysis: Parametric analysis of mercury samples from water, sediment, algae, plants and fish above and below Lake Wildwood. Sites above and below Lake Wildwood will be compared for statistically significant different between sites and all mercury data will be compared to mercury TMDL guidelines.

Task 3 Remediation: Develop recommendations to reduce methylmercury in Deer Creek and consider their applicability to other Sierra Watersheds.

Task 4 Dissemination: Communication with other Sierra Nevada watershed groups, and irrigation districts about results and potential implementation strategies for reduction of methylmercury transportation and transformation.

In 2005, as a result of the breadth of Friends of Deer Creek's scientific expertise and commitment, our organization was the only non-governmental organization selected by the California State Regional Control Board and Sacramento County to undertake an assessment of mercury contamination in sediment, water, macroinvertebrates and fish. The data we have collected to date indicate a ubiquitous problem with mercury contamination in sediment, water, and macroinvertebrates in Deer Creek, which we suspect is typical in all the gold mining watersheds of the Sierra. In particular, our macroinvertebrate studies indicate that dams do not prevent mercury bioaccumulation in fauna downstream of the Lake Wildwood dam. There is a possibility that algae and stream plants are a contributing factor to the passage of mercury below Lake Wildwood dam which eventually reaches the Delta. If this is the case, the control of algae and plant blooms could reduce methylmercury accumulation in food chains and its ability to be transported downstream, making a healthier watershed with improved water quality benefits.

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

Subregion: **CENTRAL** **County: NEVADA & PLACER**

Applicant: **TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**

Project Title: **COLDSTREAM CANYON DESIGN AND PERMITTING FOR CREEK AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION**

Reference Number: **SNC 070108**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would complete final design and construction documents, CEQA and permitting for creek and floodplain restoration work within Coldstream Canyon. All pre-project monitoring would be completed in preparation for grading, excavating, filling, and revegetating segments in the creek and floodplain.

Specific actions would include:

- Final restoration design, including peer review by a Technical Advisory Committee;
- Construction document completion (CEQA and permitting);
- Construction work plan and schedule;
- Pre- and post-implementation monitoring to establish the baseline of riparian and streamside vegetation pre-construction, and to determine results after re-contouring of channel and floodplain;
- One community outreach meeting with partners and interested members of the Truckee community to discuss final design.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Data collection & mapping	September 2008
Final design and plan specification	September 2008
CEQA preparation/ permitting	October 2008
Pre-project monitoring	June – August 2008
Technical Advisory Committee/peer review	December 2008
Administration and oversight	December 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Data collection and mapping and pre-project monitoring	$19,000
Final design and plan specifications	$38,000
CEQA prep/ permitting	$22,500
Technical review and administration	$12,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$91,500**

Letters of Support:

- Stonebridge Properties
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Town of Truckee

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $91,500.

Project Summary

This proposal requests $91,500 to complete the design and permitting for a creek and floodplain restoration project in the lower reaches of Coldstream Canyon. Project partners are the Truckee River Watershed Council and CA Dept of Parks and Recreation. Stonebridge Properties and the Town of Truckee are working in close cooperation.

Coldstream Canyon (Cold Creek) drains a 12.5 square mile watershed that extends from the crest of the Sierra Nevada to just west of the Town of Truckee. There is a long history of human disturbance of the canyon. Construction of the Central Pacific Railroad in1860's extensively modified the natural drainage. Logging began in 1840's and continued through the1960's. Gravel mining occurred during the 1960's and 1970's. The channel and floodplain were completely altered through construction of I-80 and other urban infrastructure.

The channel has been degraded by both cumulative watershed impacts and direct stream channel manipulation. Cumulative impacts include increasing the size and velocity of peak floods, increasing the sediment supply to the channel, or both. Direct alterations of the stream channel and floodplain include changes to the channel network such that reaches that were formerly depositional now produce sediment, negatively impacting aquatic habitat and substantially destabilizing of downstream channel reaches. Estimates from the 12/2005 flood are that 1600 tons of fine sediment was delivered to Cold Creek. Cold Creek is one of the largest human-caused sediment producers to the Truckee River, which is 303(d) listed for sediment.

Cold Creek was relocated and channelized to for gravel mining. The original floodplain was filled with mining spoils, leaving an unnaturally narrow, straight and deep channel. Substantial erosion occurred due to extremely high velocity and shear stress on streambanks. The creek no longer had access to floodplain. Streambanks were very high, and even the largest floods were carried entirely within the channel, creating enormous erosive stress on streambanks. In more recent times, extensive streambank erosion and deposition of coarse gravels bars has started to create limited areas of new floodplain. This is a very slow process and yields substantial amounts of both fine and coarse grained sediment. The restoration opportunity consists of working with this process by actively constructing floodplain that would be formed by the erosive processes of larger floods. By actively creating the floodplain, the fine sediment erosion can be significantly reduced, riparian vegetation and floodplain development significantly accelerated. The project would have both water quality and habitat benefits.

In the restoration 7,300 cy of streambank material will be excavated from the CDPR-reach (and 15,200 cy from the adjacent Stonebridge-reach). The existing riparian vegetation community will be significantly expanded from approximately 3.8 acres to 6.3 acres and will create approximately 2.5 acres of new floodplain which would become riparian vegetation and habitat.

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

Subregion: **CENTRAL** **County: NEVADA**

Applicant: **NEVADA COUNTY FIRES SAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **NEVADA COUNTY FIRST DEFENSIBLE SPACE RECOGNITION & HOME TOUR**

Reference Number: **SNC 070128**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would identify and document prime examples of private land wildfire defensible space efforts around residential properties in various vegetation types and create a Home Tour of these sites to illustrate to other property owners how they can better protect their properties from possible wildfire and protect adjacent wild lands from potential ignition from private land sources. Specific actions include:

- Assemble a volunteer force to consist of resource technicians and professional landscape architects;
- Develop home selection criteria for 8 homes to be included on the tour;
- Develop and print Home Tour guide with pictures of the home sites and directions for tour;
- Initiate media ads to announce home tour;
- Provide handouts with information on defensible space guidelines, fire-wise plant guide for Nevada County, and professional assistance referral list for each home site;
- Present awards to selected homeowners; appreciation and recognition at completion of tour day.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Tour development, including site identification and logistics	May 2008
Homeowner awards	May 2009
Advertising	January 2009
Guides	April 2009
Promotion and coordination	May 2008 – January 2009
Conduct Home Tour	May 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Coordination of selection committee, home selection criteria	$1,000
Home site inspections	$1,000
Advertising, signage and printed guides	$15,450
Administration	$550
GRAND TOTAL	**$18,000**

Letters of Support:

- Nevada County Forest Integrated Resource Safety Task Force (FIRST)

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $18,000.

A. Land and Water Benefits

The watershed correlation would be the relationship of disastrous fire with associated structure loss/damage to the baking of the soil immediately below the lost structure and around the immediate area thus causing soil erosion and the subsequent destruction of water quality and of water delivery systems, due to the potential runoff of household items such as; paint, pesticides, cleaners, oil, plastics, and petroleum products that could have a detrimental effect on the watershed if allowed to wash into a water source. By reducing the fuel loading on private lands and homes the reduction of risk is tremendous as structures provide another component of fuel loading, that once ignited add additional and significant intensity to the fire and require additional protection resources that can divert these resources from the wildland fire suppression effort thus allowing the wildland fire to become larger and more damaging to natural resources and the watershed. Since the late 1970's, development of homes in the wildland has increased in Nevada County. By completing defensible space/ fuel reduction requirements around structures and associated landscapes the risks from fire can be significantly reduced thereby providing protection to private property and the associated watershed. In addition by meeting defensible space requirements less fire protection equipment and personnel would be needed for structure protection allowing more suppression force to deal with the wildfire. The US Forest Service is currently experimenting with Strategic Land Area Treatments (SPLATs), which are designed to change wildfire behavior across the landscape. Wildfire behavior computer models have shown this tactic to be extremely effective at reducing the rate of spread and overall effects of fire. Creating defensible space around homes embedded throughout the watersheds would mimic this strategy and reap the potential benefits in a wildfire incident to reduce the effects of the fire.

Post disastrous fire effects in the Wildland Urban Interface Zone can produce household chemicals mixing with nutrient rich soil and create sediment with extraordinary levels of hazardous chemicals and household products, sometimes in excess of 50 times that of pre fire levels thus ruining fisheries, destroying water quality and greatly escalating the costs of rehabilitation of the water supply system and the watershed.

Investment in this type of resident/landowner education has long term benefits. Once clear understanding is achieved, that individual can implement and maintain their property to effective defensible space standards which serve to protect the watershed from catastrophic wildfire. Additional benefit is derived from the ripple effect of these individuals passing the knowledge along to their families, neighbors and associates who trust this credible source of information and first hand knowledge of the condition.

This project provides the following Land and Water benefits:

1. Protection of the watersheds from catastrophic wildfire through education and understanding of the implementation of Public Resource Code 4291.
2. Avoid the potential for erosion into the watershed from the removal of <u>all</u> vegetative material within 100 feet of structures.
3. Avoid the potential for toxic chemicals to be released into the watershed through the education of effective defensible space concepts around homes, which have proven to decrease structure ignition and losses.
4. Decrease the amount of water used for landscape irrigation through education of the use of native plants and fire wise landscape materials which utilize less water resource.
5. Increase the ability of fire suppression to contain fires through the implementation of defensible space.

B. SNC Program Goals

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

Subregion: **CENTRAL** **County: PLACER**

Applicant: **PLACER COUNTY- DEPT. OF FACILITY SERVICES**

Project Title: **HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK – TRAIL CONNECTIVITY**

Reference Number: **SNC 070140**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would facilitate development of trail alignment recommendations to best protect important natural resources, such as watershed health and water quality, and development of preliminary studies necessary for real property negotiation for conservation easement acquisition, including preliminary survey, geotechnical and cultural/archaeological studies, civil design, construction cost estimating, and Phase 1 ESA.

Specific actions include:

- GPS/site survey;
- Completion of preliminary studies, including:
    - Geotechnical
    - Cultural/archaeological
    - Phase 1 ESA;
- Civil engineering design;
- Construction cost estimates;
- Trail identification and alignment flagging; identification of bridge crossing locations;
- Determination of final trail alignment for future purchase of easement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contracts for GPS/Site Survey	June 2008
Completed survey work	June 2008
Completed pre-acquisition studies and reports (see list above)	November 2008
Completed engineering design for weir design on Taylor property	November 2008
Trail alignments and bridge crossing locations to inform negotiation for easement or fee simple acquisition (Map and report)	November 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Survey	$20,000
Civil Engineering Design	$114,000
Study Reports	$6,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$140,000**

Letters of Support:
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund the project at the requested amount of $140,000.

PROJECT NAME: Placer County Hidden Falls Regional Park – Trail Connectivity Studies

2. Project Summary

Placer County is seeking $140,000 in Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 grant funding to assist in the expansion of the Hidden Falls Regional Park.

Hidden Falls Regional Park (HFRP) is a Placer County-owned property located in the Garden Bar area in close proximity to the fast urbanizing cities of Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln where few passive recreational opportunities currently exist in a natural setting.

The 1,196-acre park, dissected by Coon Creek and containing several waterfalls, is the first large-scale open space recreation area in western Placer County. The park provides trails for hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, nature study, walking, picnicking, fishing in freshwater areas, and horseback riding. These trails were established by the Placer County Parks Division using a balanced approach: public access with respect to the protection of the site waterways. In that same vein, these trails are also maintained in accordance with erosion control and run-off prevention best management practices. Permitting is currently underway to open the remaining 960 acres of the property, the former Spears Ranch, to the public. When complete, the park will offer 26 miles of trails.

The County and it partners such as the Placer Land Trust (PLT) are actively seeking acquisitions of properties in the area. Considerable progress has been made. One intriguing long-range possibility is to link HFRP to the Bear River. The PLT recently received $1.25 million in Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant Program funding to purchase the 320-acre Taylor property and place an easement on the 318-acre Freiheit property.

The two properties are to the northeast of HFRP and both will allow public access. There have also been preliminary discussions regarding the acquisition of a 1000+ acre property along the Bear River that connects to the Taylor and Freiheit properties. There is a small gap that would need to be bridged to connect these properties to HFRP to provide the opportunity for this significant trail lengthening. The County's long range goal is to work towards establishing this trail connection.

Placer County and PLT staff have met with two interested property owners on numerous occasions to tour their sites and discuss opportunities for this connection.

Creating the initial trail connection over the intervening land between the HFRP and the PLT preservation is a common goal of both entities that will not only provide public access to the PLT land, but is the first step toward opening up a larger breadth of scenic natural land and water resources for the enjoyment and education of the public.

To achieve this goal, a variety of environmental engineering and other studies are necessary to identify the trail alignment, waterway protection, bridge locations and to provide necessary data in support of Placer County real property negotiation efforts.

The total estimated HFRP Trail Connectivity Study project cost is $191,000. A total of $40,000 has been committed from the County's Placer Legacy Program, as well as $11,000 of in-kind, County staff time to facilitate these activities. The SNC grant amount being requested is $140,000.

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

Subregion: **CENTRAL** **County: NEVADA**

Applicant: **NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF REMOVING MERCURY-LADEN SEDIMENT FROM COMBIE RESERVOIR**

Reference Number: **SNC 070150**

PROJECT SCOPE

Conduct an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act to remove mercury-laden sediment from Combie Reservoir by use of innovative technology and to restore riparian habitat in the upper Bear River watershed. The environmental analysis is a critical step in determining the feasibility of removing large quantities of sediment with mercury from a reservoir such as Combie. Because this is a recurring problem throughout the Sierra Nevada, this work will help to inform irrigation districts about removal of contaminants from water sources.

Specific actions include:

- Conduct meetings with permitting agencies;
- Consult on initial study and environmental review;
- Prepare CEQA documents;
- Obtain necessary permits from local, state and federal agencies.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
NHI report on flow augmentation, increased storage and potential impact to reservoir; strategies for establishing flow regime	October 2008
Habitat maps, water sediment and biota sampling	December 2008
SWS Report on findings	December 2008
Complete fish inventory and CEQA analysis	July 2009
Obtain permits from CDFG, USGS, DWR & Corp. of Engineers	December 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Meetings with consultants and permitting agencies	$15,000
Initial study and environmental review	$10,000
Preparation of CEQA documents	$60,000
Permits	$15,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$100,000**

Letters of Support:

- None

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $100,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF REMOVING MERCURY-LADEN SEDIMENT FROM COMBIE RESERVOIR

Project Summary

The Bear River is one of the most impacted watersheds in the Sierra Nevada foothill region by mercury and methylmercury contamination from historic mining practices. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been leading a multi-agency effort (Alpers et al., 2005b) in the upper Bear River watershed to identify total mercury and methylmercury "hotspots" and have concurred that multitudinous abandoned mine sites are likely sources of contamination within the watershed, as well as legacy contamination in streambed sediments that are potentially being transported during storm events. Available data collected in the upper Bear River watershed indicate that methylmercury concentrations in water and aquatic biota increase dramatically and systematically in stream reaches within 10 kilometers downstream of two major reservoirs on the river. These reservoirs include Rollins Reservoir, upstream of Combie Reservoir, and Camp Far West Reservoir, downstream of Combie Reservoir. All three reservoirs are listed as impaired by mercury on California's 303(d) list under the Clean Water Act.

The project, titled *Environmental Review: Assessing the Impacts of Removing Mercury-Laden Sediment from Combie Reservoir* and hereafter referred to as *The Combie Reseroir Project),* will conduct an environmental review on the use of an innovative technology, developed by Knelson Gravity Solutions of Canada, to remove mercury-laden sediment from Sierra Nevada waterbodies. Combie Reservoir will serve as the demonstration site and is part of a larger, more comprehensive plan of action that has been written into the Consumnes, American, Bear and Yuba River Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (CABY IRWMP). The environmental review conducted under funding provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will serve as a model for other mercury extraction projects that are projected to occur in the CABY region.

The Nevada Irrigation District is requesting $100,000 from the SNC for this project. An additional $60,000 will be provided by the District. The source of the funds include a cash match and in-kind technical expertise from NID staff, which is in and over the $60,000. Funding is available in December 2007.

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

Subregion: **CENTRAL** **County:** **EL DORADO**

Applicant: **THE FOREST FOUNDATION**

Project Title: **CALIFORNIA FORESTRY CHALLENGE**

Reference Number: **SNC 070177**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Forestry Challenge is an environmental stewardship education event for high school students. Students from selected urban, suburban, and rural high schools are invited to attend four days of field work and workshops. Student participation will be hands-on, including field trips to various sites for data collection and analysis (including water quality and supply), a night hike with a wildlife biologist, and a trip to a sawmill to learn about renewable biomass energy and green building. Students will develop a land restoration plan for judging, and must explain how their plans safeguard forest and watershed health.

The 2008 Forestry Challenge will be held at Sly Park Environmental Education Center at Pollock Pines. Approximately 165 students from 32 schools that have expressed interest will be transported to, and housed at, the Challenge site. A small fee will be charged to schools that can afford it, but waived for those that cannot. Activities for the successful completion of the project include:

- Develop the program and training materials;
- Confirm trainers, guides, speakers, judges;
- Acquisition of fieldwork supplies;
- Identify, invite, and confirm student participants;
- Transport students to the Challenge / house students;
- Transport students to field sites and on fieldtrips;
- Hold completion and judging of students' land restoration plans.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Schools/students identified, invited, confirmed; study materials mailed to schools; pre-event training conducted at schools	Jan. – Sept. 2008
Program speakers identified and confirmed	June – Oct. 2008
Logistical arrangements made / housing set up	June – Oct. 2008
Training plan developed / field trip design / fieldwork materials purchased	June – Oct. 2008
Competition judges identified and confirmed	June – Oct. 2008
Forestry Challenge held	Oct. 8-11, 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Participant lodging	21,000
Fieldwork supplies/tools	10,000
Charter buses and field trip transportation	4,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 35,000**

Letters of Support:

- none

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested amount of $35,000.

Grant Project Summary:

Provide a summary (one page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the project cost.

The 2008 California Forestry Challenge

The Forestry Challenge is The Forest Foundation's most successful, dynamic, and growing educational program. It provides the ultimate outdoor education experience for California high school students.

The Challenge brings urban, suburban and rural high school students into the forest to work side-by-side with natural resource professionals and public agency representatives. The four-day event exposes students and teachers to the complexities of environmental stewardship, provides an invaluable hands-on learning experience and helps develop critical thinking skills by addressing timely issues. Students learn about forest values that range from healthy watersheds to carbon sequestration and climate change.

The Challenge has hosted as many as 110 students and their teachers from 20 high schools across 10 counties per year. In 2008 The Forestry Challenge will be held at Sly Park Environmental Education Center in Pollock Pines. Prior to the event, students and teachers will receive a classroom visit from Forest Foundation staff in order to explain the learning goals for the event. Teachers are given a resource packet containing forest ecology study materials and information on emerging Sierra Nevada environmental issues. At the Challenge, students will participate in the following activities:

- Field training in small groups with resource professionals who teach forest ecology, data collection, data analysis, water quality and availability.
- Night hike with a wildlife biologist to hoot for owls.
- Workshop on emerging environmental issues such as the role of healthy forests in off-setting atmospheric carbon emissions.
- Workshop on career opportunities in environmental stewardship.
- Field trips to various forest locations near Mormon Emigrant Trail to collect data and assess environmental health of forests under differing management methods.
- Field testing to assess student knowledge of data collection and forest ecology.
- Field trip to a sawmill to learn about renewable biomass energy and green building.

As a culminating activity, students prepare a land restoration plan that addresses a current real-life issue involving our Sierra Nevada forest environment. Student teams present their plans to a panel of judges comprised of community members and resource professionals. Students are required to explain how their plans will safeguard forest and watershed health for future generations.

Through participation in the Forestry Challenge, students garner a better understanding of both the importance and complexities of environmental stewardship in our Sierra Nevada forests. Students confront practicalities such as budget limitations, societal concerns, changing forest composition and varying resource management approaches. The forest provides the ideal environment for teaching about the multiple values provided by the Sierra Nevada.

KCRA-3, Sacramento's NBC affiliate, calls the Challenge "A field trip like no other."

Total Forestry Challenge Cost is $55,000. We have $20,000 available through in-kind services and donations. Total grant being requested is $35,000.

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Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Subregion: **NORTH** **County: LASSEN**

Applicant: **MOUNTAIN MEADOWS CONSERVANCY**

Project Title: **ROBBER'S CREEK MILL SITE "HOW TO" GUIDE**

Reference Number: **SNC 070114**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would focus on identifying and describing the steps needed to address clean-up and re-use of an industrial lumber mill or mine site, ultimately developing a "How To" guide that would be useful for other communities in the Sierra Nevada faced with similar issues. Specific actions include:

- Conducting research needed to create a long-term strategy for acquisition, restoration, preservation and recreation development of abandoned lumber mill or mine sites;
- Partnering with public agencies and consultants to develop a comprehensive community- and policy-based strategy that addresses identified concerns;
- Developing a "How To" guide for use by others, including interactive mapping tools available in Google Earth;
- Making the guide available online, so that communities throughout the region can access the guide and learn how to use the interface.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Research liability issues for mill/mine site reclamation and due diligence	July 2008
Prepare How To Guide	March 2009
Develop Google Earth maps	June 2009
Distribute Guide to public & partners via the Internet	December 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Research and mapping	$16,650
Project Development, including Land Use Specialist to report on issues raised by mill site reclamation projects	$1,350
How to Guide research, drafting and dissemination	$30,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$48,000**

Letters of Support:
None received.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund the project at the requested level of $48,000.

