

March 6-7, 2013
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Auditorium
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



March 6, 2013

12:30 – 4:30 PM

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a focused set of meetings with key legislators and/or staff to discuss the critical role Sierra Nevada forests and watersheds play in meeting water quality, water reliability, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and overall ecosystem health goals for the State. Following the policy meetings the Boardmembers, stakeholders, and staff will attend a debrief open to the public. The debrief will be at 5:00pm, held upstairs at P.F. Chang's located at: 1530 J St #100 Sacramento, CA 95814.

March 7, 2013
Board Meeting

9:00 – 1:00 PM

(End time of the meeting is approximate)

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Oath of Office for New Boardmembers**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Approval of December 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**
- V. Public Comments**
Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.
- VI. Board Chair's Report**
- VII. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. Administrative Update
 - b. Proposition 84 Investment Report Review
 - c. Potential Activities Related to Abandoned Mines
- VIII. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
- IX. 2012-13 Proposition 84 Grant Award (ACTION)**
The Board may act to authorize grant awards for the 2012-13 Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant program.
- X. Policy and Outreach (ACTION)**
The Board will review staff's plans for policy and outreach activities during the coming year and may provide direction relative to these activities.

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Board Meeting Agenda

- XI. Future Proposition 84 Expenditures (ACTION)**
The Board will review staff's recommendation for expending the remaining Proposition 84 funds.
- XII. September 2013 Board Date (ACTION)**
The Board may act upon staff's recommendation to move the September Board meeting to September 11 and 12, 2013.
- XIII. Updates on Various SNC Activities (INFORMATIONAL).**
 - a. Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative
- XIV. Boardmembers' Comments**
Provide an opportunity for members of the Board to make comments on items not on the agenda.
- XV. Public Comments**
Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.
- XVI. Adjournment**

Meeting Materials are available on the SNC Web site 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, toll free at (877) 257-1212; or via email at tburgess@sierranevada.ca.gov. 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 5 – 6, 2012
Caltrans – District 3
Sierra Nevada Conference Room
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901



I. Call to Order

Board Chair BJ Kirwan called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Sherrie Thrall, BJ Kirwan, Bob Johnston, Bob Kirkwood, Lee Stetson, John Brissenden, Linda Arcularius, Ted Owens, Todd Ferrara, Tom Wheeler, Este Stifel, Karen Taylor-Goodrich, and Bernie Gyant

Absent: Brian Dahle and Pedro Reyes

III. Approval of September 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

There were no changes to the meeting minutes.

Action: Boardmember Arcularius moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve the September 6, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

V. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Kirwan asked Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul to administer the oath of office to incoming Boardmember Sherry Thrall of Plumas County.

VI. Election of a Vice Chair for 2013 (ACTION)

Board Chair Kirwan noted that former Boardmember and Lassen County Supervisor Brian Dahle has been elected to serve in the State Assembly. Dahle was one of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) inaugural Boardmembers.

Kirwan asked for nominations to replace Boardmember Arcularius as the Vice Chair on the Board for 2013.

Action: Boardmember Arcularius moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the nomination of Boardmember Wheeler as the Vice Chair for 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. 2013 Board Meeting Schedule (ACTION)

SNC Assistant Executive Officer Joan Keegan noted that with this meeting the Board has now met in all of the Sierra Nevada's 22 counties. She announced that Executive Officer Jim Branham was not able to attend due to the birth of his grandchild, Cecilia. Keegan presented the schedule for the Board's quarterly Board meetings, noting that the March meeting would be held in Sacramento. This location was chosen so that

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the SNC and its Board could meet with policy-makers in Sacramento and to continue to educate them as to the importance of the Sierra.

The following schedule was proposed for 2013:

- March 6 & 7, Sacramento
- June 5 & 6, North Subregion, Lassen County
- September 4 & 5, South Subregion Tulare County
- December 4 & 5, North Central Subregion, Plumas County (may be changed based on weather considerations)

Kirwan thanked SNC Staff and The Sierra Fund Director, Izzy Martin for their work in organizing a very worthwhile and educational Board tour the previous day.

Boardmember Kirkwood added his appreciation for those involved in the tour of the olive oil company and to those who treated the Board to a reception with all local food, prepared by Yuba College culinary arts students.

