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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Selects Auburn as First Home

Sacramento – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) today announced it has selected the community of Auburn as the first home for its headquarters office. The Conservancy Board has directed Executive Officer Jim Branham to establish an interim office in Auburn while the conservancy locates a permanent office in the city or a nearby community.

“This was a difficult decision because we had many great communities from which to choose. After careful review, site visits and additional information gathering, we believe Auburn is a great location for our interim headquarters,” said Conservancy Chairman and Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman. “We will continue to explore options for a permanent home in Auburn or a surrounding area.”

The permanent headquarters location will need to be within roughly a half-hour drive from Auburn in order to accommodate reasonable daily commutes for conservancy staff members.

Individuals and communities interested in submitting a proposal for the search were required to do so by January 9, 2006. The SNC received proposals from eight communities with more than 30 individual sites recommended for interim and permanent needs. The criteria the SNC used in the headquarters search included the following requirements: the selected community be located within the counties of Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Tehama, Tuolumne or Yuba; travel time from Sacramento could be no more than two hours; and the location would be accessible year-round. In addition, a number of other specific criteria were used to evaluate the proposals.

“Our interim and long term goals are to improve the economic well-being of the community in which we are located and be good neighbors,” said Chrisman.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency established by legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September of 2004. Its primary purpose is to allocate funding for environmental preservation while providing support for economic sustainability across 25 million acres from the Oregon border to Kern County. As California’s largest conservancy, the SNC will provide grants to local governments for environmental protection, resource conservation, recreational opportunities and economic growth. It is comprised of 22 counties, 20 incorporated cities, and 212 communities.