Project Name: Robber's Creek Mill Site "How-to" Guide

2. Project Summary

The project proposed by the Mountain Meadows Conservancy ("MMC") includes completing the initial research necessary to develop a "how-to" guide for the reuse of former lumber mill sites in the Sierra Nevada. This research is also needed to create a long term strategy for the eventual acquisition, restoration, preservation, and recreation development of a specific local site, the Robber's Creek Mill Site ("RCMS"). The successful completion of this final project will protect the water quality for adjacent communities, preserve the existing wetlands habitat, and improve the local economy, as well as providing an incentive for such efforts in other Sierra Nevada communities. MMC will partner with several public agencies and pro bono consultants to develop a comprehensive community and policy-based strategy and "how-to" guide for former lumber mill sites throughout the region. (*See Attachments A, B, & C for maps of the RCMS location*).

This project was inspired by a former lumber mill site, located adjacent to Westwood, CA an old mill town in the northern Sierra Nevada in Lassen County. The Red River Lumber Company founded the town in 1912, and operated until the mill's closure in 1956. The Company's activities included milling, then eventually moved into light manufacturing of wood crates, flakeboard, telephone poles using copper treatment, Venetian blinds, and veneer paneling.[1] Today, the "mill site" is home to a wetland teeming with wildlife and an amazing array of bird species, yet several remaining rustic structures are evidence of the site's history. At present date, the mill site has not been comprehensively tested for contaminants.[2] Unfortunately, the water's possible contamination could threaten the health of the surrounding area, including habitat for the threatened and endangered species in this area. By developing a "how-to" guide, MMC will develop the resources to address this specific site, while creating a valuable tool for the region.

The main issue that MMC seeks to address is how local communities in the Sierra can work together to reuse former mining and timber mill sites by better understanding and addressing suspected water quality contamination from historic mining or timber activities. The strategy developed through this process would be compiled into a "how-to" guide and disseminated to communities throughout the Sierra Nevada region who desire mill reuse but face similar water quality issues arising from historic uses. Former lumber mill sites are often located in upper watersheds. Thus, the dissemination of a reuse "how-to" guide to these communities has the potential to vastly improve watershed health by providing an incentive for restoration projects throughout the Sierra Nevada region.

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[1] Historical photos of the Red River Lumber Mill provide documentation of these activities and are available upon request.

[2] Pacific Municipal Consultants, *The Red River Lumber Company Westwood Mill Site Reuse Analysis*, 2002. Pacific Municipal Consultants ("PMC") was hired by the County to look at reuse options for the mill site. PMC completed a report, documenting the substantial number of threatened and endangered species spotted in or near the mill site, and collected community input from Westwood residents about what would be the best use of the site. Their primary recommendations were to seek funding to test the mill site for potential contaminants and to create a recreation opportunity to support the fledgling economy of Westwood.] *But see also,* California Department of Toxic Substances Control. *Report: Red River Lumber Site.* Web publication. http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp (Accessed December 28, 2007), *stating that no contaminants were found.*

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

Subregion: **NORTH** **County: LASSEN**

Applicant: **LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **SUSANVILLE FUEL REDUCTION AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070145**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would treat approximately 380 acres of eastside mixed conifer forest for fire fuels reduction and assist private landowners in meeting standards for defensible space around home sites. Fuel reduction would defend private land resources against potential catastrophic loss during wildfire events and watershed resources against wildfire ignitions from residential properties. Specific actions would include:

- Treatment of 380 acres of mixed conifer forest for fuel reduction, including thinning of closed crown stands in the urban interface and fuel reduction work along evacuation routes;
- Reduce fuel loads by mechanical methods on private lands within a 1,000-acre project area;
- Conduct risk assessments around any homes located within the treatment area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete contract for mechanical fuel reduction services	October 2008
Complete fuels reduction activities in urban interface and along evacuation routes	March 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuel reduction treatment and risk assessment services contract (funding to treat specific acreage within a larger landscape project area)	$95,999
5% Administrative costs	$4,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$99,999**

Letters of Support:
None received.

Recommendation:
Staff recommends funding at the requested level of $99,999.

2. Project Summary

Our project is a watershed restoration and fuel reduction project within the Gold Run Creek and Susan River watersheds in Lassen County. It is being implemented on a landscape scale that includes hundreds of private landowners in conjunction with federal efforts.

It is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) in partnership with USFS, BLM, NRCS, local government, fire departments, tribes, and private landowners. LCFSC is the lead and applicant for this project.

The primary restoration activities are the thinning of closed crown stands of mixed conifer forest in the residential setting through biomass utilization. Trees within these stands are beginning to succumb to bug kills. Ancillary actions include the risk assessments of hundreds of homes and fuel reduction along evacuation routes.

Our project will aid in restoring and conserving the Region's physical and living resources, aid in the preservation of working landscapes, reduce risk of wildfires, improve water and air quality, assist the Regional economy and enhance public lands. It will restore and protect habitat for numerous endangered species and species of concern.

The project is a priority of the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Most of the LCFSC administrative needs are being funded by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, the ultimate sign of local and regional support. We are also working in tandem with the USFS, BLM and industrial forest landowners to reduce fuel loads in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

LCFSC no longer builds fuel breaks. We have found that when a catastrophic fire event comes to the community, fuel breaks survive and a good portion of the community is destroyed. Our projects now treat the entire community landscape, assist property owners with meeting 100' clearance requirements and help homeowners identify and address risk within the home ignition zone. LCFSC has completed thousands of acres of landscape scale projects. Our planning effort has been funded with support from NRCS, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, the Pit RCD, Susanville Indian Rancheria, the Lassen County RAC, and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. The implementation phase of this project is partially funded by a half million dollar NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant, USFS, BLM, CalFire, Lassen County RAC and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors.

In the aftermath of the Angora Fire, Lassen communities have become models for how to work within a complex environment and reduce wildfire threat, and do so at a reasonable cost. We are asking SNC for $99,999 and we will use these funds to expand our $750,000 Susanville Fuel reduction project that began this summer.

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

Subregion: **NORTH** **County: LASSEN/MODOC/SHASTA**

Applicant: **LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **DAY LASSEN BENCH FUEL REDUCTION & WATERSHED RESTORATION**

Reference Number: **SNC 070147**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would apply biomass utilization thinning (cutting and chipping) to treat approximately 256 acres of mixed conifer in the Fall River Watershed in Lassen, Modoc and Shasta Counties to reduce fuels, thereby reducing fire risk for watershed resources and increasing fire safety for residential areas. The project would also assist homeowners in establishing adequate clearance around homes and advise them on ways to reduce risk of home ignitions during wildfire events. Specific actions would include:

- Treatment of 256 acres of mixed conifer forest and white-oak woodlands, including thinning of closed crown stands of mixed conifer forest in the wildland-urban interface areas with biomass utilization techniques that provide chipped materials to local energy production plants;
- Reduction of dangerous fuel loads along roads adjacent to national forest lands and evacuation routes in the watershed;
- Completion of risk assessments on private lands within the larger 3,150-acre landscape-level project area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contract for mechanical fuel reduction services	September 2008
Remove excess fuels in the wildland-urban interface	September 2008
Remove excess fuels along adjacent roads	October 2008
Complete risk assessments on private lands	September 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuel reduction treatment and risk assessment services contract (funding to treat specific acreage within a larger landscape project area)	$95,999
5% administrative costs	$4,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$99,999**

Letters of Support:
None received.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund at the requested amount of $99,999.

2. Project Summary

Our project is a watershed restoration and fuel reduction project within the Fall River watershed in Lassen, Modoc and Shasta Counties. It is being implemented on a landscape scale that includes hundreds of private landowners in conjunction with federal efforts.

It is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) in partnership with USFS, BLM, NRCS, local government, fire departments and private landowners. LCFSC is the lead and applicant for this project. We have provided these services in concert with the Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council, Inc. (DLBFSC) since 2002.

The primary restoration activities are the thinning of closed crown stands of mixed conifer forest in the residential setting through biomass utilization. Trees within these stands are beginning to succumb to bug kills. Ancillary actions include the risk assessments of hundreds of homes and fuel reduction along evacuation routes.

Our project will aid in restoring and conserving the Region's physical and living resources, aid in the preservation of working landscapes, reduce risk of wildfires, improve water and air quality, assist the Regional economy and enhance public lands. It will restore and protect habitat for numerous endangered species and species of concern.

The project is a priority of the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Most of the LCFSC administrative needs are being funded by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, the ultimate sign of local and regional support. We are also working in tandem with the USFS, BLM and industrial forest landowners to reduce fuel loads in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

LCFSC no longer builds fuel breaks. We have found that when a catastrophic fire event comes to the community, fuel breaks survive and a good portion of the community is destroyed. Our projects now treat the entire community landscape, assist property owners with meeting 100' clearance requirements and help homeowners identify and address risk within the home ignition zone. LCFSC has completed thousands of acres of landscape scale projects. Our planning effort was funded with support from the Fall River Resource Conservation District, the Lassen County RAC, USFS and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. The implementation phase of this project has been funded by USFS, BLM, California Fire Safe Council, and the Lassen, Modoc & Shasta County RACs.

In the aftermath of the Angora Fire, The Day Lassen Bench Community has become a model for how to work within a complex environment and reduce wildfire threat, and do so at a reasonable cost. We are asking SNC for $99,999 and we will use these funds to expand our $750,000 Day Lassen Bench Fuel reduction project that began in 2004.

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

Subregion: **NORTH** **County:** **LASSEN & MODOC**

Applicant: **PIT RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **LOWER ASH CREEK RESTORATION PLANNING PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070283**

PROJECT SCOPE

This is a planning and development project to address restoration of a 3.5-mile reach of lower Ash Creek, a tributary of the Pit River, and 2,400 acres of associated watershed. Pit RCD will cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game in the development of this project, which is located in the Ash Creek Wildlife Area and lies in both Lassen and Modoc counties. Drainage modifications of the area for agricultural use have led to a single widened and deepened channel, resulting in drying out of the wetlands and lowering of the water table and leading to a conversion of the vegetation from meadow to sagebrush. This has all led to increased erosion and sedimentation of the Pit River. This project would design treatment techniques specific to the area for hydrologic, biological, and recreational resource restoration while maintaining agricultural production. Goals of the implemented project are:

- Stop channel and soil erosion at the site;
- Reconnect the channel with the flood plain;
- Raise the local water table;
- Restore a more fire-tolerant site;
- Improve habitat values for the site.

Activities for successful completion of this planning project include:

- Conduct resource surveys (botanical/wetland, wildlife, fish, soils and hydrology, fuels and silviculture, cultural resources);
- Conduct hydrologic/geomorphic analysis;
- Develop design alternatives based on site assessment and resource surveys;
- Prepare initial study;
- Prepare permits (CDFG 1601, RWQCB WQ Certification, SHPO notification, ACOE 404 permit or nationwide permit notification, USFWS T&E consultation, if necessary);
- Conduct outreach (at least 2 stakeholder field tours).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Conduct all resource surveys	May 2008
Conduct hydrologic/geomorphic analysis	May 2008
Develop design alternatives	June 2008
Prepare Initial Study	July 2008
Prepare permits	July 2008
Outreach (conduct 2 stakeholder field tours)	August – Sept. 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**January, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Personnel – District book-keeping/billing	2,000
Permit fees and expenses	1,000
Office expenses	200
Publications	200
Advertising	200
Contract services (Pit RCD Watershed Coordination; hydrologist consultation; GIS services; cultural resources consultation)	50,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 53,600**

Letters of Support:

- Department of Fish & Game

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding the requested amount of $53,600.

SNC 070283 Lower Ash Creek Restoration Planning Project, Project Summary & Budget

The Pit Resource Conservation District (Pit RCD) proposes a planning project to address aquatic, riparian, and upland restoration at lower Ash Creek, a degraded stream and wet meadow system that is located within the western portion of Ash Creek Wildlife Area (WA) in Modoc and Lassen County. The total project area is approximately 2,200 acres. Exact area of disturbance for eventual project implementation will be identified under the proposed study, but will likely be a much smaller area.

The Pit RCD, in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), proposes a "full" stream/wetland restoration strategy for the project area. The Pit RCD and CDFG have worked cooperatively on projects in the Wildlife Area since 1996. The RCD administers the grazing, haying, and farming contracts that occur within the WA. DFG staff conducts day-to-day management. However, due to budget cuts and resulting staff shortages for CDFG at the WA, the ability to manage the area has been compromised. Implementation of this project would reduce management actions needed by wildlife area staff by restoring naturally occurring processes that improve and maintain wildlife habitats. For example, improved conditions include: nesting habitat, in-stream channel diversity, seasonal wetlands, permanent ponds, and meadows with fewer noxious weeds. These improvements require little or no maintenance, are consistent with the WA's management plan, and are considered long-term benefits. Improved meadow and grasslands (which are managed on the WA with livestock grazing and haying operations) would also result in improved management of such species as sandhill cranes and geese.

The dominant feature of the project site is a dehydrated middle-elevation stream and meadow system. Historically, this ecosystem featured saturated hydric meadow soils and patches of riparian deciduous shrubs along the stream corridor. Channel degradation has effectively drained the meadow and riparian vegetation is no longer present. CDFG has recently toured other regional meadow restoration projects and realizes the many resource benefits that result from full restoration. They have also developed a two-foot contour map of the area, and consulted with stream restoration practitioners about the "pond and plug" technique and its utility on the WA.

A detailed study of the site is now needed to develop the restoration design. Completion of the design can occur this winter with CEQA compliance (i.e., Initial Study Neg. Dec.) and permitting in the spring (i.e. 2008) and construction in the fall of 2008. Although the ultimate funding source for construction is not secured, the State Wildlife Conservation Board has expressed a high interest in restoring Ash Creek within the WA.

The proposed project will deliver a project design that will be used to develop permits and construction bid information (i.e., amount of dirt to be moved, etc.).

The proposed project will directly address seven Sierra Nevada Conservancy program goals: protecting living resources, preserving working landscapes, protecting and improving water and air quality, assisting the regional economy, enhancing public use of lands owned by the public, reducing risk of natural disasters (fire, meadow and stream degradation, and flooding), and providing increased opportunities for recreation and tourism (improve visuals on the Bieber-Lookout Rd.).

Budget: Personnel $ 2,000; Operating Expenses (permit fees, publication costs, etc.) $ 1,600; Contract Services $50,000; **Total sum requested: $53,600.**

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

Subregion: **NORTH** **County: MODOC**

Applicant: **CENTRAL MODOC RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Reference Number: SNC 070302

PROJECT SCOPE

This planning project will develop design solutions for restoration of four sites related to the Pit River in Modoc County. The combined extent of the four sites is about 6 miles of total stream and river repair and 1,600 acres of watershed rehabilitation. Project sites and proposed activities include:

1. Flournoy Project: Rehydrate two meadows (640 acres) that have been altered due to channelization.
2. Pedotti Project: Remediate 9 miles of canals on a three-mile section of Canyon Creek affecting over 900 acres of former wet meadow habitat.
3. Hagge Project: Remediate 2.25 miles of the Pit River that has been subjected to channelization.
4. Krauel Project: Repair and revegetate a 3,500-foot section of the main stem Pit River and restore 56 acres of riparian habitat.

Project activities related to all sites include:

- Establishment of a project technical committee for each site that includes landowners, RCD staff, interested regulatory agency representatives, relevant contractors, and funding representatives;
- Project design, including noxious weed management;
- Fish survey and assessment;
- Other surveys necessary to complete environmental documentation and permitting in preparation for future implementation;
- Ongoing watershed education and outreach activities by Central Modoc RCD, the River Center, and the Pit River Watershed Alliance, including at least two field tours, based on lessons learned.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish technical committees	May-June 2008
Conduct all resource surveys/assessments	May 2008 – Sep. 2009
Conduct fish survey/assessment	May 2008 – Dec. 2009
Develop design alternatives	Oct. 2008 – Sept. 2009
Conduct CEQA/NEPA process	Sep.2009 – March 2010
Acquire all necessary permits	Nov. 2009 – March 2010
Conduct 2 field tours of each site	Throughout project
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Grant and contract administration	18,699
Project coordination and document development	18,198
Materials & supplies	5,000
Equipment (water quality monitoring)	5,600
Project costs (includes mileage, permit fees, publishing & advertising, audit)	27,000
Contract services (GIS mapping, hydrologist consultation, botanical & cultural assessments)	58,000
River Center Outreach contract	10,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 142,497**

Letters of Support:

- None

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding at the requested amount of $142,497.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070302 Central Modoc Watershed Restoration Projects)
The Central Modoc Resource Conservation District (CMRCD) proposes to provide design solutions for a series of stream management problems in the upper Pit River watershed. These private land sites have gone untreated so far in part because of site characteristics that, although not uncommon in the watershed, are not well suited to standard treatments.

Under this proposal, design concepts, design details, resource surveys, CEQA compliance, permitting and implementation plans for this set of projects will be completed. Stakeholder and agency coordination to provide for designs that meet the multiple goals of the various stakeholders will also be supported under this proposal.

Each site is currently subject to approved cooperative agreements with CMRCD. Management goals for the four sites are outlined below:

Flournoy Project: Rehydrate two meadows (640 ac.) that have been altered due to channelization.

Pedotti Project: Remediate approx. 9 miles of canals that have replaced the original channel of 3 miles of Canyon Creek, affecting over 900 acres of former wet meadow habitats. Provide renewed flood plain access.

The Hagge Project: Remediate 2.25 mi. of the Pit River that has been subject to severe channelization. Goals also include preliminary study of possible strategies for eventual channel redesign for this nearly 10 mile reach of the Pit River.

The Krauel project will seek repair and revegetation of a 3500 ft. section of eroding river bank on the main stem Pit River and resoration/enhancement of a section of historic river channel on the historic flood plain elevation that was isolated during channel downcutting episodes. This project site covers approximately 56 riparian and agricultural acres. Involvement of Ducks Unlimited and WCB is expected for this project site.

All of the sites to be addressed feature problems that are recognized in the existing Pit River Watershed Assessment as contributing to water quality problems in the watershed. All sites will feature the following common elements: 1. Establishment of a project technical committee. 2. Noxious weed management. 3. Comprehensive documentation and monitoring. 4. Use of the projects' lessons in ongoing watershed planning and outreach activities by CMRCD, the River Center, and the Pit River Watershed Alliance.

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

Subregion: **NORTH-CENTRAL** **County:** **PLUMAS**

Applicant: **COUNTY OF PLUMAS**

Project Title: **"PLANNING TO PLAN" FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT AMONG LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL SIERRA REGION**

Reference Number: **SNC 070203**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would formalize a framework for a large-scale, integrated four-county water management program for the North-Central Sub-Region. Water management within the North-Central counties of the Sierra is currently fragmented. Additionally, water management issues extend well beyond individual counties to the entire sub-region and beyond. After initial conversations between local governments, the local governments will consult with water districts (water, wastewater, and flood control), Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning entities, and other water management interests in order to improve relations and build capacity and cooperation between the local governments and traditional water management agencies. Activities for the successful completion of this preliminary planning project include:

- Task 1 – Grant management by Plumas County Flood Control District
    - Develop presentation and meeting materials
    - Assign consultants for meetings, presentations, negotiations, etc.
    - Meeting summaries and other planning documents;
- Task 2 – Government-to-government consultation by Plumas County Supervisors, Flood Control District staff, and consultants
    - Initial meetings between county Supervisors
    - Develop white paper on planning priorities and potential partnerships
    - Brief elected officials and Dept. of Water Resources;
- Task 3 – Consultation with National Forests and National Parks in the Sub-Region;
- Task 4 – Consultation with Sierra and Northern Sacramento Valley stakeholders
    - Briefings with Mountain Counties region and North Sierra region
    - Meet with Northern California Water Association
    - Meet with various valley environmental and environmental justice interests on water management interests
    - Participation in IRWM and bond negotiations
    - Outreach to ensure North-Central Sub-Region interests and priorities are considered in legislation in 2008;
- Task 5 – Prepare final report and submit to Sierra, Butte, and Tehama County Supervisors for agreement to continue to develop a region-wide watershed management plan.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete update of briefing and informational materials	May 15, 2008
Consultations between the four county governments	May – June 2008
Consultations between Plumas County and National Forests, National Parks, Mountain Counties and North Sierra Region Supervisors, Northern California Water Association and other water associations and irrigation districts, and other identified and interested regional, business, water, and environmental organizations	July – August 2008
Draft report for review and comment	Sept. 30, 2008
Complete Final Report	Oct. 31, 2008
Review of Final Report by four County Supervisors with agreement to continue to develop a region-wide watershed management plan	Dec. 31, 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**Dec. 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Plumas County Flood Control grant coordination, administration, preparation of briefing materials, draft and final reports	13,045
Government-to-government consultation with Butte, Tehama, and Sierra counties	6,590
Consultation with Forest Service, Park Service, Department of Water Services, and other involved stakeholders	12,461
Stakeholder consultations	7,370
Briefing & consultation with state and federal elected officials & staff	8,980
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 48,446**

Letters of Support:

- none

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding this project at the request amount of $48,446.

Email Form

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

(SNC 070203) "Planning to Plan" for Better Integration of Water Management Among Local Governments in the North Central Sierra Region

The County of Plumas is submitting this application for a Category 2 Strategic Opportunity Grant to initiate and resume consultation with Sierra, Butte and Tehama Counties and other involved agencies and parties regarding new integrated water management partnership opportunities in the North Central Sierra Region. The total project cost is $48,446.