Boardmember Wheeler noted that both the Chair and Vice Chair would not be in attendance for the September Board meeting and asked if the date could be moved to the following week. Keegan said it could be looked at as an option.

Action: Boardmember Wheeler moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve staff recommendation for the 2013 Board meeting schedule and direct staff to research moving the September meeting for Chair or Vice Chair to attend. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Administrative Update

SNC Administrative Chief Theresa Parsley said the SNC was notified that it was going to be subject to the State Personnel Board's (SPB) review, testing compliance with civil service exams, appointments, Equal Employment Opportunity and personal service contracts. Administrative staff is preparing the requested documentation, which is due December 20. The SPB will receive the information and will either accept, reject, or modify the report, but the process will provide valuable feedback to SNC Administration.

Parsley said the SNC is about to conduct its first set of promotional exams for its program class. It will eventually lead to an open exam to create a hiring list, to be used should vacancies occur.

The SNC's Mariposa staff will be moving to a safer and more accessible location on 11th Street in Mariposa. Tenant improvements are expected to be completed in April 2013.

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Parsley said the current round of Proposition 84 grants for ranch and agriculture lands is in the evaluation stage. Of the 62 applications received, only three did not pass completeness or eligibility review. The remaining 59 projects are being assessed for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance: 34 have passed, while additional information is needed on 25. Parsley said the SNC is optimistic about CEQA compliance with this round of grants. Staff is well on the way to preparing recommendations for the Board's consideration in March.

Parsley then noted with mixed emotions that long time SNC contracts analyst Shelly Sanders has accepted a position with another State department. Shelly has been with the Conservancy for over five years. Parsley said Sanders would be greatly missed, as she was part of the fabric of the SNC.

Kirwan requested Keegan draft a letter of commendation for Sanders, to be signed by the Board Chair.

b. Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery Update

Danna Stroud, SNC Mt. Whitney Area Representative, summarized the staff report on this issue, reminding the Board of its visit to this site in June. She said the process for evaluating the possible jurisdictional transfer of the former Fish Hatchery from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to the SNC is moving forward. Several processes are underway since the June 2012 Board meeting and are close to being completed, including the following:

- The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), acting on behalf of DFG, is completing their due diligence including an appraisal, title report, and Phase 1 environmental report.
- DFG has finalized a draft document identifying areas of concern and restrictions for future use of the facility that will become conditions of a transfer.
- SNC is working with Inyo County on developing an assurance agreement to assure the county that all parties will continue to work on this possible transfer of ownership from SNC to the county (in the event SNC takes ownership). Inyo County is also developing and preparing for a planning process that will create a strategic plan for the facility that will identify possible long-term uses.

SNC Staff is monitoring all of these efforts and expediting discussions as needed among all of the parties involved in this effort.

Boardmember Arcularius thanked Stroud for her work on this project. She added that there would be some decision points next year for both the SNC and Inyo County as to whether the project will move forward.

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c. CA Bioenergy Action Plan – SNC's Role

Keegan said the SNC was pleased to be named in the state plan in an effort to move this issue forward, and introduced Kim Carr who is lead on this issue for the SNC.

Carr gave an outline from the staff report on how the SNC is engaged in biomass energy throughout the Sierra. She said the SNC is continuing to help figure out how to generate the resources, and how to develop new financial and market mechanisms that allow active management of the forests. Senate Bill 1122 (Rubio) adds support to SNC implementing its responsibilities under the Bioenergy Action Plan by requiring large utilities purchase 50 MW of forest biomass energy from facilities 3 MW or smaller. Carr said it will take a concerted and coordinated effort and SNC is preparing to play a lead role in supporting the development of forest bioenergy facilities in the Sierra Nevada Region.

One of the challenges, according to Carr, is the scarcity of facilities to process the biomass, noting that one has recently closed in Oroville.

Carr presented a map of the Sierra, which indicated that much of the Region is in an area of high fire risk. She said the SNC is working collaboratively with groups in the Region on ways to prevent catastrophic fire through forest treatments, while generating local modest economic opportunity from forest byproduct.

For the past two years, Carr said, the SNC has been engaged in a Biomass Working group whose goal is to coordinate biomass issues among diverse groups. The group now includes other State agencies, universities, the US Forest Service, technical experts, non-governmental agencies, and environmental and industry representation.

