

# PRESS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY RESTARTS 142 FROZEN PROJECTS**

**(Auburn, CA)** - The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is pleased to announce the restart of 142 Proposition 84-funded projects that have been frozen since December 17, 2008, due to the State's budget situation. The SNC received the go-ahead from the State Treasurer's Office to restart projects using a total of \$9.1 million dollars generated by bond sales earlier in the year.

"Projects to help prevent catastrophic fires, improve water quality, preserve working ranches, and contribute to sustainable communities in the Sierra can now be carried out after an eight-month work stoppage," said Jim Branham, SNC Executive Officer. "This work is important to all Californians who enjoy the water, scenic beauty, and other resources the Sierra Nevada provides."

On December 17, 2008, the State halted thousands of projects supported by General Obligation Bond measures as a means of preserving cash flow. This included Proposition 84 funding, the sole source for all projects authorized by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The SNC has funded projects throughout the 25-million-acre Sierra Nevada Region to local, state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations.

The \$9.1 million available to restart grants comes from two bond sales conducted earlier this year. Unfortunately, the amount available from the two sources is not sufficient to fully fund all grants awarded by the SNC to date. Projects that had the most direct benefit in protecting natural resources were given priority by the SNC and have been assured of full funding upon restart. Other projects have been provided the opportunity to restart their work, with a commitment of 50 percent of project costs being available at this time. A list of restarted Sierra Nevada Conservancy projects, their total award amounts and locations is available at <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/docs/Masterlist.pdf>.

"The impact of the freeze on our grantees and other organizations throughout the Region has been significant, causing layoffs and financial hardship in a number of cases," Branham stated. "The good news is that despite these impacts, our partners in the Region are poised and ready to get back to work."

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The Sierra Nevada Region is the source of 65 percent of California's water supply, providing water to many California communities and a major portion of California's farming industry. Efforts to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect critical natural resource areas and preserve working ranches and forests help to ensure that high quality water will be available to meet the state's needs.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency created in 2004 charged with improving the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its citizens and the people of California. The SNC covers 1/4 of the state and includes all or part of 22 of California's 58 counties.

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Note to reporters: There are projects listed by county with contact names and information. Please visit our website at [www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov), or contact Angela Avery, Grants Administrator, at (530) 823-4670.