"Planning to plan" for integrated water management in our region of the Sierra is timely. The current negotiations about funding guidelines for Proposition 84, the debate over future water bonds or initiatives, and the recent passage of new state and federal flood legislation all reflect the high level of political and financial interest in better water management for California.

Plumas proposes to formalize the framework for a regional North Central Sierra water management program that integrates and advances at least three of the state's water management priorities (as set forth in the California Water Code). Improved water management through regional integration first became eligible for funding with the approval of Proposition 50 in 2002 and was further encouraged with the approval of Proposition 84 in 2006. With a high likelihood of at least one forthcoming ballot initiative related to water supply reliability, there is a possibility that even more funding opportunities will be presented for integrated water management improvements. While the specific funding eligibility criteria are still under development, preliminary agency guidelines and proposed bond language require a significantly higher level of both intra-regional and inter-regional water management planning and coordination than has previously occurred in the North Central Sierra region. Although new water management improvement projects could greatly benefit local governments and their constituents in the region, the prerequisite level of integrated water management planning is lacking - especially for the forested and more mountainous areas of the region's counties, where population and attention are often focused in the valley lands.

A seed grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides an opportunity for local governments within the North Central Sierra region to "plan to plan" for their upland areas. As local governments identify the priority water management needs for the forested and upland areas of Plumas, Sierra, Tehama, and Butte Counties, these areas are far less likely to be left behind in upcoming grant cycles. As the Proposition 84 guidelines and new bond/initiative language is drafted, it is imperative for the counties in the region to hone and promote the region's upland water management needs.

The planning work will begin with government-to-government consultation between the local agencies in the region, as well as consultation with non-governmental organizations and state and federal agencies, including the Department of Water Resources and the Forest Service. Deliverables for the project include presentation materials, summaries of meetings conducted and outcomes, and a final report that identifies regional priorities and recommends next steps.

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: BUTTE**

Applicant: **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **BIG CHICO CREEK LINKAGE PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070210**

PROJECT SCOPE

Northern California Regional Land Trust proposes to secure funding for appraisals on three properties connecting already-protected lands within the Big Chico Creek watershed in Eastern Butte County. By providing appraisal services for the three connecting properties, this project would support and facilitate permanent protection of the riverine/riparian habitat within the Big Chico Creek watershed through eventual conservation easements. Appraisal services and eventual easements for these properties would:

- Encourage and facilitate the permanent protection of approximately 9,474 contiguous acres along the Big Chico Creek watershed;
- Link the already-protected 3,616-acre Bidwell Park and 4,144-acre Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve to a protected 1,058-acre private estate upstream;
- Ensure the protection of 16 river-miles of riverine/riparian habitat;
- Protect threatened Spring-run Chinook salmon and designated critical habitat.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Contract with appraiser to provide appraisals on subject properties;
- Complete appraisals for the three connecting properties, totaling approximately 656 acres.

Securing appraisals for these three properties is the first step in acquiring the resources necessary to complete the protective linkage of properties along the Big Chico Creek watershed. With appraisals in hand, the Northern California Regional Land Trust can seek funding for conservation easements on the three subject properties beginning fall of 2008.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contract with appraiser for completion of appraisals on the 3 properties	May 2008
Appraisal reports for each of the three linkage properties	June-July 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**August 1, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Three appraisals @ $5,000 each	$15,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$15,000**

Letters of Support:

- none

Recommendation:
Staff recommends funding the project at the requested amount of $15,000.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL LAND TRUST

SNC 070210 Big Chico Creek Watershed Linkage Project

2. Project Summary

The Big Chico Creek Linkage Project represents an opportunity to encourage and facilitate the connection of three large, protected properties within the Big Chico Creek Watershed in eastern Butte County. By securing appraisal services for the connecting properties, linking 3,616-ac Bidwell Park and 4,144-ac Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER) to a protected 1,058-ac private estate upstream might be made possible. If realized, this would allow for the permanent protection of approximately 9,474 contiguous acres and 16 river miles of riverine/riparian habitat within the Big Chico Creek Watershed.

The three connecting properties total approximately 656 acres and straddle Big Chico Creek. The landowners of these properties have expressed varying degrees of interest in granting easements on their properties with two of the three landowners retaining the services of NCRLT in acquiring easement acquisition funding, and the third being more tentative.

All three landowners are currently financially unable or unwilling to pay for real estate appraisals to start the process. By providing appraisal funding for these three properties at this time, not only would the current gridlock be freed, but invaluable trust would be gained by the landowners and the probability of realizing this landmark project would dramatically increase.

This proposal is the first step in acquiring the resources necessary to complete the Big Chico Creek Linkage Project. Securing appraisal services from SNC in March 2008 would facilitate the completion of appraisals as early as June/July 2008. With appraisals in hand, NCRLT would then submit a formal application to SNC for conservation easement funding for the three subject properties in November 2008.

By acquiring these properties the following resources would be protected: Federal and State threatened Spring-run Chinook Salmon, FWS-designated Spring-run Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service-designated Essential Fish Habitat for Spring-run Chinook Salmon, habitat supporting Foothill Yellow-legged frog, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Butte County Checkerbloom (CNPS 1B), Butte County Fritillary, Butte County Morning-glory (CNPS 1B), California Beaked-rush (CNPS 1B), White-stemmed Clarkia (CNPS 1B), Mildred's Clarkia (CNPS 1B), Valley Foothill Riparian habitat, and Blue Oak Woodland, which provides winter forage for the Tehama Deer Herd.

The total cost of the project is $15,000.

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: BUTTE**

Applicant: **BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **FEATHER FALLS SHADED FUEL BREAK**

Reference Number: **SNC 070219**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break would complete treatment on over 18 acres in three sites and would add to approximately eight miles of shaded fuel break within the urban interface area above Lake Oroville in the Feather River watershed. Treatment will be accomplished through hand cutting and chipping. When completed, all phases will connect to create a defensible line that will help to protect watershed resources from residential fire ignitions and private property from negative impacts of potential catastrophic wildfire. Specific actions include:

- Identifying and getting permission from landowners who want to participate in program;
- Contracting for fuel reduction services;
- Hand cutting and chipping brush;
- Removing conifer and hardwood trees under 8" DBH by cut and chipping;
- Pruning remaining conifers to 1/3 of healthy, live crown;
- Increasing spacing between vegetation to up to 20' between stems;
- Removing all dead material from the project site;
- Verifying completion of the phases within the project according to the terms of the agreements and final project inspection.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contact Landowners for permission to participate	May 2008
Put project out for bid, hire fuels reduction contractor	May 2008
Begin on-the-ground work	June 2008
Complete on-the-ground work for three sites	January 2009
Review of Shaded Fuel Break by Butte Co. Fire Safe Council	August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**September 30, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Treat Phase III of the project area , to include 3 sites at Feather Falls School are (5 ac.), Enterprise Boat Launch area (2 ac.) and Lumpkin Road area (11.5 ac)	$98,980
GRAND TOTAL	**$98,980**

Letters of Support:
None received.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund at the requested level of $98,980.

2. Project Summary - Feather Falls Shaded Fuel Break Phase III
This project is a submission for Strategic Opportunity Grant Category I and was also submitted as a competitive grant in November of 2007.

Approximate acreage to be treated: 18.5 total acres in the following locations:
1. Feather Falls School Area: 5 acres
2. Enterprise Boat Launch Area: 2 acres
3. Lumpkin Road Area: 11.5 acres (.5 mi x 5,280ft/mi x 190 ft wide average = 501,600.00 ft/43,560 ft per acre = 11.5)

Budget Requested: $98,580

Project Description- The project is located in Southeast Butte County in the community of Feather Falls. The community was once a prosperous logging village which is now filled with dense heavy brush and mixed conifer forest. This community with a population of approximately 1,200 residents rests on a long ridge line, Lumpkin Ridge, between the Middle and South Fork watersheds of the Feather River above Lake Oroville. Vegetation along Lumpkin Road is extremely thick and over grown posing an extreme fire risk to the watersheds. The Feather Falls Community has Federal Threatened status on the Communities at Risk listing. The project is in compliance with Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and its conservation elements.

Project Design- Total length of 8.1 miles broken into four phases. Phase I and II were funded by a Proposition 40 Community Assistance Grant through CAL-FIRE in the amount of $214,320.00. Work on Phase I began in May of 2007 and Phase II is now in progress. CEQA compliance for the entire fuel break project was completed with Phase I with CAL-FIRE as the lead. This proposal seeks funding for Phase III of the project.

Watershed Protection Values:
1. Drinking water supplies for the City of Oroville and multiple communities reliant upon the California Water Project from the Lake Oroville Reservoir and the Middle and South Fork Feather River watersheds.
2. Water oriented recreation on Lake Oroville including fishing, house boating, patio boating, boat camping, waterskiing, canoeing, sailing, kayaking and swimming.
3. Wild and Scenic River Designation for the Middle Fork of the Feather River.

Project Goals:
1. Lessen the impact of a wildfire to the Middle and South Fork Feather River watersheds.
2. Improve the probability that fires developing along Lumpkin Road can be contained in the initial attack phase in the event of a watershed scale fire.
3. Provide safer egress for residents' evacuation and ingress for fire personnel in a significant fire event.
4. Contribute to the larger scale watershed fuel reduction project of the U.S. Forest Service's Slap Jack Defensible Fuel Profile Zone fuel reduction project.

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: PLUMAS**

Applicant: **FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE HATCHERY**

Project Title: **FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE HATCHERY – SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070253**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River College Hatchery site improvement project would allow for expanded hatchery operations through installation of a new wastewater treatment system utilizing cutting-edge technology. Improvements to the existing aquaculture system will:

- Reduce current wastewater discharge into the adjacent stream (Spanish Creek, a tributary to the Feather River) by 5,808 gallons per day;
- Deliver a consistent production of high-quality fish that will provide for increased education and recreation activities;
- Protect, conserve, and sustain populations of native species such as brown and rainbow trout, and increase the production and supply of these species to organizations such as Kokanee Power and Trout Unlimited in order to provide for recreational fishing opportunities, while supplementing the species' natural numbers.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Completion of aquaculture consultant's analysis and design plan for the remaining site improvements;
- Pre-project survey of existing system discharge into the Spanish Creek watershed;
- Purchase and installation of wastewater and system monitoring equipment;
- Post-project survey of improved system discharge into the Spanish Creek watershed;
- Notification to public of site improvement completion, including accompanying outreach and tourism activities.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Aquaculture system analysis and design plans, and summary of results from existing system discharge survey in the Spanish Creek watershed	April – May 2008
Photo documentation and activity summaries: before, during and after ground work begins	June – September 2008
Installation of equipment	October - March 2009
Conduct outreach and tourism activities to promote public awareness of site improvement	April – June 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**July 31, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Back-up facility generator	$20,000
Equipment	$39,750
Aquaculture consultant	$5,000
Direct administrative expenses	$5,250
GRAND TOTAL	**$70,000**

Letters of Support:

- Trout Unlimited
- Kokanee Power

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding the project at the requested amount of $70,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070253) Feather River College (FRC) is one of the smallest community colleges in California. The 268-acre campus is surrounded by Plumas National Forest and hosts a variety of wildlife, including a resident deer herd. The campus provides a sanctuary for self discovery, study and outdoor activities. In addition to small class sizes and personalized attention, the campus includes state-of-the-art computer technology, a wild trout fish hatchery, and an equestrian center. Over the years, the FRC Hatchery Program has contributed to wildlife conservation by supplying thousands of brown and rainbow trout to State organizations such as Kokanee Power and Trout Unlimited. This request to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy addresses the site improvement needs of the FRC Hatchery, a program that will soon celebrate its 35th year of service dedicated to increasing native species and angling opportunities in public waters for the enjoyment of fishermen of all ages in Plumas County. The Feather River College Hatchery is in the process of developing a cutting-edge aquaculture system for the consistent production of high-quality fish. The system includes fish growout tanks, a commercial-scale hatchery and nursery, waste mitigation systems, fish processing systems and a research and development component. The wastewater mitigation system reduces wastewater discharged directly into the adjacent stream by 5,808 gallons per day. Waste-handling techniques include specialized tank design, biofiltration, clarification and ozonation to recirculate the water volume daily. Wastewater is isolated by rotary screen clarifiers in the fish growout facility, and then runs through a cone-bottom gravity separator and rotary screen clarifier. Solids are isolated, aerobically mineralized and stabilized and applied to an artificial constructed wetland. Runoff from the wetland, as well as effluent from the rotary screen clarifier, is transported to a hydroponics greenhouse for further purification and then ozonated for sterilization. Through this innovative approach to wastewater treatment, the hatchery will prevent and reduce the discharge of thousands of gallons of waste per year while saving operations dollars. This request for funding will provide for the balance of equipment needed for the modification of ponds and tanks at the hatchery site and provide an automated system to monitor and control critical parameters such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and water flow in ponds and tanks. This system has been designed to develop hatchery technology to rear large numbers of juvenile game fish, to evaluate the use of hatchery-reared animals, and to supplement or restore native populations. Project priorities include management of fish reproduction to mimic the genetic makeup of native populations and conducting stock enhancement in a responsible manner. Site improvements will increase productivity and improve the efficiency and operations at the hatchery while also lowering the production cost per fish.

The FRC Hatchery is in need of $70,000 to complete this site improvement project.

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

Subregion: **NORTH-CENTRAL** **County: PLUMAS**

Applicant: **SIERRA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070262**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would create a coordination framework through the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) to obtain, consolidate, and disseminate GIS data identifying the locations and extent of certain noxious weeds on the North Fork of the Feather River in Sierra Valley. The primary invasive weed of concern is the Perennial Pepperweed. Invasive noxious weeds, particularly Pepperweed, are a growing threat to watershed habitat in the northern Sierra Nevada. The choking out of native plants adversely impacts wildlife and agriculture. This project will provide both direct support and an institutional model to protect watershed quality in this and other watersheds.

It is estimated that 5,000 acres of watershed will be mapped within the grant period. The project also contains an outreach and education component utilizing a newsletter, web content, and news releases, plus three noxious weed education events throughout the grant period. Activities initiated within this project include:

- Establish regular communication, including meetings, between all participants in Plumas-Sierra Noxious Weeds Management Group (P-S WEEDS);
- Create a central coordinating position to consolidate and disseminate all North Fork Feather River Watershed weed mapping data;
- Maintain and update a GIS database for mapping of noxious weeds;
- Identify public and stakeholder education and outreach needs, and identify strategies for education, including three education events during the grant period;
- Develop environmental documentation for CEQA/NEPA compliance (i.e. exempt status) for future treatment implementation;
- Use coordinator as a contact point for renewed action of P-S WEEDS to:
    - develop a monitoring plan for tracking noxious weed populations and identifying treatment areas
    - establish a weed control demonstration area to compare weed control methods
    - develop regional-specific noxious weed informational materials for landowners
    - provide additional education activities as identified in the needs assessment process.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Host Plumas-Sierra WEEDS meetings	quarterly
Obtain existing GIS data from stakeholders	May – Sept. 2008
Consolidate GIS data	June-Sept. 2008
Create and disseminate GIS data sets to interested parties	Sept. 2008 – April 2009
Perform field work to add target species population data to GIS data	May 2008 – March 2010
Maintain and update GIS data	ongoing
Implement three education events to present results and inform people about methods for noxious weed avoidance and eradication	Sept. 2008 – March 2010
Produce semiannual newsletter, web content, news releases	May 2008 – March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Materials and supplies (field equipment)	4,250
Project Administration	2,000
Publications and advertising	5,560
Service contracts for GIS data collection and mapping, field work, and outreach activities	33,200
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 45,010**

Letters of Support:

- USDA National Forest Service
- Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding the project at the requested amount of $45,010.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER WATERSHED NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECT : The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) proposes a planning and mapping project to address a range of noxious weed management issues that affect the watershed function of the North Fork Feather River (NFFR) Watershed, focusing on the Sierra Valley area. The encroachment Perennial pepperweed is of particular concern to land mangers in the NFFR watershed because of its ability to overwhelm large expanses of wetland, riparian, and wet meadow ecosystems in a relatively short time.

Present and potential effects of invasive plant species on ecological and agricultural resources of the NFFR are widely recognized, but coordinated local action has not yet materialized. SVRCD, in cooperation with the Plumas-Sierra Noxious Weeds Management Group (P-S WEEDS) and the Office of the Plumas County Agricultural Commissioner, proposes a noxious weed management project that would provide sufficient resources to staff a noxious weed coordination position and implement various noxious weed management efforts currently underway in the NFFR watershed. P-S WEEDS organizational members include a long list of state and Federal agencies, private land managers, and citizen's groups.

Under this proposed program, the following would be accomplished with SVRCD serving as lead agency and fiscal agent:

1. Regular communication and meetings between all participants in P-S WEEDS.
2. A central office would be designated for the purpose of consolidating all existing, new and future NFFR weed mapping data, and a new GIS data base of weed population information would be developed that is consistent with data bases maintained by Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture and other statewide agencies.
3. A Monitoring Plan for tracking weed populations, effects of treatments, etc. would be developed by P-S WEEDS, with initial implementation by the coordinator.
4. Education and outreach needs and strategies would be identified.
5. Environmental documentation for CEQA/NEPA compliance would be initiated for noxious weed treatment strategies on state and Federal lands.

The proposed project would provide direct benefit to various SNC program goals:
1. Conservation of living resources; 2. Preservation of working landscapes; 3. Protection and restoration of public lands; 4. Local economic assistance, and Protection of Water Quality. Indirect benefits to Natural Disaster preparedness (though fuels reductions) and tourism might also be realized.

A total of $45,010.00 is requested ($4,250.00 for materials & supplies, $7560.00 for operations, $33,200.00 for contracts). An additional contribution of cash and in-kind value of $18,400.00 is expected, creating a total project budget of $63,410.00

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: SIERRA**

Applicant: **THE PACIFIC FOREST TRUST**

Project Title: **LEMON CANYON RANCH**

Reference Number: **SNC 070278**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Pacific Forest Trust proposes to complete pre-acquisition activities necessary to prepare for acquisition of a conservation easement on 1,400 acres of working forest land on Lemon Canyon Ranch in Sierra County. Acquisition of a conservation easement on Lemon Canyon Ranch would:

- Maintain the property's eastside pine forest, Sierran mixed-conifer forest, sagebrush, wet meadow, montane riparian, and juniper habitats;
- Protect 3.5 miles of Lemon Creek and its tributaries;
- Protect diverse habitat for over 250 wildlife species;
- Maintain the property as an historic and scenic working ranch;
- Restore forest resources on the ranch to later seral stages, promoting wildlife habitat and decreasing the risk of catastrophic fire and sedimentation of the watercourses.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Project planning, development, and management;
- Easement negotiation and legal review;
- Completion of an appraisal report;
- Production of a baseline report and monitoring plan to aid in long-term management of the easement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete appraisal report	May - August 2008
Develop baseline report and monitoring plan	October 31, 2008
Develop conservation plan	October 31, 2008
Identify and begin pursuing funding for conservation easement acquisition	October – December 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**January 31, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project planning, development, and management	$15,000
Easement negotiation and legal review	$10,000
Appraisal services	$10,000
Production of baseline report and monitoring plan	$15,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$50,000**

Letters of Support:

- none

Recommendation:
Staff recommends funding the requested amount of $50,000.

SNC 070278- Lemon Canyon Ranch
2. Lemon Canyon Ranch Project Summary

Located in the southwestern portion of the Sierra Valley in Sierra County, the Lemon Canyon Ranch consist of 3 legal parcels encompassing 1,400 acres and approximately 3.5 miles of Lemon Creek and its tributaries. The Lemon Canyon Ranch is actively used for cattle grazing and timber production. The Ranch is strategically located in what the Pacific Forest Trust has named the "Southern Corridor of Working Forests," which is defined by the properties that sit along the edge of Sierra Valley where the Valley floor transitions to the upland forest ecosystems. This Corridor plays a critical role in the Sierra Valley's ecological and economic health, by providing approximately half of the Valley's water supply in addition to important wildlife habitat connectivity between the open meadows and upland forests.

The waters of Lemon Creek and its tributaries flow into the floor of Sierra Valley where they irrigate grazing pastures, provide necessary water to the wet meadows and wetlands and flow into the Middle Fork of the Feather River, a federally-designated Wild and Scenic River. The water flow from Lemon Canyon Ranch and the rest of the Southern Corridor provides over 50% of the water that feeds into the Sierra Valley wetland system, which is the largest alpine wetlands area in the Sierra Nevada and supports the greatest concentration and diversity of waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors in the Ecoregion. The Lemon Canyon Ranch itself provides a diversity of wildlife habitat including: eastside pine forest, Sierran Mixed conifer forest, sagebrush, wet meadow, montane riparian, and juniper, which provide habitat for a number of rare and threatened species.

In the southern end of the Sierra Valley, the Lemon Canyon Ranch is within commuting distance from growing population centers Truckee and Reno and is easily accessible by Highway 89 and 49, making it particularly at risk to the increasing development pressures in the Sierra. The protection of the Ranch through a conservation easement will address the threats to water quality and wildlife habitat through its restrictions, which will dedicate the property to relatively natural forest and meadow habitats and its traditional uses of forestry and agriculture.

State, regional and local plans all call for the protection of historical agricultural landscapes of the Sierra Valley, promoting the goals of working landscapes in conjunction with water quality, scenic values and wildlife habitat protection. Given the imminent development threats and the considerable water and wildlife resources on Lemon Canyon Ranch, its permanent protection is a high priority for the public and private partners working downstream. The Pacific Forest Trust respectfully requests $50,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in order to cover the costs associated with project planning and management, appraisal services, easement negotiations, and baseline/monitoring report development. The Conservancy's grant funds would be leveraged by nearly $2,571,000 of in-kind and monetary match from the landowner and other public and private partners.