Carr noted that SB 1122 (Rubio) was passed in September, requiring the Public Utilities Commission to direct the three large investor-owned utility companies- Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric, to purchase at least 250 mega watts (MW) of power derived from bioenergy sources. Of the 250 MW, 50 MW is to come from byproducts of sustainable forest management.

Carr said another important piece of this plan is the involvement of the California Energy Commission, which has a proposal to set aside \$27 million from its EPIC funds to invest in grants for bioenergy projects, research, technology development and deployment. There is a lot of work ahead to address issues surrounding the pricing of the energy produced by these facilities.

Carr said two projects in the Sierra could be operational by 2014 or 2015. The first is the North Fork Mill Site in Madera County, and the other is the Placer County project along Highway 89 near Truckee.

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Boardmember Wheeler thanked Carr for her work on the issue and said the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has also stepped up to guarantee a source for these biomass plants. He asked if the SNC might be able to tap some of the grant funding available. Carr noted that SNC's consultant Elissa Brown is preparing a grant application for about \$500,000 to submit to CEC for the North Fork mill site.

Boardmember Arcularius said she and Boardmember Dahle have made at least five trips back to Washington D.C. to lobby for biomass energy in the past 10 years. She said the economics must include the full costs of wildfire, including forest health and species lost, in addition to the cost of fighting the fire. She said that on the federal level, many do not realize the impacts of mill closures in the Sierra over the past few decades. She noted these impacts need to be factored in when determining how to spend tax dollars.

Boardmember Gyant echoed Arcularius' comments. He stated that the USFS had budgeted \$905 million for fighting fires, the actual costs turned out to be \$600 million higher than that. The extra \$600 million had to be pulled from their other programs designed to help treat the forest which prevent fires. Using the example of utility transmission lines in the forest, he said it is better to invest in fire prevention measures rather than the more expensive costs of fighting fires.

Boardmember Owens echoed the comments made about the importance of preventing large fires and avoiding the high cost of fighting them. Kirwan thanked Carr for applying her very considerable talents on this issue.

d. 2012-13 Grant Program Update

Theresa Parsley provided a brief update during the Agenda Item VIII a Administrative Update.

e. Central Subregion Report

Assistant Executive Officer Keegan introduced The Sierra Fund Director, Izzy Martin, and thanked her for organizing the previous day's tour on mining issues in the Sierra.

Martin said the Sierra Fund is looking to increase public and private investment in the Sierra to deal with abandoned mines. It has convened a panel of experts from various agencies to try to get a body of documentation about what occurred in the Sierra during the gold mining days.

As a result of this work, Martin said an estimated 47,000 abandoned mines have been identified in California, most of them owned by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Some of these pose serious environmental and physical hazards.

Martin said that as a result of gold mining, there is mercury in the Delta, most of it carried downstream from the Sierra. The State Water Resources Control Board is

putting limits on how much mercury can be in the state's reservoirs, which means that local (city and county) sanitation systems and wastewater districts will likely bear the brunt of the expense to reduce the amount of mercury entering the reservoirs from upstream.

The SNC, Martin said, can play a role by working with local government and other state agencies to find a solution. For example, if the water bond is reopened, SNC could seek funding to reduce mercury discharges at the source. Another possibility might be to seek some of the money that the Department of Parks and Recreation has paid in fines for use in remediation and better management at Malakoff Diggings State Park and other source areas.

The Sierra Fund, according to Martin, believes the best way to prevent mercury from entering the reservoirs and the Delta is to address the issue with the owners of abandoned mines. The Sierra Fund is working with State Parks, via a grant from the SNC, to evaluate the contamination coming from Malakoff State Park.

Boardmember Kirkwood said he felt the SNC should get involved in this issue, and suggested that the next state water bond should include some funding for mercury cleanup. He said this should be appealing on a water quality basis as it affects downstream consumers.

Keegan said the SNC has already starting to pursue involvement and will be following up with Martin and other stakeholders prior to the March meeting in Sacramento.

Kirkwood asked Keegan to consider setting up a wider group, similar to the SNFCI Coordinating Council, to address this issue, and to seek additional funding in the SNC budget for this purpose. Kirwan said she also felt the SNC would be a good vehicle at the state level for dealing with abandoned mines in the Region.

Boardmember Gyant pointed out that water is the "connecting tissue" for all issues: forestry, mining and mercury.

Keegan added that from a staffing perspective, the chances of the SNC receiving additional resources during the State's current budget crisis are not good.

Arcularius said that this is the kind of project that highlights the importance of the makeup of the SNC Board; local government representatives for land use decisions, as well as federal partners and State partners.

IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul said that CEQA reform efforts in the Capitol have been of interest in the Legislature. There have been a number of workshops taking place, coordinated by the Senate Leadership Office. Senator Rubio is the Chair of the Senate Environmental Review Committee. Senator Rubio was the author of a

bill last year that would have made significant changes to CEQA, and Sproul expects another bill will be considered in the spring.

Sproul said there is also a case pending before the State Supreme Court regarding the use of CEQA exemptions which could be before the court by next summer.

X. Forest System Indicators Report (ACTION)

Chris Dallas introduced this, the fourth of six System Indicator reports, with an overview of the staff report. He pointed out that the overall Indicators project is developing useful information that will inform our programs and planning and also help partners understand current issues and conditions in the Region, which is something we can all use in justifying needed investment in the Sierra Nevada. The primary author of this report is Susie Kocher, a Natural Resources Advisor and a Registered Forester with U.C. Cooperative Extension. Steve Beckwitt provided GIS development and spatial analysis. Two of the 19 indicators approved by the SNC Governing Board are incorporated into this report: Forest Health and Carbon Storage.

Dallas provided an overview of key data from the report.

Boardmember Brissenden said the SNC should work with federal partners to ensure that money can be spent on public lands, and we should endeavor to be included among the agencies receiving revenue from the State's "cap-and-trade" auctions. He requested a presentation on the SNC's efforts on cap-and-trade at the March meeting.

Keegen said the SNC is advocating for forest health projects to be considered as worthy recipients of cap-and-trade funding because of the positive impact they can have on reducing "greenhouse gas" emissions.

Boardmember Gyant said that issues in the Sierra with respect to bioenergy and carbon storage are very complex, and that collaboration is crucial to meeting everyone's needs. He pointed out, for example, that 70 million board-feet of timber sales offered for bid received no bidders, likely due to the cost of required biomass removal. When timber harvest opportunities don't sell, local communities lose rural schools and roads funding, as well as having to bear the localized costs of wildfire impacts that might have been reduced. He hopes that the cap and trade and biomass efforts can help to address these issues.

Boardmember Johnston said that work on private land to reduce fire hazard and contribute to biomass energy is important, but given that the large percentage of Sierra forestland is publicly held, the federal landowners need to find a way to qualify for funding for treatment projects.

Boardmembers Taylor-Goodrich, Arcularius and Stifel further clarified that there are legal issues and Wilderness Act restraints which make it difficult to accomplish permanent easements on federal land for such purposes, especially those held by a third party. Future discussions will need to integrate the kinds of treatments that are appropriate on different landscapes to accommodate all values and regulations.

Boardmember Stifel asked what the SNC plans to do with the information provided in the Indicator Report.

Keegan said it will be used to inform SNC programs, and that stakeholders in the Region may find it useful. She said there is no advocacy in the report - it is just data - but that it could help others outside the Region to better understand conditions within the Region. The next system indicators report, which will be out in 2013, will focus on fire risk in the Region. The final report will cover agricultural and ranch lands.

Stifel added that as the SNC moves forward in analyzing its role with respect to cap and trade issues to be sure and contact BLM and USFS to help those agencies understand the complications involved in obtaining conservation easements on federal lands.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Wheeler seconded a motion to approve the fourth System Indicators Report and approve the creation of an additional System Indicators Report on Forest Health. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Discussion on Future Proposition 84 Expenditures (INFORMATIONAL)

Keegan said SNC Staff has completed an analysis of several different ideas about how to effectively invest the remaining \$2.3 million of Proposition 84 funds the SNC anticipates being available due to a few awarded projects that can't ultimately be implemented or that come in under budget.

The analysis resulted in the following alternatives:

- Administer a very small competitive grant round to target underrepresented grantee types in the Region.
- Augment existing grant projects, should they need additional funding to help them get to completion.
- Augment the current grant round for ag and ranchlands.
- Assist partners in the Region with pre-project work to help them become eligible for future funding, whether it be from the SNC or other sources. Keegan said the staff is leaning toward this alternative.