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: BUTTE**

Applicant: **BUTTE COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

Project Title: **DEFENSIBLE SPACE CHIPPER PROGRAM**

Reference Number: **SNC 070295**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project would fund approximately 40 days of chipping by a Contract Chipping Service to provide residents an alternative to pile burning as part of the defensible space program. Pile burning on private lands has been one of the most common points of ignition for fires that escape within the county, causing catastrophic results within the urban interface and the watershed. By chipping instead of burning, the potential for escape fire and destruction of watershed values is significantly lessened. The project would continue other work in fuel reduction within the urban interface areas of Butte County, and specifically around the city of Paradise.

Specific actions to successfully complete this project include:

- Hiring a contractor for chipping services;
- Offering assistance to homeowners in the urban interface around the city of Paradise;
- Achieving defensible space objectives on approximately 293 acres.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Volunteers check condition of landowner-stacked piles	June 2008
Asst. Director coordinates with residents, volunteers and contractor	April 2008-June 2008
Chipping completed on individual home sites	June 2008-October 2008
End of season meetings with contractors and volunteers	October –December 2008
Assess program with contractors and volunteers	December 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**June 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Chipping contractor	$52,800
FSC staff travel and oversight	$38,390
Supplies, printing of end of season program survey letter, postage	$2,385
Administrative	$4,870
GRAND TOTAL	**$98,445**

Letters of Support:

- Bureau of Land Management, California State Office

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $98,445.

Defensible Space Chipping Program

2. Project Summary

The Butte County Fire Safe Council Defensible Space Chipper Program protects watershed values in six major watersheds including: Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek, Cherokee, Upper Feather River and Lower Feather River/Honcut Watersheds. These major watersheds contain 23 listed and another 29 eligible communities at risk from wildfire within a Wildland Urban Interface Zone (WUI). The growing number of homes in these WUI communities significantly increases the risk of a fire spreading from residents into any one of Butte County's major watersheds.

All of Butte County's major watersheds contain hazardous fuels conditions such as: extensive and continuous fuels, very heavy fuel loading in critical locations and concentrations of highly flammable fuels in locations where frequent ignitions are more likely to occur.

The Chipper Program will serve to protect multiple watershed values: drinking water supplies, critical habitat, wild and scenic river designation and water oriented recreation in Butte County's major watersheds.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council Chipper Program has successfully reduced the risk of resident source ignitions from spreading into watersheds since 2001. The Program has assisted 2,159 residents and chipped 2,455 acres since it began. The program promotes sustainability by giving residents a tool to use to be good stewards to their land.

Project Goals

Goal 1. Protect Butte County Watersheds from Wildfire -- By reducing fuels we reduce the probability of fires starting within communities and around homes, escaping initial attack and developing into a watershed fires. By chipping the fuels that have been removed from around homes and putting them back on the ground the fire carrying capacity of the fuel is reduced while serving to protect the watershed. The chips will prevent soil erosion, will provide soil nutrients and can reduce unwanted weeds and vegetative regrowth.

Goal 2. Provide Residents with an Alternative to Burning-- Eliminate the need for homeowners to conduct "debris burning" in order to get rid of vegetative waste which they have cut around their homes and property, thus reducing the risk of an escape debris fire developing into a watershed fire and assisting with the reduction of smoke in the air. Major fires in Butte County have occurred due to debris burning.

Goal 3. Assist Residents to Create Defensible Space -- By chipping the last phase of all hazardous fuels reduction is allowed to be completed.

Goal 4. Provide 44 days of Chipping service and treat 293 acres for Butte County residents.

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

Subregion: **NORTH-CENTRAL** **County:** **PLUMAS**

Applicant: **SIERRA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **SIERRA VALLEY RCD WATERSHED OUTREACH EVENT PROPOSAL – SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WORKING WITH WATER WORKSHOP**

Reference Number: **SNC 070311**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sustainable Agriculture Workshop portion of this proposal will expand the knowledge of farmers and ranchers in the Sierra Valley to protect the water quality and supply of the Feather River watershed through more sustainable agricultural practices. The Workshop will provide a forum where local food producers in the Sierra Valley watershed can learn how to make their farms and ranches more sustainable. The workshop will focus on water issues, particularly water management and conservation, water quality monitoring, and water quality improvement. The spread of Perennial Pepperweed will be addressed as well. Topic discussions will be led by regional experts, academics, and practitioners. All interested parties can attend, and local, state, and organizational officials are encouraged to attend through complimentary admissions. This is the third year for the event. There were 70 participants last year (up from 40 the first year) and more are hoped for in 2008. Activities for the successful completion of the project include:

- Coordinate involvement of partnering organizations and agencies;
- Enlist a pool of volunteer staff;
- Arrange booking and accommodations for visiting experts;
- Arrangements for facilities and workshop materials;
- Coordinate site transportation arrangements;
- Advertise and publicize the event to generate interest and participation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Form event steering committee	June 2008
Hold community meeting to enlist participants and volunteers	July 2008
Identify and contract experts to lead education workshops	July 2008
Develop program	July – Aug. 2008
Arrange facilities and transportation	July – Aug. 2008
Advertise event	July – Aug. 2008
Hold Sustainable Agriculture event	Sept. 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Operations (utilities, advertising, postage, facility rental, speaker logistics)	3,490
Materials and supplies (materials, printing, signage)	1,255
Contracts (includes $3,000 for coordinator, $500 for speaker fees)	3,700
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 8,445**

Letters of Support:

- None

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding only the Sustainable Agriculture Workshop portion of the larger proposal, in the amount of $8,445. While the other portion of the proposal, the annual "Barns, Birds & Barbeque" is an outstanding event, there appears to be strong local support that should sustain it. The BBB is also a more costly event and has a much broader context than watershed issues. The Sustainable Agriculture Workshop has a stronger water focus, and the potential for more immediate and substantial benefits to water quality and supply in line with Proposition 84.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: SNC 070311 Sierra Valley RCD Watershed Outreach Event Proposal

The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) proposes a project to plan and implement two working landscape outreach events.

The 3rd "Barns, Birds & Barbeque" (BBB) event will bring non-farm families and individuals to working farms, ranches and forest lands for presentations, demonstrations and on-site visits to project sites. This successful event continues with a theme that emphasizes watershed management challenges that affect, and link together, the communities of the Feather River Watershed. "BBB" has given the Sierra Valley community a venue to reach out to non-farm families with an introduction to the rewards – and challenges – of maintaining working landscapes so that basic needs for all can be provided. These challenges, like the communities served, change over time and require frequent revisitation so that all stakeholders can better understand and support one another.

Once again, field tours to working farms and ranches will be featured along with workshops, tours and exhibits. Special emphasis will be placed on management problems – especially noxious weeds – that bear on water quality and water quantity. Related themes will deal with: Restoration objectives, achievements, and opportunities in the watershed; How those interrelate with other resource issues in working and wildland landscapes; and how these relate to town and urban communities. Through this event, non-farm individuals and families will meet in the field with farmers, ranchers and foresters to become better informed about water issues facing agriculture, and how those issues are tie together producers and consumers of agricultural products

The annual Sustainable Agriculture workshop will reach out to dozens of local producers to provide a forum for learning about how to make the watershed's farms and ranches more sustainable. This year's event will emphasize water issues, especially water management & conservation, water quality monitoring, and water quality improvement. The SA workshop will provide a forum for producers to learn about new technologies and methods to make better use of water.

Note that either of these two events can be funded and operated as stand-alone projects. They are presented together here under one budget and one proposal to minimize administrative tasks such as billing and reporting.

Grant Request Line Items: Budget: Personnel - no expense; Operating Expenses - $12,325.00; Materials & Supplies - $8,600.00; Contract Services $6,530.00;

Total sum requested: $27,455.00 (50.5%). In-kind Support: $10.088.00 (18.5%). Cash Matching Funds & Income: $16,870.00 (30.0%) Total Project Value: $54,413.00 (100%).

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: SIERRA**

Applicant: **SIERRA COUNTY LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **SIERRA BUTTES/LAKES BASIN LAND ACQUISITION- GIUFFRE UPPER**

Reference Number: **SNC 070315**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would complete acquisition of 17.23 acres of undeveloped lands within the Yuba River Watershed. Currently the project proponent, SCLT, is negotiating with several of the remaining willing private land owners within the Lakes Basin watershed with the intent of preserving the watershed values for the long term. This acquisition would help to secure approximately 30% of the remaining area. Appraised value is $102,200. SCLT staff will complete escrow documents, post signs, and do final site visits. SNC funding would complete the purchase. Specifically the following actions would be completed with grant funding:

- Final negotiation with landowner;
- Fee title purchase of 17.23 acres.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize negotiations with land owner	October 30, 2008
Final Site Visit	October 30, 2008
Close Escrow	February 1, 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 1, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Complete acquisition	$99,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$99,000**

Letters of Support:
- Resolution in support from Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $99,000.

2. Project Summary

The Sierra County Land Trust, a non-profit and tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, is applying for a Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant 1 for $99,000 to purchase fee title or conservation easements on a parcel of 17.23 acres of land above Upper Sardine Lake in the Sierra Buttes/Gold Lakes Basin Special Treatment Area of Sierra County. (Total project cost is $102,200.) We are proud that the Sierra County Board of Supervisors will be our co-applicant.

The main goal of our organization is to preserve land for water quality and open space protection specifically in the Sierra Buttes/ Lakes Basin of Sierra County. The Sierra Buttes/ Lakes Basin, with its craggy, snow covered peaks and multitude of sub-alpine lakes, is recognized as one of the most compelling visual features of the northern Sierra Nevada. However, the Buttes and the Basin are also critical contributors to the Yuba River watershed, making up a significant portion of the flow of the North Fork of the Yuba River which forms a border of the Basin. Locally, groundwater fed by the snow fields of the Buttes supply the Basin and Sierra City water supplies, accessed by a series of ditches and water storage tunnels that date to the gold mining days.

There are currently only approximately 3000 acres of private land left in the Basin. We are in escrow or in negotiations on approximately 900 acres of land to be purchased with a $5.6 million Sierra Nevada Cascade Conservation Grant which we partnered with the High Sierra Rural Alliance to receive last year. The remaining private parcels total approximately 50, with 35 separate property owners. This new grant would allow us to purchase a portion of the remaining private lands; combined with the previous grant, we have the opportunity to secure up to approximately 30% of the remaining private lands in the Basin. We are in contact with these property owners and, over time, we expect many of them to take advantage of preserving their properties in perpetuity through the Land Trust.

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: SIERRA**

Applicant: **SIERRA COUNTY LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **SIERRA BUTTES/LAKES BASIN LAND ACQUISITION – BIEHL PARCEL**

Reference Number: **SNC 070316**

PROJECT SCOPE

This acquisition in fee title of .021 acre (9,147 sq.ft.) would help to protect 30% of the remaining undeveloped lands within the Sierra Buttes/Gold Lakes Basin Special Treatment Area. Total appraised value is $44,700. The parcel is important because it is located directly adjacent to Lusk Meadows and drains directly into Salmon Creek. The applicant, SCLT, would complete escrow documents, post signs and do final site visit to the project area. SNC funds would complete the purchase.

Specific actions include:

- Final negotiations with the landowner;
- Fee Title purchase of .021 acres.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize negotiations with land owner	October 30, 2008
Final Site Visits	October 30, 2008
Close Escrow	February 1, 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 1, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Complete acquisition	$44,700
GRAND TOTAL	**$44,700**

Letters of Support:

- Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $44,700.

2. Project Summary

The Sierra County Land Trust, a non-profit and tax exempt 501(c) 3 organization, is applying for a Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant 1 for $41,500 to purchase in fee title a 0.021 acre (9,147 sq. ft.) parcel of land on Lusk Meadow in the Sierra Buttes/Gold Lakes Basin Special Treatment Area of Sierra County. (Total project cost is $44,700.) The parcel is particularly important because it is located directly adjacent to Lusk Meadow, a high mountain meadow which drains directly into Salmon Creek. The purchase is part of our program to eventually acquire all of the small parcels which remain lining Lusk Meadow at the entrance to the Salmon Lakes sub-basin of the Gold Lakes Basin.

We are proud that the Sierra County Board of Supervisors will be our co-applicant.

The main goal of our organization is to preserve land for water quality and open space protection specifically in the Sierra Buttes/ Lakes Basin of Sierra County. The Sierra Buttes/ Lakes Basin, with its craggy, snow covered peaks and multitude of sub-alpine lakes, is recognized as one of the most compelling visual features of the northern Sierra Nevada. However, the Buttes and the Basin are also critical contributors to the Yuba River watershed, making up a significant portion of the flow of the North Fork of the Yuba River which forms a border of the Basin. Locally, groundwater fed by the snow fields of the Buttes supply the Basin and Sierra City water supplies, accessed by a series of ditches and water storage tunnels that date to the gold mining days.

There are currently only approximately 3000 acres of private land left in the Basin. We are in escrow or in negotiations on approximately 900 acres of land to be purchased with a $5.6 million Sierra Nevada Cascade Conservation Grant which we partnered with the High Sierra Rural Alliance to receive last year. The remaining private parcels total approximately 50, with 35 separate property owners. This new grant would allow us to purchase a portion of the remaining private lands; combined with the previous grant, we have the opportunity to secure up to approximately 30% of the remaining private lands in the Basin. We are in contact with these property owners and, over time, we expect many of them to take advantage of preserving their properties in perpetuity through the Land Trust.

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

Subregion: **NORTH CENTRAL** **County: SIERRA**

Applicant: **SIERRA COUNTY LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **SIERRA BUTTES/LAKES BASIN LAND ACQUISITION- GIUFFRE LOWER**

Reference Number: **SNC 070328**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project would complete fee title acquisition of 17.20 acres of undeveloped lands within the Yuba River Watershed. Currently the applicant, SCLT, is negotiating with remaining willing private land owners within the Lakes Basin watershed with the intent of preserving the watershed values for the long term. This acquisition would help to secure approximately 30% of the remaining area. The appraised value is $102,200. SCLT staff will complete escrow documents, post signs and do final site visits. SNC funding would complete the purchase.

Specifically the following actions would be completed with SNC grant funding:

- Final negotiation with land owner;
- Fee title purchase of 17.20 acres.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize negotiations with land owner	October 30, 2008
Final Site Visits	October 30, 2008
Close Escrow	February 1, 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 1, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Complete acquisition	$99,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$99,000**

Letters of Support:

- Sierra County Board of Supervisors

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested level of $99,000.

2. Project Summary

The Sierra County Land Trust, a non-profit and tax exempt 501(c) 3 organization, is applying for a Proposition 84 Strategic Opportunity Grant 1 for $99,000 to purchase fee title or conservation easements on a parcel of 17.20 acres of land above the Tamarack Lakes Basin in the Sierra Buttes/Gold Lakes Basin Special Treatment Area of Sierra County. (Total project cost is $102,200.) We are proud that the Sierra County Board of Supervisors will be our co-applicant.

The main goal of our organization is to preserve land for water quality and open space protection specifically in the Sierra Buttes/ Lakes Basin of Sierra County. The Sierra Buttes/ Lakes Basin, with its craggy, snow covered peaks and multitude of sub-alpine lakes, is recognized as one of the most compelling visual features of the northern Sierra Nevada. However, the Buttes and the Basin are also critical contributors to the Yuba River watershed, making up a significant portion of the flow of the North Fork of the Yuba River which forms a border of the Basin. Locally, groundwater fed by the snow fields of the Buttes supply the Basin and Sierra City water supplies, accessed by a series of ditches and water storage tunnels that date to the gold mining days.

There are currently only approximately 3000 acres of private land left in the Basin. We are in escrow or in negotiations on approximately 900 acres of land to be purchased with a $5.6 million Sierra Nevada Cascade Conservation Grant which we partnered with the High Sierra Rural Alliance to receive last year. The remaining private parcels total approximately 50, with 35 separate property owners. This new grant would allow us to purchase a portion of the remaining private lands; combined with the previous grant, we have the opportunity to secure up to approximately 30% of the remaining private lands in the Basin. We are in contact with these property owners and, over time, we expect many of them to take advantage of preserving their properties in perpetuity through the Land Trust.

Background

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, which included an allocation of $54 million of bond funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). In January 2007, the Governor proposed and the legislature approved $17 million in grant funds for the SNC for Fiscal Year 2007-08. It is anticipated that the additional bond funds will be appropriated over the next two fiscal years.

During the first half of 2007 the SNC held a series of workshops to assist in the development of Program and Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines. At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved final guidelines that define eligible project and grant types, grant size limits, availability of funds, selection criteria and how to apply for funding.

The Board also approved a plan to allocate the grant funds as follows: $9 million has been allocated for a Competitive Grants Program and $8 million for Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs).

In August, the SNC publicly announced the availability of Proposition 84 Competitive funding and invited eligible entities to submit applications for projects. As part of the grants solicitation, the SNC established November 15th as the final filing date for Competitive Grant applications. The SNC received 42 applications requesting a total of $24,266,474 in funding. Of the applications received, four were not reviewed, including two that were withdrawn, one that was found ineligible, and one that was received after the deadline. The total dollar amount of the applications that were not reviewed is $4,547,700.

Current Status

Project Development and Evaluation Process

The SNC Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines encourage potential applicants to consult with SNC staff prior to submitting applications. Many applicants have taken advantage of this consultation and report that it has been very helpful in developing their projects and applications. The consultations have also been beneficial to SNC staff by providing them with a better understanding of potential projects and increasing the likelihood that applications address the purpose of Proposition 84 and the mission of the SNC. However, in the case of Competitive Grants, staff maintained a policy of not consulting with applicants after the submission deadline except to seek clarification or obtain additional information necessary for technical review.

Immediately following the November 15, 2007 submittal deadline, program staff began reviewing all applications for completeness and applicant eligibility. Most applications were complete and well presented.

Upon determining that an application was complete and eligible for funding, the SNC scored proposals based on the criteria contained in Competitive Grants Guidelines. Proposals were scored on the following criteria:

A. Land And Water Benefits (25 points)
B. SNC Program Goals (25 points)
C. Ability to Implement Project / Timeliness (15 points)
D. Cooperation and Community Support (10 points)
E. Project Management and Adequacy of Design (10 points)
F. Sustainability, Long-Term Management, and Maintenance (10 points)
G. Model Project Values (5 points)

Reviews of technical aspects, environmental documentation, and real estate appraisals were performed by experts in the Department of General Services, other state agencies and consultants.

As required by statute, the SNC consulted with city and county officials and appropriate water agencies regarding project proposals within their jurisdictions.

Following receipt of all technical review, projects were assigned a final score by SNC staff. The highest ranked projects are being recommended for approval by the Board at this time (Exhibit A).

Summary of Applications Reviewed

A total of 32 applications requesting $17,647,268 million were determined to be eligible for Proposition 84 Competitive Grant funding and were reviewed by staff.

Six Competitive Grant applications contained project elements that were more suitable to be evaluated as Strategic Opportunity Grants, and were moved into that category. This resulted in a reduction of funds requested for these grants to be consistent with SOG grant limits. The total requested amount moved to SOG category is $1,821,506.

Applications were received from throughout the Sierra Nevada Region, although not equally from all subregions. A number of applications for high quality projects on federal lands were received with completed NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) documentation, but were unable to be further considered because CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) documentation was not complete. In future grant cycles, staff will be working with prospective applicants to recommend completing joint NEPA/CEQA documentation for projects likely to seek SNC funding.

Due to the tight timelines involved with this first round of Competitive Grant funding, necessary reviews have not been completed for one project. Since this situation exists

through no fault of the applicant, staff is recommending that approximately $1,160,000 be reserved from the Competitive allocation to allow for the review to be completed. Following that review, staff will evaluate remaining projects and bring forward a recommendation to expend the funds at the June meeting.

Projects Recommended for Funding

A spreadsheet showing project specific information and individual project summaries for projects being recommended for Board approval are included as a part of this report as Exhibit A.

The total amount being recommended for funding in this cycle is $7,831,922, resulting in a balance of $1,168,078 from the available $9 million allocation. Authorization of additional projects in June could still result in a small balance of funds in the Competitive allocation. In order to fully encumber SNC's FY 07-08 Proposition 84 funds by June 30, staff recommends that the Board authorize the use of any remaining funds from the Competitive Grant allocation for SOG projects, subject to Board approval at the June meeting.

The recommended projects (Exhibit A) received the highest scores and most strongly meet the evaluation criteria described above, are able to be implemented on a timely basis, and meet all environmental review and documentation requirements. The 14 projects recommended for funding in this round of Competitive Grants will contribute to the completion of seven acquisition projects and implementation of seven site improvement projects. The projects specifically include: 4,449 acres of land to be acquired for habitat and resource protection; three conservation easements protecting 1,640 acres of working landscapes; treatment of 19,206 acres of habitat for removal of invasive weeds; restoration or protection of 17.37 miles of streams; treatment of 278 acres of forested land for fire prevention and habitat protection.

The projects directly leverage over $23 million being committed in funds and in-kind contributions by applicants and others.

CEQA Compliance

One project being recommended does not require CEQA documentation due to the nature of the action being recommended and has been included in a memo prepared for the Conservancy.

Eleven projects being recommended require the Conservancy to complete a Notice of Exemption, to be filed with the State Clearinghouse. Notices of Exemption have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval.

Two projects being recommended have associated environmental documents previously adopted or certified by a public agency. Staff has reviewed these documents and recommends that the Board concur with findings stated in these documents.