Keegan asked the Board Chair to appoint a two-member committee to work with staff to develop a recommendation to bring back to the Board.

Boardmember Kirkwood suggested that given the low dollar amount, it would not make sense to go out for a full competitive grant round. He preferred making further investment in projects the SNC is working on in forestry and possibly the mercury/mining issue, given its strong tie to Proposition 84.

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Boardmember Wheeler agreed, stating that he did not feel another competitive grant round would be warranted, and added that there are probably a number of great projects that would benefit from a little more help.

Boardmember Gyant said the staff's approach seemed solid, and that he would look for projects that had additional capability and could use the funding.

Boardmember Arcularius asked if the SNC could also consider funding underrepresented areas in the Region.

Boardmember Stetson added that the SNC should consider being flexible in its approach so that it can help any projects that are in need of additional dollars to get to completion.

Boardmember Owens added that the value of the SNC is that decision-making remains local rather than being made by entities far away from the areas impacted by those decisions.

Board Chair Kirwan appointed Boardmembers Kirkwood and Wheeler to serve on a subcommittee to assist the SNC Staff.

XII. Updates on Various SNC Activities (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI)

Kim Carr provided a brief update on SNFCI activities:

- The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is completing its Forest Plans, providing a significant opportunity to participate in setting the course for forest management for years to come. The SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council is participating by assisting the USFS with a socio-economic component to their plan.
- Several of the collaborative groups affiliated with SNFCI with have helped to identify projects that may qualify for SNC funding.
- Carr said that as she moves on to the bioenergy project, Mandy Vance, with the SNC's Mariposa office, would be taking over as lead for SNFCI.

b. Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project

Mt. Lassen Area Manager Bob Kingman said the Geotourism project continues to grow in importance. For the first time, California has surpassed the \$100 billion mark in travel-related spending, \$7 billion of that is attributed to the Sierra Nevada. The Geotourism project is an effective way for the SNC to support recreation and tourism in the Region.

Kingman reported that it is also a very successful project. The web statistics show about 119,000 page views of the Sierra Nevada Geotourism webpage per month, from over 103 countries. The free mobile phone app for iPhone and Droid mobile

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phones continues to grow, and the next step might be the addition of “real time” traffic and safety alerts.

Kingman said the SNC and the Sierra Business Council have distributed 100,000 print maps, and will soon be distributing another 60,000 copies.

He noted that the North Yuba Grown organization that hosted the reception for the SNC the previous day is one of the Geotourism web points. In addition all of the “California Watchable Wildlife” locations within the Sierra are now included on the web site.

Board Chair Kirwan thanked Kingman for a terrific tour and asked that he pass that thanks along to the hosts and to SNC staff who supported the day.

c. **Recognition of SNC’s meeting in all 22 Counties of the Region**

Keegan introduced a slide show with pictures and a musical rendition featuring all of the Board meetings and tours to commemorate the Board’s meeting schedule in the past seven years, which has included stops in every county in the Sierra Region.

Keegan thanked IT Analyst David Madrigal and Board Liaison Theresa Burgess for their work in setting up all the meetings over the life of the SNC. She thanked Area Managers Bob Kingman and Julie Bear for their significant contributions to the Board meetings as well.

Keegan also gave special recognition to Boardmember Bob Kirkwood, who is the one Boardmember who has participated in every meeting.

Kirwan thanked the staff for its hard work in putting together the Board meetings and tours. She also noted the significant positive outcome of the tours, and noted that it is great that the SNC is now in a position to actually visit and see the outcome of projects it has funded. She also noted the importance of tours in meeting with the people who do this work, and developing worthwhile relationships throughout the Region.

XIII. Boardmembers’ Comments

Board Chair Kirwan thanked the County Supervisors who are rotating off the Board for their service, Boardmembers Nunes, Arcularius, Owens, and Dahle.

Arcularius thanked the Board and said she was pleased to be at the meeting in the first county and now the last one, stating that the Board was one of the reasons why she decided to run for reelection.

Owens said it has been a pleasure because the Conservancy encompasses a region of the world in which he lives. He says the challenge remains to educate those in metropolitan areas about the importance of the rural areas of the State.

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Brissenden added his compliments to the North Yuba Grown organization for their work in the area and thanked them for the Board reception. Brissenden said he also enjoyed the creativity of the SNC staff over the past seven years. Finally, he thanked Boardmember Gyant for attending the tour and for being a “breath of fresh air.”