Copies of all documents have been distributed to the Board for review and will remain available for review at the Conservancy's main office in Auburn, California. In each case, a Notice of Determination has been prepared and will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon Board approval.

Addendum 2 to the Board packet contains all notices referenced above.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board authorize Competitive Grants listed in Exhibit A, and further authorize staff to enter into all necessary agreements and file the appropriate CEQA documentation included in Addendum 2 with the State Clearinghouse for all projects.

In order to ensure full encumbrance of the SNC's FY 2007-08 Proposition 84 funds by June 30, staff further recommends that the Board authorize the use of any remaining funds from the Competitive Grant allocation for funding grants in any category, subject to Board approval at its June meeting.

Agenda Item XII Exhibit A
RECOMMENDED COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS
March 13, 2008

Reference #	County	Project Title	Grantee Organization	Amount Recommended
SNC 070133	**Nevada**	Nevada County (FIRST) Community Shaded Fuelbreak and Riparian Forest Restoration Project	Nevada County Resource Conservation District	$ 406,000
SNC 070193	**Mariposa**	Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	$ 590,000
SNC 070194	**Plumas**	Heart K Ranch Project	Feather River Land Trust	$ 1,000,000
SNC 070195	**Inyo, Mono**	Lower Owens River Watershed Habitat Improvement Project	Inyo/Mono Agriculture Department	$ 156,622
SNC 070221	**El Dorado**	Green Fields of Golden Sierra	Black Oak Mine Unified School District	$ 300,000
SNC 070222	**Placer**	Canyon View Watershed and Habitat Restoration Project	Placer Land Trust	$ 298,550
SNC 070223	**Nevada, Yuba**	Yuba River Wildlife Area - Rice's Crossing Priority Acquisition Project Phase II	The Sierra Fund	$ 1,000,000
SNC 070225	**Placer**	Squaw Valley Park Fuels Reduction and Related FireSafe Activities	Placer County	$ 245,500
SNC 070229	**Sierra**	Merrill Davies Stream and Meadow Restoration	Truckee River Watershed Council	$ 152,000
SNC 070233	**Tulare**	Crystal Cave Solar Generation Project	Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)	$ 211,500
SNC 070234	**Shasta**	Parkville Ranch Conservation Easement	Western Shasta RCD	$ 546,000
SNC 070238	**El Dorado**	Purchase of the Gold Hill Ranch and the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony Site	American River Conservancy	$ 1,000,000
SNC 070243	**Yuba**	Collins Lake Acquisition Project (Siller Property)	The Trust for Public Land	$ 925,750
SNC 070244	**Shasta**	Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement	Shasta Land Trust	$ 1,000,000
Grand Total				**$ 7,831,922**

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

County: **NEVADA**

Applicant: **NEVADA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **NEVADA COUNTY COMMUNITY SHADED FUELBREAK AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070133**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would complete the remaining 30% (about 225 acres of net fuels removal) of the Nevada County Community Shaded Fuelbreak project, which was begun in 2004. [The 70% already completed has been accomplished with private landowners, U.S. Forest Service, and BLM.] The project area lies immediately east of Scotts Flat Reservoir, as well as north and south of the reservoir area. The total fuel break area is 15 miles long and is intended to protect several at-risk communities in a high fire severity area. The SNC-funded portion of the project also includes fuels reduction in a 9.5-acre riparian demonstration site, with reestablishment of native vegetation. Little riparian treatment has been done to date, leaving corridors through which wildfires can funnel with potential catastrophic impact to riparian habitat. In addition to reducing fire threat to the local communities, watershed and water quality and riparian habitat will be better protected from post-fire soil erosion. These water resources include Yuba and Bear Rivers, their tributaries, and Scotts Flat reservoir.

Activities for successful completion of this project include:

- Coordinate/contract with private and public landowners for implementation of treatment;
- Conduct biological surveys for riparian treatment area; develop soil erosion prevention plan;
- Contract for fuels reduction treatment / work with Fire Safe Council for chipping services as appropriate;
- Contract for riparian demonstration site fuels reduction work;
- Survey, map and document treatment work for development of educational materials, including before-and-after photography;
- Create a 12 page brochure with before and after color photos to provide information and guidance for landowners and contractors on how to work with riparian areas on their property;
- Send press releases describing project / disseminate educational materials;
- Provide site tour / develop and present a PowerPoint overview of the project to stakeholders.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Identify and hire Project Coordinator and Registered Professional Forester	June 2008
Identify and contact landowners for fuels treatment / Coordinate with Forest Service and BLM for work on public lands	June 2008
Complete soil erosion prevention plans for riparian restoration	June 2008
Develop conservation plans / contract with landowners	July 2008 – Dec. 2009
Before-and-after photography of treatment areas	July 2008 – March 2010
Purchase and install fuel break project signage	July – Sept. 2008
Complete pre-project riparian restoration plan and biological surveys	September 2008
Riparian restoration and post-project survey	Oct. 2008 – June 2009
General fuels reduction work	Oct. 2008 – March 2010

Work with Fire Safe Council for chipping services, as appropriate	Oct. 2008 – March 2010
Complete updated maps of restoration areas using GPS	March 2010
Complete riparian brochure and disseminate to stakeholders	March 2010
Public outreach, including press releases, tour of the firebreak area for interested parties, and information sharing	March 2010
Develop and present PowerPoint overview of project to stakeholders	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project management and contract coordination	40,000
Contracted Registered Professional Forester	60,000
Permitting (CEQA Negative Declaration and DFG)	7,500
Contracted fuel load reduction work (approx. 225 acres)	220,000
Riparian brochure production and printing	10,000
Contracted biologist	3,000
Administrative expenses at 12%	43,500
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 406,000**

Letters of Support:

- Nevada County Board of Supervisors
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Yuba River Ranger District
- Nevada County Farm Bureau
- Cascade Shores Homeowner Association
- Bear River Watershed Group
- Wolf Creek Community Alliance

Recommendation:

This project is recommended to be funded at the full requested amount of $406,000.

2. Project Summary:

Nevada County Community Fuelbreak and Riparian Forest Restoration Project

In 2004, several stakeholders in Nevada County created the Nevada County Forestry Committee to address educational needs and projects that focus on forest health and fuel load reduction issues. As a result, the Forestry Committee identified a strategic area in a very high fire severity zone for a Community Shaded Fuelbreak project that would add protection to several nearby communities as well as protect the national forest to the east from a catastrophic wildfire. There are several at risk communities near the project area.

The project area has not had a wildland fire in well over 60 years, has heavy accumulation of fuel loads and is designated a very high severity fire danger zone area by the California Department of Fire Protection (CDF). The project area encompasses ridge top parcels, mostly 10 acres and above, that have been strategically chosen due to fire weather wind patterns and the very high threat of a catastrophic, unstoppable fire. The project is also consistent with the Nevada County Fire Plan.

The Shaded Fuelbreak project is approximately fifteen miles long and up to one half mile wide and consists mostly of large parcel landowners. To date, the project is approximately 70% completed by private landowners, USDA Forest Service and BLM. The Fuelbreak project provides education to landowners, improves watershed health, improves forest health and reduces fuel loads, reduces soil erosion and protects water quality, enhances wildlife habitat and adds protection to a public recreation area and a public water source (Scotts Flat Lake).

Due to the complexities of permitting and environmental concerns, little or no riparian forest is being treated. This untreated segment of the landscape, during wildfire, can funnel up the riparian corridor and into unburned areas. This "funneling" of wildfire can totally obliterate the riparian corridor habitat and cause long term negative consequences as recently witnessed in the Angora Fire at South Lake Tahoe(July 2007). Therefore, the Forestry Committee has recognized the need for a riparian forest demonstration project as well as a guide for contractors and landowners for working near riparian areas.

This grant proposal would fund the treatment of the remaining 30% of the Community Shaded Fuelbreak, perform 9.5 acres of riparian corridor fuel load reduction and act as a restoration /demonstration project for how to work near riparian zones. In addition, a much needed landowner brochure would be developed to encourage understanding and awareness for working within riparian areas. Funding request to complete this project is $406,000.

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

County: **MARIPOSA**

Applicant: **SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY**

Project Title: **BOHNA RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070193**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sierra Foothill Conservancy will negotiate and purchase a conservation easement on the Bohna Ranch property, near Hornitos, CA. Specifically, the Conservancy will:

- Negotiate purchase price of conservation easement with landowners.
- Purchase the conservation easement.
- Develop and place signage on-site highlighting the project and providing contact information.
- Conduct monitoring efforts on an annual basis to ensure conservation goals are met.
- Conduct education efforts on an annual basis to inform local landowners of the benefits of taking this action on their respective properties.
- Work with property owners to define ongoing management practices to be conducted by the landowners.

The Sierra Foothills Conservancy will utilize this conservation easement as a model for neighboring landowners, and will work with interested parties on the establishment of additional easements in the area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize Escrow Instructions	June 2008
Complete Baseline Documentation Report	August 2008
Complete Management Plan and Monitoring Protocol	October 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Close escrow and Record Conservation Easement	November 2008 – December 2008
Erect Signage Recognizing Project	January 2009
Send out Press Release	Februrary 2009
Conduct education classes on Ranch – 3 per year	March 2009 – March 2010
Complete and submit progress reports to SNC at six-month intervals	March 2009 – March 2010
Conduct annual monitoring visit	March 2009 – March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**May 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Conservation Easement Acquisition	$575,000
Escrow Fees, Title Insurance, Closing Costs	$5,000
Staff and Consultant Costs	$10,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$590,000**

Letters of Support:

- California Farm Bureau Federation

- California Department of Fish and Game
- Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
- Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Mariposa County Farm Bureau

Recommendation:
Recommend funding the project at $590,000, instead of the $600,000 requested. The $10,000 for appraisal review by the State has been funded by a different source.

Project Summary

The Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) has been working to protect important lands in the central Sierra Nevada for over eleven years. Through the use of fee title and conservation easement acquisition SFC has successfully protected over fifteen thousand acres. Currently one of the main areas of focus for SFC is the Blue Oak Woodland and Annual Grasslands of Mariposa County which is made up predominately of family-owned, working ranches. These working ranches and the water resources and natural habitats present on the land are increasingly threatened by development. A great many ranches have already been lost to subdivision. The growth of Merced and other nearby communities threatens to dramatically increase development of the region.

The Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement project will place a conservation easement on one of these threatened ranches. The Bohna Ranch is comprised of 840 acres of oak studded rolling foothills in unincorporated Mariposa County, near the community of Hornitos. The Ranch is an important conservation target because of its location, water resources, natural habitat, and the desire of the landowner to remain in ranching and steward the property. The landowner, Cindy Bohna, wishes to sell a conservation easement on the Ranch at a bargain price. The landowner is very interested in protecting the wildlife habitat on the property. Proceeds from the bargain sale of the conservation easement will allow the landowner to continue the ranching operation and stewardship of the property. With out the sale of the conservation easement the landowner would likely be forced to sell the property for development.

The Bohna Ranch possesses significant water and natural resources that will be protected through the completion of this project. The Ranch is located within the Mariposa Stream Group Watershed. There are two streams on the property with some year round flows in most years. Several springs, seeps, and seasonal wetlands are also present on the property. The Ranch is important habitat for a wide variety of native plants and wildlife and may be home to several listed species. The Ranch consists of a mixture of four habitat types: Non-native Grassland, Blue Oak Woodland, Valley Foothill Riparian Woodland, and Seasonal Wetlands. In addition the property is adjacent to lands identified by the California Department of Fish and Game as potential conservation projects. SFC hopes to use the successful completion of this project to encourage adjacent landowners to explore conservation options.

The Bohna Ranch project addresses goals two, three, five and six of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Program Goals. Additionally, the landowner has agreed to allow up to three educational classes per year on the property. The classes will be open to the public and cover topics such as native plants and wildlife, natural history and geology, and rangeland management practices.

The total project budget is estimated to be $1,049,750. The landowner will contribute an estimated $425,000 in the form of a bargain sale of the Conservation Easement. SFC will contribute $24,750. The grant request is for $600,000. The funds requested in the grant application will be used to purchase the Conservation Easement at a bargain price ($575,000) and to pay for related expenses such as baseline documentation, legal fees, and escrow fees.

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

County: **PLUMAS**

Applicant: **FEATHER RIVER LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **HEART K RANCH**

Reference Number: **SNC 070194**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust acquired 884 acres, known as the Heart K Ranch, in Genesee Valley in December 2006. The purchase price was $2.575 million, covered by a 3-year bridge loan from the Packard Foundation. This project would help retire the bridge loan debt incurred in connection with the acquisition of this important property. The Heart K Ranch drains an area of approximately 350,000 acres and includes approximately 2.5 miles of Indian Creek, a major tributary to the North Fork Feather River. The ranch is a working landscape, with ongoing livestock grazing under a management system designed to protect riparian values. The property has extensive riparian values and a diverse assemblage of wildlife, fish, and avian species, including 21 special status species that are found on the ranch property. Once the loan debt is retired, the applicant will be able to free up funds to begin restoration efforts in partnership with Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Feather River CRM, and the Plumas National Forest.

Steps leading to the successful completion of this project include:

- Retire debt on acquisition loan.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Raise additional funds to complete pay-off of loan	November 2008
Retire Loan with Packard Foundation	December 31, 2008
Initiate Restoration Activities	January 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
SNC Contribution to retirement of debt	$1,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$1,000,000$**

Letters of Support:

- None Received

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund the partial retirement of debt at the requested level of $1,000,000.

2. ☐ Project Summary. Feather River Land Trust: Heart K Ranch Project

The Feather River Land Trust recently (12/27/06) acquired the ±884-acre Heart K Ranch in Genesee Valley using a $2.575 million, 3-year bridge loan from the Packard Foundation. Bridge financing enabled FRLT to act quickly to prevent the sale of the property to multiple buyers, protecting traditional public access and Maidu cultural sites, and buying time for FRLT to pursue its long-term goals of conserving and restoring the property's incredible riparian and water resources, biodiversity, and other public conservation values. The Heart K Ranch drains an area of approximately 350,000 acres and includes approximately 2.5 miles of Indian Creek, a major tributary to the North Fork Feather River. The property's extensive riparian areas support cottonwood-willow and riverine habitats and a diverse assemblage of wildlife, including six species of native fish, river otters, and willow flycatchers (21 special status species in all). Other habitats found on the property include black oak woodland, montane meadow, and mature mixed-conifer forest. The Heart K is surrounded on the east, north, and south by USFS land, providing excellent landscape connectivity and compatible management.

In addition to paying off the PRI, the Heart K Ranch Project features stream and riparian restoration along Indian Creek. Restoration efforts will include fencing off the floodplain area from cattle, planting riparian vegetation, improving fish habitat, removing invasive plant species, repairing the property's aging irrigation system, and exploring the feasibility of dedicating water instream for ecological benefit. We estimate that we will be able to improve the irrigation system from <10% efficiency to >90% efficiency, enabling FRLT to dedicate up to 1,500 acre-feet per year instream (of the property's 2,000-acre-feet of adjudicated surface water rights), cooling water temperatures and improving riverine habitat both within and below the property. FRLT recently received exciting news that many of the above restoration activities would be funded by a Prop 50 IRWMP grant, which FRLT plans to implement in partnership with the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Feather River CRM, and the Plumas National Forest.

FRLT intends to own the Heart K and to manage the property in a variety of innovative ways that would help achieve all seven SNC Program Goals and serve as a model for other conservation projects in the Sierra. If FRLT is able to pay back the PRI, unique aspects of FRLT's management will include (note that all of the following are already underway): conducting outdoor education in partnership with the Plumas Unified School District and Mountain Maidu, supporting the local economy and ranching heritage by leasing the property to local ranchers and paying property taxes, providing ecologically-compatible public recreation (including trails and interpretive signage), restoring the property's historic barns, partnering with Plumas County and others to conduct a carbon sequestration pilot study, pursuing dedicating water instream, implementing and monitoring a variety of stream restoration activities, working with Plumas Fire Safe to conduct timber stand improvement and hazardous fuels reduction, and working with the Maidu to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into the property's management. FRLT's efforts to conserve and restore the Heart K have enjoyed outstanding public support, as dozens of volunteers help manage the property, local students have begun using the property for outdoor education (lead by local volunteers), and a variety of local agencies, including Plumas County, the Feather River CRM, Plumas Fire Safe, Trout Unlimited, Plumas Audubon and others have begun to partner with FRLT on projects. The community's love for the Heart K, coupled with its outstanding conservation values, make the property an ideal place to engage the local community and general public in education, stewardship, and conservation and we have been amazed by how people have responded to the property.

The first step in continuing the above projects and securing the associated community benefits in the long run is to pay off the Packard PRI by December 2009. We look forward to working with the SNC to make this happen and are requesting $1.0 million from the SNC to help pay back the PRI.*

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*The total project cost is $4.03 million, generally itemized as follows: PRI payoff (includes interest) = $2.575 million; riparian, stream, and invasive species restoration = $741,000; stewardship endowment for ongoing management and restoration = $500,000; preacquisition costs = $62,000; establishment of educational program with PUSD and Maidu = $50,000; restoration of historic structures = $100,000.

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

Counties: **INYO**

Applicant: **INYO/MONO AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

Project Title: **LOWER OWENS RIVER WATERSHED AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070195**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will enable the Inyo/Mono Agriculture Department to remove selected high risk invasive weed sites and extend its efforts beyond current removal rates during the critical Lower Owens River rewatering period on 19,206 acres in the Owens River watershed. The proposed project area is a popular recreation area for fishing, hunting, hiking, bicycling, off highway vehicle use, bird watching, and other activities. It includes lands that are utilized for cattle grazing, municipal water gathering, and that contain Native American historical sites. Certain areas are habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species. This site improvement project is a strong collaboration between Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Inyo County to restore and protect this watershed. This project currently has matching funds and in-kind services in the amount of $262,504.

The long-term benefits of this project include:

- improving water quality through lessened erosion and silt deposition;
- Improving working landscape sustainability, as ranching and agricultural uses will be protected from noxious weed invasion
- Increasing recreational and educational opportunities due to better accessibility and lessened wildfire frequency and intensity
- Increasing biodiversity to benefit native plants and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species
- Improving air quality due to lessened dust conditions
- Improving stream bank stability

This project will be accomplished by:

- Hiring two seasonal employees
- Purchasing and renting equipment, pick-up truck, ATV and herbicides, to treat Perennial Pepperweed, Canada Thistle and Russian Knappweed
- eradicating invasive species
- surveying surrounding land to identify invasive weeds and map these sites
- Disseminating educational brochures
- Monitoring work by establishing photo points and photographing conditions before and after treatments.
- Monitoring project by assessing the number of acres in second year that are significantly free of invasive species due to treatment during the first year of the project
- Completing 6 month progress reports to SNC

The SNC funding allows this time-sensitive, expanded effort to proceed in co-ordination with the ongoing collaborative process of the Inyo/Mono Agriculture Department and LADWP.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Purchase equipment and hire seasonal employees	May 2008
Establish photo points and photograph pre-treatment conditions	May 2008
Disseminate educational brochures	May 2008
Initiate herbicide treatments on three invasive species	May 2008 – September 2008
Conduct surveillance of surrounding areas for new infestation sites and map these sites	May 2008 – September 2008
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Continue herbicide treatments on three invasive species	November 2008 – April 2009
Conduct surveillance of surrounding areas for new infestation sites and map these sites	November 2008 – April 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Complete herbicide treatments	April 2009 – August 2009
Conduct surveillance of surrounding areas for new infestation sites and map these sites	April 2009 – August 2009
Assess number of acres in second year that are significantly free of invasive species due to treatment during first year of project	September 2009 - October 2009
Photograph post-treatment conditions using established photo points	October 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Seasonal field assistants salaries (two seasons)	$37,274
Herbicides	9,053
Equipment rental	46,866
Equipment purchase	43,000
Administrative costs	20,429
GRAND TOTAL	$156,622

Letters of Support:

- **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power**
- **Owens Valley Committee**
- **Sierra Club**
- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Recommendation:
Staff recommends authorization of this grant for the requested $156,622.

Project Name: Lower Owens River Watershed and Habitat Improvement Project

Project Summary

The Lower Owens River Project (LORP) is a massive river restoration project in Inyo County, California. This project was initiated by the Inyo County/Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Long Term Water Agreement of 1991. The LORP was completed this year and water now flows in the lower reaches of the Owens River, which has been dry since the City of Los Angeles diverted water into their aqueduct in 1917 for municipal use.

The watershed along the lower Owens River has been negatively impacted from decades of being dry. Native plant species have declined in many areas and are absent in others. These conditions encourage non-native weed species invasion and expansion. There are currently only 1,119 gross acres of weed invaded lands within the LORP project boundaries, but 18,087 gross acres of invasive weeds threaten the LORP area upstream. With the recent water release into the lower Owens River, it is critical that the current infestations that threaten the rehabilitation of this ecosystem be eradicated or contained. If weed infestations are allowed to take hold before native plant communities can reestablish, control in the future may not be economically possible.

This project will enable the Inyo/Mono Agriculture Department to aggressively attack selected "high value" weed sites. These sites were selected based on plant species, size of infestation, age of infestation, and most importantly the potential for spread into the LORP area. This funding would support two seasonal employees, operating expenses, and public educational material, specific to the exotic plant threats to the success of the rehabilitation of native plant communities within the LORP. Weed species that will be targeted include Perennial pepperweed, Canada thistle, and Russian knapweed. Funds will also be used to survey for weed infestations along approximately eight miles of the Owens River that have not been previously surveyed.