XIV. Public Comments

Nick Spaulding from North Yuba Grown thanked those who attended the tour.

XV. Adjournment

Board Chair Kirwan congratulated Keegan for a job well done as “acting” Executive Officer for the Board meeting and invited everyone to attend the next meeting March 6-7 in Sacramento. She adjourned the meeting at 12:23 PM.

Background

Over the past few months the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's administrative programs have taken several staffing losses, including retired annuitants, students and a key budgets/contracts staff person. These losses notwithstanding, administrative staff is doing the heavy lifting to keep things running as smoothly as possible. Recruitment is underway to fill the position of the Budget and Contracts Officer, with interviews expected in February and a hire in March.

Current Status – Grants Administration

Staff continues to support the 2012-13 Proposition 84 grant program by coordinating and implementing final evaluation reports and awards recommendations for consideration by the Board at the March Board Meeting. Grants administration (GA) staff have coordinated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews and Department of General Services' appraisal reviews, as well as the posting of public notifications, in order to bring fully vetted and ready projects to the Board.

Current Status – Budget

The Governor's proposed 2013-14 budget was released on January 10. Slight budget increases were included to cover the reinstatement of 4.62% of salaries and wages as the personal leave program ends on June 30, 2013, otherwise no significant changes were proposed for SNC.

Current Status – Human Resources

With the help of California Human Resources Department, SNC completed its first comprehensive job analysis report, required before any department can conduct civil service examinations. This led to the completion of SNC's first exam, conducted for the class of Conservancy Project Development Analyst II (CPDA II). This exam was conducted on a department-wide, promotional basis. The next exam will be conducted in the spring on an open basis to create hiring lists at the CPDA II level for SNC field offices.

Staff also responded to its first State Personnel Board (SPB) Compliance Review, assessing SNC's compliance with merit-based civil service laws, rules and policies in the areas of examinations, appointments, equal employment opportunity and personal services contracts. In December SPB staff came on site in the Auburn office and gathered significant information in response to specific requests. Staff awaits SPB's initial response, anticipated in February.

Current Status – Facilities

Construction has begun on the tenant improvements for the downtown Mariposa office. Staff in the current fairgrounds office will prepare to move in April, 2013.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

2012-13 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES				
Through January 2013				
State Operations				
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
SALARIES AND WAGES	1,938,717	898,183	1,040,534	46%
STAFF BENEFITS	583,430	341,193	242,237	58%
Personal Services, Totals	\$2,522,147	\$1,239,376	\$1,282,771	49%
Operating Expenses & Equipment				
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
GENERAL EXPENSE	297,262	139,984	157,278	47%
TRAVEL - IS	55,000	18,583	36,417	34%
TRAVEL - OS	2,791	-	2,791	0%
TRAINING	47,500	12,171	35,329	26%
FACILITIES	287,025	138,595	148,431	48%
UTILITIES	21,480	7,579	13,901	35%
CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT	966,950	610,813	356,137	63%
CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL	63,581	53,876	9,705	85%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	95,173	6,602	88,571	7%
CONSOLIDATED DATA CENTER	-	-	-	0%
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	0%
OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE	21,124	10,101	11,023	48%
PRO RATA (control agency costs)	161,517	40,379	121,138	25%
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	\$2,019,403	\$1,038,683	\$980,721	51%
Local Assistance				
<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
2007 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	17,000,000	0	100%
2008 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	17,000,000	0	100%
2009 Original Appropriation (reapprop 12/13)	15,448,000	8,142,878	7,305,122	53%
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
State Operations	4,541,551	2,278,059	2,263,492	50%
Local Assistance *	49,448,000	42,142,878	7,305,122	85%
SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS	\$53,989,551	\$44,420,937	\$9,568,614	82%

* The balance does not include encumbrances for March awards totaling \$5,155,865. If all of this amount is encumbered, the balance available for future awards is \$2,149,257.

Background

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, which included \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), with approximately \$50 million to be granted to eligible projects throughout the Region. At this meeting, the Board is scheduled to consider approximately \$5 million in remaining Proposition 84 grant awards for the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands. After these awards are made, the SNC will have granted almost all of its allocated Proposition 84 funds, with the exception of funds that have been returned to the SNC due to projects coming in under budget or projects failing to reach completion. Expenditure of these remaining funds will be discussed under Agenda Item XI.