The proposed project area is a popular recreation area for fishing, hunting, hiking, bicycling, OHV use, bird watching, and other activities. It includes lands that are utilized for cattle range and municipal water gathering, and contain Native American historical sites as well as habitat for wildlife. Certain areas within the proposed project area are habitat from threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

The total Lower Owens River Watershed and Habitat Improvement Project cost will be $419,126.56, with $262,504.40 contributed directly to the project in-kind by the City of Los Angeles and the Inyo/Mono Agriculture Department. Total grant being requested is $156,622.16.

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

County: **EL DORADO**

Applicant: **BLACK OAK MINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Project Title: **GREEN FIELDS OF GOLDEN SIERRA**

Reference Number: **SNC 070221**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project replaces a dirt track and grass playing field at Golden Sierra High School in Garden Valley, California with an artificial surface in order to reduce adverse impacts of fertilizer- and pesticide-laden water runoff into the adjacent Empire Creek, which flows into the South Fork of the American River. The existing grass field and dirt track would be removed and replaced with a rubber surface material composed of 10,000 recycled tires. The rubberized playing field would be covered with a synthetic turf. Replacing the grass field with a synthetic surface would reduce water use by 2 million gallons a year and eliminate the substantial fertilizer and pesticides that are periodically applied. Caustic chalk field and track markings would be replaced with permanent markings. The refurbished field will attract more people from the community to utilize the track, increase the track and field availability for school use, as well as serve as an attractor for more inter-school athletic competitions and other community use. The project, the first of its kind in the county, will serve as a demonstration model for other facilities. The total project cost is $1,090,872, of which $300,000 would be covered by the SNC grant.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Demolition of existing field/track; grading; pavement & curbing in track area	June 2008
Recycled tire materials installed on field and track	July 2008
Installation of field turf	July – Aug. 2008
Field and track markings applied	August 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**August 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Purchase and installation of synthetic turf	300,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$300,000**

Letters of Support:

- Teichert Construction
- Carlton Engineering, Inc.
- Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
- Georgetown Divide Recreation District
- Friends of Golden Sierra
- Golden Sierra High School
- Black Oak Mine Unified School District
- Divide Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund at the requested level of $300,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here:

Project Name: Green Fields of Golden Sierra

The Green Fields of Golden Sierra project is proposed by the Black Oak Mine Unified School District. The project will replace the grass field and dirt track at Golden Sierra High School, using new synthetic surfacing products. The school campus site is located in Garden Valley in El Dorado County in an area called the Georgetown Divide because it is the land mass that divides the Middle and South Forks of the American River.

The campus is on a lovely site, with native pine and oak trees throughout the campus. Empire Creek is a year-round creek that flows immediately adjacent to the campus—and downhill from the football field. Runoff from the field goes into the creek and flows downstream into the South Fork of the American River.

The field will have a bed layer composed of a material made of recycled tires; approximately 10,000 tires will be used in the project. The field will be covered with an artificial turf. With the new surface watering will be eliminated and the use of insecticides, fertilizers and caustic chalk will also be eliminated. The markings required for football and soccer will be a part of the permanent surface. Maintenance will be minimal. The track will also be covered with a surface made from recycled tires that will be permanently marked with lanes.

The upgraded field and track facilities will increase their use for physical education, league sports and other recreation. Currently these facilities cannot be used during or immediately following a rainstorm both because they become unsafe and because of the damage caused by using them when they are wet. They also cannot be used immediately following application of chemicals. This impacts their daily use by the physical education classes. The track is utilized by joggers in the community, and this will increase as it becomes useable year round. The facility can also be shared by the Georgetown Divide Recreation District and the El Dorado County Soccer organization. Since Golden Sierra will become the first owner of a modern field in the county, more field and track events will be scheduled at the site. The construction and renovation of this field will result in a facility which will become a focal point for athletic events in the Georgetown Divide community.

The total cost for the project is $1,090,872. The total grant being requested from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is $300,000. All other funding is being provided in the community through donations of money and in-kind services, and school district developer funds.

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

County: **PLACER**

Applicant: **PLACER LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **CANYON VIEW WATERSHED AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070222**

PROJECT SCOPE

Canyon View Preserve is a 50-acre open space preserve owned by the Placer Land Trust. The property adjoins the Auburn State Recreation Area in the American River Canyon and contains three small ephemeral drainages that converge into Sierra Canyon Creek. Various activities both within and adjacent to the preserve, such as illegal off-road vehicle use, proliferation of invasive non-native species, and increased and concentrated run-off, have degraded wildlife habitat on the preserve and destabilized the three drainages. Using innovative techniques, this watershed and habitat restoration project will:

- Restore five acres of riparian and stream habitat along Sierra Canyon Creek;
- Restore 15 acres of open grassland;
- Reduce wildfire fuel load in the understory of 35 acres of mixed oak woodlands;
- Apply and demonstrate adaptive management principles and serve as a model for other organizations.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Construction of a series of step-pool and riffle-pool features to accommodate and dissipate high-flows in the ephemeral and perennial streams;
- Removal of Himalayan Blackberry and other exotic invasive plants from approximately one linear mile of riparian stream corridor;
- Re-establishment of native riparian plant communities to stabilize eroding stream banks and decrease sediment loading into the creek;
- Reduction of the understory fuel load across 30 acres of mixed oak and pine woodlands by removing woody debris and undergrowth and by removing and managing Scotch broom;
- Employment of a targeted and appropriately-timed grazing regime and utilization of goat and sheep grazing to control invasive yellow star thistle on 15 acres of open grassland.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Stream stabilization and enhancement technical analysis	June - August 2008
Stream stabilization and enhancement project design, begin invasive plant removal and fuel load reduction, and install interpretive signs and protective fencing	August – December 2008
Begin installing protective plant cages	March 2009
Complete stream stabilization and enhancement construction	September 2009
Complete stream revegetation	October – December 2009
Complete fuel load reduction and installation of protective plant cages	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuel load reduction	$20,000
Restoration work: native grassland, riparian, wetland and stream structure, invasive species removal and stream –side native planting	$85,550
Habitat protection fencing and interpretive signage	$35,000
Structural stream restoration and sediment removal	$130,000
Project management and direct administrative expenses	$28,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$298,550**

Letters of Support:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation – Auburn State Recreation Area
- Placer County Community Development Resource Agency – Planning Department
- California Conservation Corps
- Placer County Visitors Council
- City of Auburn
- California Oak Foundation
- Placer Nature Center
- Auburn Recreation Area Canyon Keepers
- Randy Tooker - Boys and Girls Club and Protect American River Canyons
- Kathryn M. Higley – Neighboring Property Owner

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding this project at the requested amount of $298,550.

1. Project Name: Canyon View Watershed & Habitat Restoration Project

2. Project Summary

Placer Land Trust's Canyon View Preserve Watershed & Habitat Restoration Project ("Project") will result in the following outcomes:
(1) **Restore** 5 acres of riparian and stream habitat along Sierra Canyon Creek, which flows directly into the North Fork of the American River,
(2) **Reduce** wildfire fuel load in the understory of 30 acres of mixed oak woodlands, and
(3) **Restore** 15 acres of open grassland by removing and managing invasive species and stopping illegal off-road vehicle use.

Canyon View Preserve ("Preserve") is a 50-acre open space preserve owned by Placer Land Trust that adjoins Auburn State Recreation Area in the American River Canyon along its eastern boundary. It is located north of the City of Auburn, along Lincoln Way at the Bowman Exit off Interstate 80. Accessible from the Bowman Park and Ride, the site offers incredible views of both the Sierra Crest and the American River Canyon. The subbasin described in this proposal consists of three small ephemeral drainages that converge on the property into the fourth primary stream channel, Sierra Canyon Creek. Fed by continuous overflow from the Boardman Canal, this stream flows year round and directly into the North Fork of the American River. At present, illegal off-road vehicle use and the proliferation of invasive non-native species across the Preserve has damaged and continues to degrade wildlife habitat. Together the invasion of Himalayan blackberry, which has almost completely replaced the native riparian communities and the irregular flow from Boardman Canal has destabilized Sierra Canyon Creek, creating erosion problems and contributing to poor water quality downstream. While, the streams are choked with invasive Himalayan Blackberry, the grasslands are plagued with yellow starthistle and Scotch broom has invaded the oak woodland. The reduction of understory fuels will help to reduce the risk of wildfire within the urban and suburban Sierra foothills landscape.

Together, the three major elements of the Project will improve water quality by reducing sediment load into the North Fork American River, restore the natural habitat of the Sierra Canyon Creek drainage, and reduce fire danger. Using innovative restoration techniques, this watershed and habitat restoration project can serve as a model of sustainable and adaptive habitat improvement and management in the Sierra foothills and will assist in meeting important local, State and Federal goals. Placer County's Open Space and Agricultural Land Conservation Program (Placer Legacy), the Placer County General Plan, the American River Watershed Group, CALFED and others have long recognized the importance of the North Fork American River watershed to the region.

The North Fork American River watershed is bordered by the crest of the Sierra Nevada to the east; the Yuba and Bear River watersheds to the North; the Middle and South Fork American River watersheds to the south; and Folsom Lake and the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta to the west. Considerable State and Federal funding has been spent to meet CALFED restoration strategic goals and objectives that were created to ensure all tributaries within this important drainage are protected and restored by taking steps to avoid increased turbidity and sediment transport downstream, which has the potential to harm endangered fish populations and diminish water quality. The North Fork American River watershed serves as a major source of drinking water. As such, the State Water Resources Control Board has adopted a basin plan to protect drinking water along with its other water-related uses including groundwater recharge, recreation, agriculture, fish and wildlife.

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

County: **YUBA AND NEVADA**

Applicant: **THE SIERRA FUND**

Project Title: **YUBA RIVER WILDLIFE AREA- RICE'S CROSSING PRIORITY ACQUISITION PHASE II**

Reference Number: **SNC 070223**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would fund a portion of the acquisition of 2,706 acres along the Middle Yuba River for habitat and recreation uses, spanning 9.5 miles of the Yuba River. Acquisition of the total parcel has been appraised at $7.6m. The project area is a critical corridor that has been designated a high-priority acquisition in the California Department of Fish and Game's Yuba River Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP), and is integral to creating a protected river corridor and a 20-mile long blue oak woodland corridor running north to south. The property would also link existing public lands from Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (CDFG) extending through the University of California Field Research Station and south to Beale Air Force Base and the Spenceville Wildlife Area. This property would also connect the 20-mile South Yuba River State Park to Bullards Bar Recreation Area. Other funding for this project would come from The Sierra Fund, The Trust for Public Land, State of California Resources Agency, and other state agencies. SNC funds would help to meet the goals of this project by funding the Rice's Crossing fee title acquisition.

Specific actions to complete this project include:

- Complete Title Reports
- Acquire Fee Title of 2,706 Acres

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete Title Reports	March 2008
Final Acquisition	December 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Portion of fee title acquisition of Rice's Crossing	$1,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$1,000,000**

Letters of Support:
- Yuba County Water Agency.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund a portion of the fee-title acquisition of the Rice's Crossing parcel at the requested amount of $1,000,000.

Item 2: Project Summary

Project Summary: The *Yuba River Wildlife Area: Priority Acquisition Project Phase II* includes 2,706 acres and spans more than 9.5 miles of Yuba River. It is a "High Priority" acquisition for a multi-year, multi-phased, collaborative conservation effort on the Yuba River, and it directly supports more than ten years of planning and dialogue surrounding river access by the multi-agency *Yuba River Conservancy.*

By any measure, the *Yuba River Wildlife Area Project* represents an opportunity to create an historic conservation and economic success in one of California's poorest communities. The property adds 20 miles of already developed trails; recreational linkages and corridors between major state and national parks and historic places; access to five historic riverfront townsites; access to archeologically important areas dating back 3,000 years; protection of a north-south and east-west wildlife corridor; expansion of a nationally renowned 16 mile mountain biking trail; protection of 9.5 miles of Class IV and V boating; support for rural tourism and economic development efforts in disadvantaged communities; and preservation of options to implement CALFED funded wild salmon and steelhead restoration efforts throughout an entire river corridor. Fishing, boating, kayaking, rafting, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, panning and camping will be available to the public on the entire river, which until now has been closed to public use.

In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the Project has been fully appraised and property owners have agreed to delay pending subdivision in favor of a conservation sale for appraisal value.

Yuba River Parkway. The Project Area is a critical corridor that has been designated a "High Priority" acquisition in California Department of Fish and Game's Yuba River CAPP and is integral to creating a protected river corridor and a 20 mile north to south blue oak woodland corridor. It is a critical element of an 81,000 acre protected oak woodland area linking the Daugherty Wildlife Area (2,600 acres), the Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,000 acres), the South Yuba River State Park, Beale Air Force Base (21,000 acres) and the University of California Foothill Research Station (6,200 acres) and an imperative river linkage in a 25 mile protected Yuba River corridor.

Funded Components: This grant will fund fee-title acquisition of the Rice's Crossing Project, matched by funds from The Sierra Fund, Trust for Public Land, the State of California Resources Agency and other state agencies.

Component	Estimated Cost	Sierra Nevada Conservancy Request
Fee-Title Acquisition	$7,620,000	$1,000,000

Public Access. There are three primary public access areas in the Project Area with existing paved entrances and parking: Rice's Crossing entrance at Bridgeport State Park; Colgate Powerhouse entrance; and Marysville Road entrance. Additionally, there are five secondary entrances to the Project on former logging roads and historic trails.

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

County: **PLACER**

Applicant: **PLACER COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES**

Project Title: **SQUAW VALLEY PARK FUELS REDUCTION AND RELATED FIRE SAFE ACTIVITIES**

Reference Number: **SNC 070225**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will reduce the potential for downstream silt deposition in the Squaw Creek and Truckee River watersheds by completing fuel load reduction work as part of a comprehensive vegetation management plan at Squaw Valley Park. Fuel load reduction on Squaw Valley Park's 28-acre site will:

- Protect the park's wetlands and intermittent drainages from siltation, erosion, and potential contamination from debris resulting from a major forest fire;
- Improve the condition of the surrounding 21 acres of coniferous forest, three acres of meadow, and four acres of active recreation sites by thinning and brush removal to allow trees to receive adequate sun and nutrients;
- Protect Squaw Valley Park, the only significant public recreation opportunity in the Squaw Valley Area, from the spread of wildfire;
- Coincide with fuel load reduction work being coordinated by various agencies in the adjacent Lake Tahoe Basin.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contract and coordinate with the California Conservation Corps, Air Pollution Control District, and Placer County Resource Conservation District for fuel reduction labor, removal of byproducts, and forestry expertise	March – May 2008
Complete fuel load removal	June – September 2008
Complete site clean-up and erosion control work	October 31, 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 1, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuel Break Labor	$163,500
Fuel Break Labor – Equipment Operation	$50,000
Oversight by Registered Forester	$3,500
County Project Management Staff	$5,000
Masticator Unit	$10,000
Travel	$7,000
Equipment Rentals	$6,500
GRAND TOTAL	**$245,500**

Letters of Support:

- U.S Forest Service, Truckee Ranger District
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

- Ed Heneveld, Friends of Squaw Creek, Truckee River Watershed Council, Squaw Valley Property Owner's Association, Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Squaw Valley Fire Department
- Placer County Parks Commission
- Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Recommendation:
Staff recommends funding this project at the requested amount of $245,500.

SQUAW VALLEY PARK

FUEL LOAD REDUCTION AND RELATED FIRE SAFE ACTIVITIES

Project Summary

This project, proposed by the Placer County Department of Facility Services - Parks Division (Parks Division), in partnership, entails fuel load reduction work as a part of a comprehensive vegetation management plan at Squaw Valley Park. This project will make Squaw Valley Park a safe place to recreate and an environmentally sound landscape that will reduce local fire hazard and protect the Truckee River, Squaw Creek, and their watersheds.

Squaw Valley Park is a 28 acre site located at the intersection of Squaw Valley Road and Highway 89 in Squaw Valley. The park opened in 2004 and has a soccer field, tot lots, bicycle trail, native surfaced trail and a trail staging area.

For many years, the forests around Lake Tahoe were not managed for fire control. There was no forest thinning or removal of under story vegetation and debris so the forest became dense, unhealthy, and susceptible to wild fires.

In coordination with the Fire Chief of the Squaw Valley Fire Protection District, Placer County has already conducted some removal of high risk vegetation that threatens Squaw Valley Park and community with devastating fire hazard. This grant would support completing the vegetation management plan. Focus of the vegetation management work will be to get and then maintain the vegetation in a healthy condition. This will make the area more resistant to fire and, should a fire break out, make fighting the fire easier and more effective. Defensible space guidelines call for breaking up the fuel ladder by pruning up lower branches of trees. Trees will be pruned at least 4-5' above the ground. Material, such as twigs and branches, will be chipped and blown back onto the ground to act as a soil stabilization measure, as well as weed inhibitor. Standing dead/dying trees will be cut down and chipped and the forest will be thinned.

The total project cost is $349,000. County contributions combined with the value of community volunteer labor totals $103,000. The total grant amount being requested is $245,500.

T:\F\J\SNC\SQUAWVALLEYPARK\SUMMARY

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

County: **SIERRA**

Applicant: **TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL**

Project Title: **MERRILL DAVIES STREAM AND MEADOW RESTORATION**

Reference Number: **SNC 070229**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project would treat approximately 36 acres along the stream channel in Merrill and Davies Creeks, restoring function and improving water quality. Merrill and Davies Creeks are in the northeastern part of the Middle Truckee River watershed. These two creeks run through large mountain meadows and form important wetland and aquatic habitat. Ultimately they flow into Stampede Reservoir. The project involves the restoration of hydrologic function and improved meadow, wetland, and riparian habitat. The work to be accomplished under this proposal would restore meadows and stream reaches at three sites in the Merrill Davies basin - a sub-watershed to the Truckee River Watershed. The project would continue work that has already been started on seven other sites within the watershed. Specific activities to successfully complete the project include:

- Re-direct diverted streams into remnant channels to improve water quality and stream function;
- Remove old railroad grades;
- Stabilize and revegetate all disturbed areas;
- Monitor results of restoration activities;
- Involve community in a restoration work day (Truckee River Day).

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PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Pre-project monitoring to establish baseline vegetation, photo-monitoring and on-going bio-assessment studies	October 2008 - June 2009
Develop RFP for contract, select contractor	June 2009
Complete heavy equipment work and re-vegetation/mulching at project sites	October 2009
Truckee River Volunteer Day	October 2009
Post-project monitoring and photo documentation	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 1, 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project management	$10,000
Site restoration work	$137,000
Monitoring	$5,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$152,000**

Letters of Support:

- None received.

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund at the requested level of $152,000.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: Merrill Davies Stream and Meadow Restoration, #070229.

This project is proposed by the Truckee River Watershed Council in a formal partnership with US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest. The project area is within the Sierraville District. The project will restore 36 acres of meadow, wetland and riparian areas in the Merrill Davies watersheds. These meadow systems are some of the largest in the Truckee River watershed. The area is popular for recreation including fishing, camping, and hiking. This project has received the highest priorty ranking by the stakeholders of the Truckee River Watershed Council. All NEPA, CEQA and environmental permitting are completed.

The Merrill Davies watersheds are in the northeastern portion of the Truckee River watershed. These watersheds contain extensive meadow habitat that has been severely degraded through past timber harvest and grazing. Most notably, numerous railroad grades were constructed through the meadows in the early 1900s to support logging . During railroad construction and operation, streams were straightened and/or diverted, leading to severe degradion of meadow habitat, signficant increase in active erosion, and decrease in the water table level.

The entire Merrill Davies project has thirteen identified restoration sites; restoration has been completed at seven sites. This proposal addresses restoration at an additional three sites. Restoration goals are to reduce active erosion, reduce the potential for future erosion, improve the quality of surface runoff by improving surface filtration, restore floodplain function, increase flood attenuation potential, increase seasonal groundwater storage, and improve and increase meaadow, wetland and riparian habitat.

Restoration activities for the proposed three sites include placing 3,500 feet of diverted streams back onto their original/remnant channels, removing 1,000 feet of old railroad grades which caused the diversions, stabilizing and revegating all distrubed areas, and monitoring restoration results at all sites. A community restoration work day with 50-75 volunteers is also included.

From 2005 - 2007, restoration work on the completed seven sites included removing 10,125 feet of railroad grade and roads, and restoring 4,550 feet of stream to original channels. Pre- and post- project monitoring of groundwater levels, vegetation, and bioassessment has occurred.

For the three sites in this proposal, the project cost is $169,500. We have $17,500 available through in-kind services. The total grant request $152,000.

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

County: **TULARE**

Applicant: **SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Project Title: **CRYSTAL CAVE SOLAR GENERATION PROJECT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070233**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sequoia Natural History Association will upgrade the lighting system in the Crystal Cave interpretive venue to improve the habitat for native plants and amphibians. This involves replacing the lighting within the cave and constructing a solar array to power the new lighting. In addition, the Association will develop and construct interpretive displays for the site. Specifically, the Association will:

- Design and construct a solar power generation facility for the site.
- Retrofit lighting within the cave to minimize impact on endemic and native species and curb the proliferation of invasive species.
- Install a generator as a back-up to the solar array.
- Design and construct educational displays for the site.
- Recruit staff and volunteers to assist with the lighting retro-fit project.
- Incorporate the energy-efficient technologies into the planned educational displays.