Now that the awards are nearly complete, SNC wishes to communicate to decision-makers and the public the many benefits resulting from the wise investment of Proposition 84 funds in the Sierra Nevada. To this end, SNC is creating a multimedia report that will tell the story of how state funding has made a difference in the Region. By incorporating text and video highlighting grantees' own words about specific project accomplishments, the report, *Investing in California's Watershed: SNC's Proposition 84 Grant Program*, will also help to make the case for future investment in the Sierra through vehicles such as the upcoming water bond or the greenhouse gas emission reduction cap-and-trade auction program.

Current Status

SNC Staff are completing an administrative draft of the *Investing in California's Watershed* report, which is being prepared for key decision-makers, including legislators, other agencies, allies, and partners within and outside the Region, in addition to local and statewide media. We are also developing a specific communications strategy to maximize the utility and distribution of the report, using print, electronic, and social media.

The highlight of the report will be a series of case studies or project profiles highlighting individual Proposition 84 funded projects and their outcomes. Together the project profiles will illustrate the geographic spread, range of project types, and, most importantly, breadth of benefits achieved, including:

- Working Landscapes Preservation
- Forest Health and Fire Prevention
- Water Quality Protection
- Watershed Health and Restoration
- Protection of Iconic Landscapes.

Next Steps

Staff will finalize the report after incorporating relevant data from today's grant authorizations, and distribute it to the intended audiences using a variety of strategies to

be outlined in the communications plan. Staff will provide copies of the final report to the Board at that time as well.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

Background

The December 2012 Board tour and the presentation by Izzy Martin from The Sierra Fund during the Board meeting highlighted legacy impacts from California's Gold Rush. Toxic substance hazards, notably mercury, are of particular concern for downstream populations and communities. There are over 47,000 identified abandoned mines in the state of California. A large volume of these identified abandoned mines are located in the Sierra Nevada Region.

Following the field tour and presentation, the Board requested Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff, in consultation with The Sierra Fund, consider potential actions and an appropriate role SNC could undertake to address abandoned mine land issues in the Region.

To date, the SNC has been involved with abandoned mine land remediation efforts through participation in the Department of Conservation Abandoned Mine Lands Forum, The Sierra Fund Abandoned Mine Lands events, and through funding projects under the SNC Proposition 84 Grants Program. The SNC has funded three projects supporting efforts to mitigate the legacy impacts of mining:

- Environmental Review Assessing the Impacts of Removing Mercury Laden Sediment from Combie Reservoir - Nevada Irrigation District: Mercury laden sediment currently is trapped behind numerous dams within the Region. The Combie Reservoir Project is a pilot project that promotes an increase in storage capacity within a reservoir by alleviating further release of mercury through sedimentation disturbance during dredging.
- Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan - The Sierra Fund: Malakoff Diggins Mine (State Park), an abandoned hydraulic mine site with many mining features, has been identified as the source of mercury in Humbug Creek, a tributary to the South Yuba River. The goal of the Humbug Creek Project is to identify which feature is the source of the mercury and develop a remediation plan.
- Mercury Bioavailability and Transport in Deer Creek over Lake Wildwood Reservoir - Friends of Deer Creek: Dams do not block mercury from moving downstream. The Lake Wildwood Project measured contamination in algae, macro-invertebrates, and fish above and below the lake to determine the potential transport and dissemination of mercury moving over the dam.

Current Status

Since the December 2012 Board meeting, staff has met with Izzy Martin and Dr. Carrie Monohan from The Sierra Fund, to explore potential roles for the SNC and partners in support of abandoned mine remediation. Immediate actions were identified to address some of the initial concerns raised by The Sierra Fund associated with public funding for acquisition of properties with abandoned mines. As a result, the Natural Resources Agency (Agency) is planning to convene selected departments within the Agency to discuss the potential for consistent Agency-wide policies.