The Association will undertake these activities to provide an enhanced experience for visitors, provide supplemental education on the importance of the cave ecosystem relative to watershed health and native species, and to ensure a sustainable educational, recreational, and tourism venue retains its health and viability.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Choose solar panel contractor for the project.	April 2008 – July 2008
Design interior lighting system with National Park Service Cave Specialist.	April 2008 – August 2008
Attain a National Park Service project officer.	March 2008 – May 2008
Install back-up generator.	June 2008 – August 2008
Begin design concept for educational displays.	June 2008 – August 2008
Recruit staff and volunteers for lighting upgrade and create work schedules.	June 2008 – August 2008
Purchase supplies for lighting upgrade: wiring, switches, lights, mounts	June 2008 – August 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	September 2008
Begin installation of interior lighting system.	September 2008 – October 2008
Develop construction plan for solar installation.	September 2008 – March 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	March 2009
Continue lighting system upgrade.	March 2009 – May 2009
Site preparation- tree trimming, trenching, pole excavation	March 2009 – May 2009
Have educational displays constructed	June 2009 – August 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	September 2009

Install solar system	September 2009 – October 2009
Install educational displays	September 2009 – October 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**April 2010**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
National Park Service site preparation	$2,700
Backup generator and installation	$15,000
Lighting system and peripheral equipment	$9,800
LED low-impact lights	$26,000
Solar power generation system and peripheral equipment	$143,000
Educational exhibits	$15,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$211,500**

Letters of Support:

- None submitted

Recommendation:

Recommend for funding at requested amount of $211,500.

Project Name: Crystal Cave Solar Generation Project

2. Project Summary

This project is being proposed by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA), the member supported, non-profit 501(c)(3) partner to the National Park Service (NPS) in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (Tulare County). There are over 250 caves in the two national parks. The only cave in the parks open to the public, Crystal Cave in Sequoia National Park, has been operated by SNHA since 1983. Visitors get to experience the importance of this underground world on guided, educational tours that serve an average of 55,000 visitors each year from mid-May to late October. Crystal Cave is under strict management by the parks' cave specialist, confirming minimum impact on the cave environment through monitoring and annual restoration projects.

We currently need to replace the propane generator used to power the lighting system and other miscellaneous electronic devices used to operate tours. We seek a dependable, cost saving and more environmentally sustainable power source at the parks' most popular interpretive outlet. SNHA and NPS will install a 9.6 Kilowatt solar generation system to deliver the electrical needs of the daily operation. We are very enthusiastic about sending an important environmental message to the parks' visitors from around the world about supporting cleaner air and water, healthy ecosystems and alternative power choices.

The lighting system itself needs to be reduced and updated to a more efficient and less intrusive method. The cave is home to a variety of rare cave-adapted species. The current system is interrupting the natural ecosystem in the cave by causing the growth of exotic algae, moss and other plants not natural to this cave environment. An improved lighting system will ensure the future of this Sierra watershed and allow the ecosystem to function more naturally while still retaining its educational component.

We are requesting the funds to install educational displays at the cave tour waiting area. This is an excellent opportunity to address environmental issues including air and water quality, Sierra watershed and renewable energy products. This will be an ideal showcase of the National Parks' commitment to promoting energy efficient technologies in our public lands and encourage sustainable choices and overall awareness.

Site improvement work will include:
Installation of a solar generation system at the Crystal Cave parking lot; including the installation of an updated, more energy efficient lighting system inside the cave, a backup generator and educational displays providing cave visitors information on the importance of a healthy Sierra watershed.

The total project cost is $220,300. We have $4,000 currently allotted for the project from donations and a grant. We have $4,800 of in-kind services committed to the project. The total grant request is $211,500.

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

County: **SHASTA**

Applicant: **WESTERN SHASTA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Project Title: **PARKVILLE RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

Reference Number: **SNC 070234**

PROJECT SCOPE

The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District proposes to protect the 270.75-acre Parkville Ranch through the acquisition of a conservation easement. This property borders the 2,248-acre organic Fenwood Ranch, also under a conservation easement, and would link the protection of .64 acres of Bear Creek and .23 miles of Dry Creek with the 2.5 miles of Sacramento River frontage on the Fenwood Ranch. The Natural Resource Conservation Service and Western Shasta Resource Conservation District completed a wildlife improvement plan for the Fenwood Ranch and proposed improvements for wildlife corridors that will also be applied to the neighboring Parkville Ranch. Acquisition of a conservation easement on Parkville Ranch would:

- Protect .64 miles of Bear Creek and .23 miles of Dry Creek that adjoin with an existing conservation easement on the neighboring 2,248-acre property;
- Ensure the protection of the property's riparian areas, oak woodlands, and grasslands;
- Maintain the 100–150 acres of agricultural fields for use as a working ranch, wildlife passage, and outdoor education facility.

Once the conservation easement is acquired, the applicant will work with the landowner on floodplain restoration, riparian fencing, and wildlife corridor construction.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Documentation of Recorded Conservation Easement	August 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**October 1, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Estimated Fair Market Value of Property	$538,000
Administrative Costs	$8,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$546,000**

Letters of Support:

- Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa
- Bear Creek Watershed Group
- California Department of Fish and Game
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Shasta Conservation Fund
- Fenwood Ranch a.k.a. Western Agricultural Service (adjacent landowner)
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Shasta County Cattleman's Association
- Shasta Land Trust
- City of Anderson Cow Creek Watershed Management Group

- Shasta Historical Society
- Shasta County Farm Bureau
- Parkville Cemetery
- Wintu Audubon Society
- UC Davis Agricultural and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension
- California Native Plant Society
- Friends of Cow Creek Preserve

Recommendation:
Staff recommends funding this project in the amount of $546,000, which represents a $10,000 reduction from the original requested amount of $556,000 to reflect the fact that state approval of appraisals was a service the SNC provided at no cost.

#2

PARKVILLE RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT NARRATIVE

2. Project Summary key elements; project cost

The project is the purchase of a conservation easement on 270.75 acres bordering Bear Creek and Dry Creek in Shasta County, within the Sierra Nevada Conservancy area map. The property has significant Prime Agriculture Land, riparian habitat, and oak woodlands. It is owned by a retired natural resources professor from Shasta College, Clyde David DuBose and Sandra DuBose. The DuBose would like the property to stay in tact and continue to be used for agriculture, wildlife protection, and outdoor education. The property is borders the 2,248-acre organic Fenwood Ranch owned by the Rickert Family, which is under a conservation easement with the Shasta Land Trust. The Fenwood Ranch has 2.5 miles of Sacramento River frontage. Property to the east of the Parkville Ranch is the ~1,000 acre Shammo Ranch.

Mr. DuBose is a past board member of the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD). He is now retired from Shasta College and has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and is increasingly frail with a recent hospitalization for meningitis and pneumonia. The DuBose are very concerned their adult children have no interest in agriculture and would quickly sell the property for residential development. Their dream is to find a way to maintain the property as a working ranch with 100-150 acres in agriculture, protect the .64 miles of riparian habitat on Bear Creek and the .23 miles along Dry Creek while using the ranch as an outdoor education experience for school children. The DuBose are in the process of a lease/purchase agreement to rezone 5 acres at the north end of the property next to the Parkville Cemetery for use by Chrysalis Charter School. Chrysalis has about 100 students and their curriculum is natural resource and agriculture focused. The DuBose both want the property used for outdoor education in the Shasta County Office of Education system for studying nature, agriculture, riparian systems, fisheries, water quality, and more. The Homestead area is about six acres in the middle of the property that includes the DuBose' home, a second rental house, and various barns and outbuildings. The house and several buildings were constructed in 1915 and may qualify for the California Historic Register.

The WSRCD would hold the conservation easement. A management plan has been completed for the property and an Advisory Committee (AC) determined, which includes Shasta County Office of Education, Shasta College Dept. of Natural Resources, CA Dept of Fish and Game, UC Davis Cooperative Extension, Shasta County Historical Society, the DuBose and the RCD.

A full appraisal of the property pre-easement and post-easement was just completed in October 2007 by Ernest R. Rouse & Associates, a State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, who has completed several conservation easement appraisals in Shasta County. The project cost is the value variance between pre- and post-easement, which is $538,000.

This project was also submitted to the Department of Water Resources Floodway Protection Program on November 2, 2007. It may be possible if DWR only wants to partially fund this project that SNC could fund the balance.

3. Authorization to Apply or Resolution

The WSRCD Board of Directors authorized the submission of the grant to the Department of Water Resources at their board meeting in September 2007. Phil Schoefer, President of the Board, has signed the letter indicating the board's support of this project, shown on the following page.

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

County: **EL DORADO**

Applicant: **AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY**

Project Title: **PURCHASE OF THE GOLD HILL RANCH AND THE WAKAMATSU TEA AND SILK FARM COLONY SITE**

Reference Number: **SNC 070238**

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will protect a critical watershed and groundwater recharge area through the fee simple purchase of a 330-acre parcel. The parcel straddles Cold Springs Road between Placerville and Coloma in El Dorado County. The property contains an 8-acre lake, another small pond, six undeveloped springs, and a large wetland area that feeds two major tributaries to the South Fork of the American River (Granite Creek and Shingle Creek). These tributaries provide important habitat for numerous fish species that is not provided by the American River alone, and the riparian/wetland interface located on the property acts as a filtration system for the aquifer below Gold Hill Ranch. Protecting this parcel will ensure the continuation of these water services as well as provide for public access. Other important aspects of this project include:

- Relates to the needs identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan for protecting large expanses of habitat in the Sierra Nevada foothills;
- Complements the El Dorado County's Draft Oak Woodland Management Plan;
- Site water resources provide ideal habitat for migratory waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians
- Site contains two internationally important cultural resources:
    - Site of the first Japanese colony in North America
    - Gravesite of the first Japanese person buried in North America;
- Site will ultimately house a 25-acre museum and interpretive center related to the history of the area and the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm colony, hosting an estimated 350,000 visitors annually and complementing the promotion of heritage-related tourism in El Dorado County;
- Provides public hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

The applicant is requesting $1,000,000 from the SNC to be applied toward the $4,557,000 purchase price for the property.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Assess additional project funding	May 31, 2008
Close escrow	Jan.-March 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**March 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Portion of purchase of property	1,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$ 1,000,000**

Letters of Support:

- Placer County Chapter – Japanese American Citizens League
- California Rise Commission
- Joan Barsotti – Barsotti Books
- Barbara Takei
- Normadene Carpenter

Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding the project at the requested amount of $1,000,000.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant
Purchase of the Gold Hill Ranch – Wakamatsu Colony Site

Project Summary

The American River Conservancy will utilize $1 million in grant funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and $3,557,000 in matching funds to acquire the 303 acre Gold Hill Ranch in western El Dorado County. The purchase of these subject lands will protect the headwaters and wetlands associated with two major tributaries to the South Fork American River, *Granite Creek* and *Shingle Creek*. These two tributary creeks provide critical habitat to an important natural fishery supporting an assemblage of five native fish species including: rainbow trout, Sacramento pikeminnow, California roach, Sacramento sucker and riffle sculpin. Other riparian species found on the ranch and tributaries include the western pond turtle, California newt, slender salamander, and foothill yellow-legged frog. The project will also protect 120 acres of valley and blue oak woodland and over 200 species of wildlife found on or near the subject property.

The sizable riparian/wetland interface located on the property acts a filtration system for the large aquifer located beneath the surface of the Gold Hill Ranch. The subject property acts as a low-elevation, wet-meadow system that stores rain and run-off and gradually releases the water downstream to Granite and Shingle Creeks. Consequently, the protection of the subject property from subdivision and the development of impervious surfaces will contribute to the moderation of flooding downstream within the greater Sacramento metropolitan area.

Purchase of the property will also protect two internationally significant and unique cultural resources including the site of the first Japanese colony in North America, the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony established in 1869 and the gravesite of the celebrated Okei Ito, the first Japanese person buried on American soil in 1871.

The acquisition of the Gold Hill Ranch is the first essential step in the development of a new historic State Park facility associated with the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma. This new Park unit will feature the succession of cultures that occupied the Gold Hill Ranch including:

- Native American peoples from 4,000BC to the early 1850's;
- gold rush era miners from 1848 to1872;
- the Charles Graner family from 1853-1869;
- the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colonists from 1869 to 1872; and finally
- the Veerkamp family from 1875 to present.

The 25 acre Park facility will ultimately include a museum, small theater and interpretive agricultural plots and processing centers that feature traditional Japanese agriculture of the Japanese colonization in the late 1860's. A farm-stay facility and program is envisioned that would allow the public to learn about traditional Japanese cultural and agricultural practices. The project will protect 208 acres of oak woodland and riparian habitat which will ultimately contain a hiking and interpretive trail in a region rich with biodiversity and cultural history.

The project will advance the promotion of heritage and agricultural tourism in El Dorado County and complement the regions wineries, orchards and other neighboring Farm Trail enterprises. The project will also preserve the open space character and scenic quality of the area.

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

County: **YUBA**

Applicant: **TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND**

Project Title: **COLLINS LAKE ACQUISITION PROJECT (SILLER PROPERTY)**

Reference Number: **SNC 070243**

PROJECT SCOPE

The project would acquire a 529-acre parcel at Collins Lake in the Yuba River watershed for protection of natural resource values. The property contains approximately one mile of Dry Creek and extensive Blue Oak woodland habitat. The Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, the University of California Sierra Foothills Research, and Extension Center and federal Bureau of Land Management lands surround the parcel. The acquisition would fill gaps in the contiguous wildlife habitat. Grant dollars received from SNC will be applied toward the acquisition of this parcel, with an appraised value of $1,851,500. In addition, SNC funding will be matched with other public funds that will leverage the protection of two additional sites in the Mt. Lassen area (sites in Perazzo Meadows and Castle Peak, totaling 1,383 acres), due to an arrangement with the property owner who owns all three sites.

Specific actions that would successfully complete this project include:

- Complete the funding package for the three priority parcels;
- Initiate long-term management plan;
- Acquire the Collins Lake parcel to protect habitat values.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Due Diligence review	March 2008
Determine long-term stewardship	June 2008
Receive balance of acquisition funding	October 2008
Initiate long-term management plan	December 2008
Complete acquisition	December 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**December 31, 2008**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
SNC portion of Fee Title acquisition	$925,750
GRAND TOTAL	**$925,750**

Letters of Support:
Truckee Donner Land Trust
California Department of Fish and Game- Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Game- Unit Biologist

Recommendation:
Staff recommendation is to fund a portion of the fee title acquisition at the requested amount of $925,750.

Project Summary

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is submitting this application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support the acquisition of the 529-acre Collins Lake property in Yuba County, California. This project is an ideal candidate for funding because it provides important water quality and habitat benefits within the Lower Yuba River watershed. The Collins Lake property is comprised of rolling hills and meadows of blue oak and gray pine woodlands, and riparian habitat along one mile of Dry Creek. The site is adjacent to the Department of Fish and Game's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area and other state protected lands. The acquisition and permanent protection of site of this is identified as a state priority in the Daugherty Hill Conceptual Area Protection Plan and TPL's "Yuba Foothills Program" that seeks to create a protected corridor of blue oak woodland and riparian habitat from Coon Creek in Placer County, north to Collins Lake in Yuba County.

The values of the Collins property make this project an ideal candidate for a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. However, this project is unique in that the transactional structure of this acquisition project is married to the acquisition of at least two other high-value projects in the Sierra region. As such, a grant from SNC will not only protect the Collins Lake site, but it will also be an integral part of protecting an additional 1,383 acres in Sierra and Nevada Counties.

The sale of the Collins Lake site is packaged with other properties owned by Siller Brothers, Inc, each of which must be sold in a single transaction with The Trust for Public Land. Consequently, the success of each project is contingent upon the success of the others. Two of the other properties that are part of this Siller Bros. package include the 400-acre Castle Peak and the 983-acre Perazzo Meadows properties. Because the protection of Castle Peak and Perazzo Meadows is contingent upon the success of the Collins Lake project, an investment from SNC is critical to the success of all three projects.

The Castle Peak site is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service lands and is situated on the eastern border of the proposed Castle Peak Wilderness Area. With 1 mile of frontage of North Creek, the Castle Peak project protects fisheries habitat and local drinking water supplies. The 983-acre Perazzo acre contains 2.5 mile of frontage on the Little Truckee River and excellent riverine and montane riparian habitat, wetland meadow habitat, and upland acres of lodgepole pine, white fir, and aspens. A fourth site, the 160-acre Martis Valley property, is also an optional part of this Siller Brothers Package.

A $925,750 grant from the SNC will be applied toward the acquisition of the 529-acre Collins Lake property and will be matched 1:1 with other public funds. In doing so, this SNC grant will also leverage the protection of the 1,383 acres that comprise the Perazzo Meadows and Castle Peak sites at a 5:1 ratio. If the Martis Valley site is included, this would increase the SNC leverage ratio to 6:1.

Each of the properties included in the Collins Lake acquisition package have distinct benefits for protecting Sierra Nevada rivers, lakes and streams, and their watersheds. Each site also provides excellent natural resources and habitat values. In total, these three properties will protect 1,912 acres in three Sierra counties and in two SNC sub-regions. These properties contain more than 4.5 mile of direct river and stream frontage within the Yuba and Truckee River watersheds. Each of these sites is contiguous to other protected lands, helping safeguard large swaths of unfragmented oak woodland, wetland meadow, and conifer forests that provide wildlife habitat and movement corridors.

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

County: **SHASTA**

Applicant: **SHASTA LAND TRUST**

Project Title: **RICKERT RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION**

Reference Number: **SNC 070244**

PROJECT SCOPE

Shasta Land Trust, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, proposes to acquire a conservation easement on the 5,082-acre Rickert Ranch, one of the largest properties in the Cow Creek watershed, located 15 miles east of Redding, CA. A conservation easement on this property would:

- Permanently protect this working cattle ranch and its cultural and natural resources, including riparian habitat, grasslands, oak woodlands, and vernal pools;
- Protect approximately 8.5 miles of creek frontage along the Little Cow, French, and Swede Creeks;
- Provide a cost-effective means for protecting the landscape while allowing historical cattle ranching practices to continue.

A conservation easement, acquired through a combination of funding from SNC and $1.5 - $2.5 million in public and private funds, would complement Shasta Land Trust's previous easement acquisitions on the 2,241-acre Fenwood Partners Ranch and the 6,639-acre Hathaway Ranch, also located in the Cow Creek watershed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalize purchase and sale agreement of conservation easement	March 2008
Complete easement purchase	May 31, 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	**July 1, 2009**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Estimated Fair Market Value of Property	$1,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	**$1,000,000**

Letters of Support:

- Jim Rickert, Land Owner

Recommendation:
Staff recommends funding this project at the requested amount of $1,000,000.

Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement Project

Shasta Land Trust (SLT) requests a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant of $1 million to be matched with $1.5-2.5 million in public and private funds for the acquisition of a conservation easement on the 5,085-acre Rickert Ranch. The ranch, one of the largest properties in the Cow Creek Watershed still intact, is located approximately 15 miles east of Redding in Shasta County's foothills. The easement will permanently protect this working cattle ranch, and its cultural and natural resources from development pressures while maintaining compatible ranching practices and private ownership. This project will complement the SLT's recent easement acquisitions on the 2,241-acre Fenwood Partners Ranch and the 6,639-acre Hathaway Ranch, also located within the Cow Creek Watershed.

Cow Creek is the most northerly un-dammed tributary to the Sacramento River. Over eight miles of perennial and seasonal streams, including Little Cow, French and Swede Creeks, flow through Rickert Ranch. The property also contains expansive vernal pools and swales within the Swede Creek plains. The wetland and riparian lands provide habitat for remnant runs of fall run and Chinook salmon and breeding grounds for the Cow Creek deer herd. In addition, the property contains a stretch of Little Cow Creek that was once an important fishing resource for the Northern Yanta Native Americans.

The landscape, characterized by undisturbed flat valley areas to rolling foothills with blue oak woodlands, old growth white oak and gray pines, faces increasing urbanization and conversion of grazing lands to higher intensity uses. As Shasta County and Redding grow in population, developers look to the Cow Creek Watershed to provide open, developable land.

The Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement Project advances multiple goals of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, including providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; protecting, conserving and restoring the region's physical, cultural and natural resources; preserving working landscapes; reducing the risk of natural disasters; improving air and water quality; assisting the local economy and enhancing public use and enjoyment of Sierra-Cascade lands. Rickert Ranch is located with SNC's North Sierra Sub-region.

Protection of the Rickert Ranch fits directly with federal, state and regional conservation plans and strategies, including the Department of Fish and Game's Cow Creek Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP); the *Cow Creek Watershed Assessment;* the Resource Protection Strategies and Agriculture and Open Space Elements of the Shasta County General Plan; the Bureau of Reclamations *Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan* and Habitat Restoration Program; the California Resources Agency's *Restoring Central Valley Streams: A Plan for Action;* and the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Shasta Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land are working together to secure a willing seller option agreement. The estimated purchase price of the conservation easement is $2.5-3.5 million. A grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy of $1 million for the purchase will be matched with pending requests to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program ($350,000) and the Wildlife Conservation Board ($1.0 million). With development pressures steadily increasing, timely action is needed. A Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant will take advantage of this critical opportunity.

Background

SNC staff has had almost one year of experience administering the initial Proposition 84 Grants. We have learned a great deal in the process and have received numerous comments and suggestions from applicants and others to improve both the process and instructions to applicants. In addition, our own observations have led to a number of policy modification and process improvement suggestions. In response to these comments and suggestions, we will be proposing changes to the Grants Guidelines for 2008-09 Proposition 84 Grants. Because several potential changes involve key policy-level issues, we have presented proposed changes in this report and invite direction from the Board before drafting revised guidelines for public review. We will also be including a number of potential process and administrative changes in the Guidelines and Grant Application Package, with the goal of the grants program becoming streamlined, better understood and providing a higher degree of "user friendliness." Final draft Grants Guidelines will be brought to the Board for review and approval in June.

Current Status

Staff has begun collecting data, organizing materials, and drafting selected policy modification language for potential changes. The policies that appear to hold the highest need or desire for modification include the following:

Grant Categories

Based on our experience this year, staff recommends that modifications to grant category funding levels be made as follows:

- The Competitive Grant category would be modified to include projects between $250,000 and $1,000,000. Current funding limits are $100,000 to $1,000,000.
- Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOG) categories would be modified as follows:
    - SOG 1 -- Acquisitions and site improvements/restoration projects between $5,000 and $250,000. Currently projects have no minimum limit and an upper limit of $100,000.
    - SOG 2 -- All projects that are not acquisition or site improvement /restoration up to $500,000. Currently, these projects are divided into two SOG categories (SOG 2 and SOG 3) and have no upper limit.

Grant Cycles

We have established a goal of maintaining flexibility in our grant program in order to address the Region's needs in a timely fashion. At the same time, there are important workload considerations relating to processing and evaluating grant applications in an effective and efficient manner. In the current year, staff was responsible for processing

and evaluating Competitive and SOG applications at the same time. This included a great deal of interaction with applicants to ensure that the information needed for projects was received.

In light of this year's experience, staff proposes modifying grant cycles for 2008-09 to include two Strategic Opportunity Grant rounds, with grants being awarded at the December 2008 and June 2009 Board meetings. Competitive grants would continue to have one round with grants being awarded at the March 2009 Board meeting. This schedule will maintain a degree of flexibility while providing for a more manageable flow of workload.

Regulatory Compliance
It is proposed that the guidelines be modified to clearly state that grant funding may not be used to meet regulatory requirements or to address non-compliance of any law or regulation. Currently, there is no specific exclusion language in the SNC Grant Guidelines. We have received a few inquiries regarding this matter and it appears prudent to be clear in our guidelines on this subject.

NEPA/CEQA
SNC funding requires that all projects comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Project proposals on federal land or where a federal agency is the applicant must also meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. It is proposed that guideline language clarify the need for CEQA compliance in addition to NEPA compliance, in order to receive SNC funds. This issue has proven to be significant and a number of projects have not been recommended for approval because of it.

Next Steps

Following direction from the Board on the policy issues identified in this staff report, staff will prepare a public review draft of the 2008-09 Guidelines. We are currently planning to release the draft on April 9, 2008, accepting public comment for approximately 30 days. A number of public meetings including web conferences will be scheduled to gather input and staff will interact with various stakeholders during this time. A final draft set of Guidelines will be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time. Staff will prepare draft guidelines, conduct public comment process and prepare final draft guidelines to be considered by the Board in June. The Chair may wish to appoint a committee of the Board to provide guidance to staff on this matter.

Attachment B
Conceptual System Indicators

This attachment includes an initial, conceptual list of Sierra Nevada System Indicators. The System Indicator (SI) Rating Table will be populated with candidate SIs. An excerpt from the table is included on page twelve. For each SI, the table will include a brief description of the SI (including measurement units) and information regarding:

- What concept the SI measures;
- Spatial scale at which data can be collected;
- Frequency with which data can be collected;
- Source or sources of data;
- Identification of other entities that use the Indicator.

Indicators will be assessed using the selection criteria described below.

Criteria for Selecting Final Set of Indicators

Feasibility
Cost, time, and expertise required;

Temporal Sensitivity
Ability to detect and measure at a meaningful temporal scale;

Spatial Scale
Resolution allows for application at state, regional, sub-regional, and community levels;

Credible
Data is obtained from a reliable source and analytical methods are sound;

Intuitive
Common sense concept and easily understood by a broad audience;

Decision-useful
Clear relationship between system condition and management and policy decisions;

Comprehensive
Captures system complexity spanning multiple areas of interest or concern.

For each of the above criteria, we have developed several questions for discussion and comment that will be used to ultimately rank the Indicators.

Background

The SNC Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop Performance Measures and Indicators to measure the success of SNC projects and programs, as well as progress toward improving the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Region. At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved a process for the development and use of such Indicators and Performance Measures at three levels:

- ***System Indicators*** to measure the well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. Examples might include per capita income of Sierra residents, measures of water turbidity or ppb of mercury, and percentage of home ownership within the Region. ***Indices*** are groups of Indicators.
- ***Program Performance Measures*** to track progress in achieving program goals and meeting the SNC's overall mission. Examples might include the total number of acres protected by SNC-funded conservation easements, recreational visitor days on public lands, and measures of increased collaboration resulting from SNC-funded projects.
- ***Project Outcome Performance Measures*** to track project efforts against the expected outcomes. Examples include miles of trails constructed, tons of carbon sequestered/avoided, and number of archeological sites protected as a result of a project.

At the December 2007 meeting, the Board approved an interim list of Performance Measures specifically for projects awarded during the 2007-08 grant cycle through Proposition 84 funding. This comprised the initial stage of the overall effort.

The process of developing Indicators and Performance Measures has now advanced to the next stage, involving the development of a set of recommended Indicators and Performance Measures—along with an implementation plan—for presentation to the Board at the June 2008 meeting. This stage is further described below.

Current Status

In January of 2008, the SNC engaged a team led by Propoint Technology and in collaboration with the Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment, Environmental Incentives, and the Sierra Business Council. The team is engaged to develop System Indicators and program and project outcome Performance Measures as defined above. SNC executives, managers, and staff work with and provide direction and support to the team. The project is organized around the following major tasks:

- ***Project Planning***: Working in close collaboration with SNC staff, the project team developed a detailed project work plan and schedule, including a public input plan to involve various external entities and a stakeholder advisory group.

- ***Development of Conceptual Lists***: The project team researched performance data currently being collected or developed by other entities at the local, state, and national levels and applied the team's extensive knowledge and experience related to performance measurement to develop initial conceptual lists of Measures and Indicators. These are included herein as Attachment A and B, respectively. The conceptual list of Project Outcome Measures has been embedded within the Program Performance Measures list; this reflects the emphasis in deriving, where applicable, project measures from program measures to help ensure that project activities link to program goals.
- ***Development of Draft Performance Measures and Indicators***: During this task, the team will engage the public, grant recipients and other SNC stakeholders to get their feedback, input, and suggestions regarding appropriate performance measures and indicators. Based on this input and additional research and analysis, the team will prepare a final draft set of Performance Measures and Indicators for presentation to the Board in June. The team will also prepare a draft implementation and governance plan for presentation to the Board, which will describe the communications, systems and processes needed to gather and report performance information, integrate it into SNC decision-making, and make it available for use by others in the region.
- ***Development of Final Performance Measures and Indicators***: Based on direction provided by the Board, the team will incorporate final revisions to the set of Performance Measures and Indicators as appropriate, as well as the implementation plan. This task is expected to be completed in July 2008.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, the team will obtain broad input and go through the process of developing a final recommended set of Performance Measures and Indicators to present to the Board in June. Upcoming activities include the following:

- ***Obtain Broad Input:*** A cornerstone of the project is to invite input from the public, grant recipients, and other stakeholders on potential Performance Measures and Indicators as well as the criteria the team will use to determine the final set of recommended measures. (Preliminary criteria are included in the attachments).

  - ✓ Subregional workshops and Web conferences

    A public workshop will be held in each of the six sub-regions along with two additional workshops conducted via web conference. The subregional workshops and web conferences are open to anyone. Workshops will provide an overview of the project, an explanation of how Performance Measures and Indicators will be used by the SNC and how they might be put to use by other stakeholders, an introduction of Performance Measures and Indicators under consideration, a discussion of the process

for selecting Performance Measures and Indicators and an invitation to participate in the online survey (see below). Attendees will be asked for comment on the information presented.

- ✓ Stakeholder Advisory Group

  A Stakeholder Advisory Group has been created to provide additional input at specific steps in the process. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group and a workshop will be held with the group to capture their perspectives on the process for selecting Performance Measures and Indicators, criteria used, and value of the individual Performance Measures and Indicators.

- ✓ Surveys

  Stakeholder groups and the general public, including visitors to the SNC web site, will be invited to provide input on each of the Program Measures via the completion of an on-line survey designed to capture both the informational value of a Performance Measure, and its use for decision-making and program reporting. The survey is designed according to the criteria rating described in Appendix A.

- ***Evaluate and Select Indicators and Measures***: The information collected from the public input process in combination with additional research and analysis performed by the project team will be used to develop a recommended set of draft System Indicators and Performance Measures. The selection process and measures will be structured to achieve the following:
  - ✓ Be informed by the wisdom of diverse stakeholders with a variety of perspectives;
  - ✓ Meaningfully engage stakeholders in their development and refinement;
  - ✓ Be concise and allow for clear reporting and use;
  - ✓ Be collected, used, and regularly reported by the SNC to advance learning, understanding of the region, and program improvement;
  - ✓ Be available and useful to stakeholders throughout the Sierra region;
  - ✓ Help understand how programs can contribute to improving economic, environmental, and social health.

  The final recommended set of Performance Measures and Indicators will then be fully evaluated and documented, including capturing detailed operational information needed to implement the Indicator or Performance Measure. This analysis will inform the development of the implementation and governance plan (outlined below), and will also be presented to the Board at the June Board meeting. Following the Board meeting, adjustments will be incorporated into the final project deliverables.

- ***Develop Draft Implementation and Governance Plan:*** The implementation and governance plan will involve direct work with SNC to identify ways Indicators and Performance Measures will be systematically used, both internally and externally, for adaptive improvement. A plan will be developed to articulate the relationship of Performance Measures to program improvement and to future strategic planning processes. It will also define annual and five-year cycles of data collection and reporting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time, although input on the process and work to date is welcome. The final draft set of recommended Performance Measures and Indicators and implementation recommendations will be brought to the Board for review and approval at the June meeting. The Chair may wish to appoint a committee to provide guidance to the project team.

Attachment A
Conceptual Performance Measures

This attachment includes an initial, conceptual list of Performance Measures (PM), which integrates both initial Program and Project Outcome Performance Measures. The team is compiling information related to each performance measure using a rating table. An excerpt from the table is included on page eight. For each candidate performance measure, the table will be populated with descriptive information and a rating of 1 to 5 relative to each of the seven proposed criteria. The specific information and rating criteria are outlined below along with information regarding how the 1 to 5 rating will be established for each criteria.

Performance Measure Description
This description provides additional insight into what the PM entails, need for the PM, and other key details that may be relevant to understanding the PM.

SNC Related Programs
SNC's Strategic Plan defines 7 program areas. This informational category indicates the program areas that could utilize this PM.

Level of Effort

- **5** **Easy:** Requires less than $1,000 and 40 hours of staff time annually, and no specialized expertise to collect, analyze and report;
- **3** **Moderate:** Requires between $1,000 and $25,000 and 40 to 250 hours of staff time annually, and some specialized expertise to collect, analyze and report;
- **1** **Difficult:** Requires more than $50,000 and 500 hours of staff time annually, and significant specialized expertise to collect, analyze and report.

Connection to Social, Economic or Environmental System

- **5** **Direct:** Directly agreeable to a potential System Indicator;
- **3** **Strong:** Strongly related System status - i.e. may affect status directly or with well accepted assumptions;
- **1** **Weak:** Very weakly or not related to System status - i.e. requires assumptions that are not well understood or not expected to result in a change of System Indicators.

Relationship to Other Efforts

- **5** **Exact:** Exact match to reporting measures used by 3 or more other CA organizations;
- **3** **Good:** Good match to reporting measures used by 1 or 2 other CA organizations;
- **1** **None:** Not used by other CA organizations.

Rating Criteria for SNC Input

SNC management and staff will be asked to respond to each of the following rating categories in order to inform the selection of 10 to 20 Performance Measures that will be fully developed and evaluated in detail. SNC management and staff will also have the opportunity to answer the two additional questions targeted to a broader, stakeholder audience.

Ability to Fund

- **5** **Guaranteed:** Sufficient, consistent funding is guaranteed to be available for SNC or through SNC partners for the data collection, management, analysis and reporting effort needed for this PM;
- **3** **If Prioritized:** Supporting data collection, management, analysis and reporting is possible to support by SNC and partners as long as given moderate priority by management;
- **1** **Very Unlikely:** It is very unlikely that there will be support for the data collection, management, analysis and reporting effort needed for this PM.

Meaningful for Management Decisions

- **5** **Very Meaningful:** Easily and strongly related to funding and staffing allocations AND natural resource management decisions;
- **3** **Moderately Meaningful:** Can relate to funding and staffing allocations OR natural resource management decisions;
- **1** **Not Meaningful:** Not related to funding and staffing allocations AND natural resource management decisions.

Rating Criteria for Stakeholder Input

Stakeholders will be asked to respond to each of the following rating categories in order to inform the selection of 10 to 20 Performance Measures that will be fully developed and evaluated in detail.

Usability

- **5** **Frequently Useful:** I or my organization will use information related to this measure frequently for reporting progress and making decisions;
- **3** **Potentially Useful:** I or my organization will potentially refer to this information at times for reporting progress and making decisions;
- **1** **Not Useful:** I do not foresee any use for this information by me or my organization.

Information Value to You

- **5** **Clear:** This PM provides a clear and meaningful understanding of what is a good and bad result or trend;
- **3** **Needs Explanation:** This PM is understandable and meaningful given some explanation and context;
- **1** **No Value:** This PM means very little to me and is unlikely to be meaningful even with explanation.

Conceptual SNC Performance Measures (PMs)

Rating Table

Please see the notes at the bottom of the table.

PM Name (short and memorable)	PM Description (additional PM information)	Related SNC Programs: Tourism & Recreation	Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical, Living Resources	Working Landscapes	Natural Disaster Risks	Water & Air Quality	Regional Economy	Public Lands	Level of Effort (Rating & short rationale)	Connection to Social, Economic or Environmental System (Rating & short rationale)	Relationship to Other Efforts (Rating & short rationale)
Acres of Land Easements	Area under development restriction with a focus on ecosystem health provides a measure of the extent of natural resource protection provided by SNC activities	Ω	Ω	Ω		Ω		Ω	5 Acquired through project reports and must be check to ensure no double counting	4 If an indicator of land-use distribution is selected, this would directly aggregate.	5 Used by land trusts, state agencies and local communities
Acres of Land Acquired	Area of critical lands acquired to protect, conserve, or restore resources, characterized by purpose (protect, conserve, or restore physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, or living resources) and priority level	Ω	Ω	Ω		Ω		Ω	5 Relatively simple, assuming good project-level record-keeping; must take care to accurately describe extent of SNC's contribution	4 If an indicator of land-use distribution is selected, this would directly aggregate.	5 Most of them measure numbers or acres of restoration, enhancement, preservation, and acquisition projects

. . .Continues. See Conceptual List of Candidates on next page.

Notes:

The three right-most columns contain information provided by the project team. Each column includes a numeric rating and a short rational for the rating given

Higher ratings signify a PM's greater desirability in that category

Ω indicates that the PM is useful for measuring performance in the respective SNC program area, by column

Conceptual SNC Performance Measures (PMs)

Candidate PMs

1. Acres of Land Easements
2. Acres of Land Acquired
3. Acres of Land Exchanged
4. Number of Event Days
5. Tons of Carbon Sequestered/Avoided
6. Number of New Recreation Access Points
7. Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed
8. Number of Trail Segments Connected
9. Size and Number of Informational Databases Created
10. Number of Technical Assistance Requests Met by SNC Staff
11. Number of Collaboratively Developed Project Prioritization Plans
12. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
13. Acres of Wetland Restored or Improved
14. Stream Miles Opened to Migratory Fish
15. Number of Acres Under Best Management Practices
16. Percent Change in Fish Tissue Contaminants Index
17. Tons of Pollutant Reduced Per Year
18. Number of Projects
19. Funds Directly Distributed in the Sierra Nevada
20. Funds Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
21. Hours Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
22. Dollar Value of In-kind Equipment Leveraged
23. Number of Awards
24. Number of "Quality Enhancement Points"
25. Number of Awards
26. Number of "Quality Enhancement Points"
27. Number of People Reached
28. Hours of Curriculum Generated
29. Number of facilities Improved or Constructed
30. Internet Connection Capacity Gain
31. Acres Included in New or Updated Hazard Maps
32. Number of Priority catastrophic wildfire risk and hazard areas identified
33. Acres of Wildland Urban Interface Treated
34. Value of Area Protected
35. Number of Communities With Plans to Address Natural Hazards
36. Acres of wildfire risk reduction projects in high-priority areas
37. Number of Cultural, Historical, and Heritage sites Preserved
38. Number of best practices developed for working landscapes
39. Visitor Capacity Created
40. Number of Business Ventures and Organizations Created
41. Number of Jobs Created
42. Number of biomass utilization projects developed
43. Number of reports summarizing best available information on potential effects of climate change
44. Increased Knowledge and Changed Behavior
45. Number of agritourism & ecotourism development projects
46. Number of Fish In Restored Streams

This represents a preliminary conceptual list of Performance Measure (PM) candidates.
The project team will refine and adjust the PMs and information provided.

Criteria for SNC Input

- Intuitive
- Decision-useful
- Comprehensive

Criteria for Stakeholder Advisory Group Input

- Temporal Sensitivity
- Spatial Scale
- Credible
- Decision-useful
- Comprehensive

Criteria for Public Input

- Spatial Scale
- Credible
- Intuitive
- Decision-useful

Conceptual SNC System Indicators (SIs)

Rating Table

SI Name/Units	SI Description	Concept Measured	Spatial Scale of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Data Sources	Other Entities Using SI
(short and memorable)	(additional PM information)					
Economic						
Rate of job growth to population growth	Measures the rate at which jobs grew in the region and sub-regions to identify the disparity between job growth and population.	Productivity (Jobs:Base Year:Time)	Regional and Sub regional	annually	California Employment Development Department; California Department of Finance	Most Regional Indicators Projects
Gross Domestic Product ($)	Measure the size of the economy as the total value of all goods, services over a given period of time	Productivity (consumption+gross investment+government spending+export-imports)	Regional and Subregional	annually	California Department of Finance	Most Regional Indicator Projects

. . .Continues. See Conceptual List of Candidates on next page.

Conceptual SNC System Indicators (SIs)

Candidate SIs

Economic

1. Rate of job growth to population growth
2. Gross Domestic Product ($)
3. Agricultural production
4. Farmland acreage
5. Number of farms selling directly to individuals
6. Cattle Production
7. Timber production
8. Earnings per job
9. Economic diversity index
10. Employment by sector
11. Ratio of transfer income to earned income
12. Travel and Tourism spending
13. Real value of ecosystem services
14. Payments captured for ecosystem services
15. Goods and services leakage
16. Locally owned businesses percentage
17. High speed internet access
18. Vehicle Miles Traveled in/out

Social

1. GINI coefficient
2. Population (People)
3. In-migration
4. Demographics of new residents
5. Relative/absolute % below the poverty line
6. Children in family receiving assistance
7. School's free or reduced lunch programs
8. Percentage of income devoted to housing
9. Percentage of renters/homeowners
10. Unemployment/Underemployment
11. Seasonal employment
12. National Register of Historic Places stats
13. Visitor Days
14. Educational Attainment
15. Public school funding
16. Community programs in place to promote general awareness of air, water, and climate issues
17. SI Index
18. Volunteer hours
19. Number of registered 501c3s
20. % voting in elections (primary, midterm, etc.)
21. Youth organizations
22. Medical professionals per capita
23. Average wait time to see provider
24. Access to care for underserved communities: clinics for the uninsured
25. % children covered, % of elderly covered
26. Advances in/access to telemedicine
27. # of people on medicare/medicaid
28. Community arts programs
29. Organizations focused around the arts
30. Asthma

This represents a preliminary conceptual list of System Indicator (SI) candidates.
The project team will refine and adjust the SIs and information provided.

Conceptual SNC System Indicators (SIs)

Candidate SIs (continued)

31. % violent crime per thousand
32. Property crime per thousand
33. Substance abuse arrests per thousand
34. Incidents of family violence
35. Public Transport funding
36. Commuting to work out of area
37. Transportation General Plan
38. Institutions/projects in place addressing inequalities amongst race/class
39. Feedback mechanisms in place for disenfranchised people
40. Diversity in decision making processes
41. Access to affordable food

Environmental

1. Ratio of Public to Private Land Ownership
2. Acres of Fire Risk
3. Residential, commercial, industrial, and open space
4. Acres of conversion of forest and rangeland to urban uses
5. Mixed use in downtown areas
6. Farmland Acreage
7. Acreage in private conservation easements
8. Second Homes
9. Acreage enrolled in Williamson Act
10. Acreage in Timber Production Zone
11. Snow pack/rainfall data
12. Area in percent of ecosystem or land or affected by processes or agents beyond the historic range of historic variation
13. Diversity of habitat type
14. Population viability of state and federal threatened, endangered and candidate species
15. % of habitat protected by indicator species
16. Number of species that occupy a small portion of their former range
17. Invasive species
18. Particulates
19. Ozone, Nox, Carbon
20. Solid waste generated and disposed
21. Point sources of toxins
22. Total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool by forest type age class and success ional stages
23. Hydropower
24. Biomass Co-gen plants
25. Creative production of energy
26. Electricity prices
27. Groundwater
28. Impaired Streams and Rivers
29. Agricultural Production
30. Organic farming
31. Vehicle miles traveled on California state highways
32. Personal vehicle use of gasoline per capita
33. Diesel bus and truck use of fuel per capita

This represents a preliminary conceptual list of System Indicator (SI) candidates.
The project team will refine and adjust the SIs and information provided.