Other actions that were discussed include:

- Recommending to the Board that projects to address toxic substance issues associated with abandoned mine lands in the Sierra be included as eligible projects for use of remaining Proposition 84 funds (see Agenda Item XI);
- Working with The Sierra Fund, other State agencies, and other entities to explore opportunities to partner in addressing issues related to abandoned mines, including exploring avenues to provide technical assistance resources for local governments in possession of contaminated abandoned mine sites; and,
- Seeking long term funding for the SNC to address abandoned mine land issues by building upon the continuing efforts of The Sierra Fund to educate legislators and the public about the importance of remediation work to the reliability and sustainability of California's water supply.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to consider appropriate roles and activities for the SNC to address this important issue, in coordination with the work being done by The Sierra Fund. Specific actions will be identified in the 2013-14 Action Plan, which will be presented to the Board at the June 2013 meeting.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Board members are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) was allocated approximately \$50 million for grant awards from the Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Floor Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. Since that time the SNC has conducted four competitive grant rounds, awarding 267 projects worth approximately \$47 million. Some funds from previous awards have been returned to the SNC due to projects being completed at less cost or being cancelled due to critical problems, leaving around \$7.3 million available for award.

At its June 2012 meeting, the SNC Board approved the 2012-13 Grant Guidelines for the final competitive grant cycle to support the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands (Ranches and Ag Lands) grant program. The Board further directed staff to recommend projects totaling approximately \$5 million in FY 2012-13 for this focus area. Eligible projects for FY 2012-13 include site improvement or restoration projects and conservation easement acquisitions (Category 1) and pre-project activities associated with specific future on-the-ground projects (Category 2).

The Grant Guidelines and accompanying Grant Application Packet were released on June 18, 2012, opening the grant round and requesting grant project proposals in the form of pre-applications. Pre-applications were required by July 16, 2012. Projects that were accepted as eligible were given a deadline of October 22, 2012 for submittal of full applications.

Summary of FY 2012-13 Pre-Applications and Applications Received

The SNC received 94 pre-applications requesting a total of \$16,989,332.64. Of those, 62 full applications were submitted representing \$11,078,538.64 of need throughout the Region. There were 43 Category 1 projects totaling \$9,865,193.31. The remaining 19 Category 2 projects totaled \$1,213,345.33.

Of the applications received, 2 Category 1 projects (3%) were disqualified due to various California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) non-compliance problems totaling \$129,009.03. Three projects (5%) were deemed ineligible (not meeting the subject matter requirement) during the full application completeness and eligibility review consisting of one Category 1 project and two Category 2 projects. A total of 57 applications requesting \$10,569,355.61 were moved forward to full evaluation in this grant round.

Evaluation and Recommendation Process

Each application was evaluated by two teams of evaluators – one team of outside technical experts and one team of SNC internal staff. Technical experts represented expertise in subjects such as ranching and farming, conservation, wildlife biology and water quality. In addition, each conservation easement application was reviewed by a consultant with planning and land use experience, with comments provided to the other evaluators regarding risk of conversion, etc. The internal team consisted of six SNC Staff from throughout the organization. Each team focused on a different set of evaluation criteria; the technical team scored up to 55 points for Proposition 84

alignment, ranch and agricultural benefits and project quality, while the internal team scored up to 45 points for how well the application addressed the SNC mission and programmatic goals, Proposition 84 alignment, organizational capacity and community support. Each application was reviewed by a total of six evaluators - four from the technical team and two from the internal team.

The scores from each application evaluation group were averaged by the team then added together for a total combined preliminary score. If single outlier score were present, a reconciliation process allowed for a re-review by one or more evaluators. Technical evaluator scores were considered final unless the evaluator personally adjusted his/her own score. Internal team scores were considered preliminary until reviewed by the management team and organizational capacity was taken into consideration and applied.

In a few instances the outlier score was discarded, the remaining team scores were averaged, and internal/technical team scores added to develop final recommendations of the highest benefit projects. SNC Staff considered the question of geographic distribution, but given the rankings, is not recommending any changes based on this factor.

This process for final scoring deviated slightly for three projects. The proposed projects for applications 734, 735, and 737 were basically identical, conducting Fish Friendly Farming activities, except for the geographic locations. Due to the randomization of evaluation assignments, the three projects were reviewed by twelve separate technical evaluators, resulting in three significantly different scores. In recognition of their similarities, and in order to score these projects consistently, all evaluator scores were averaged and the resulting score of 77.95 was applied to all three projects.

Projects Recommended for Funding

The 29 projects being recommended today represent a range in score from 92.5 to 77.95 and total \$5,155,865. Specific information about the projects recommended for award including applicant organization, project title, project score, project type, amount requested, county and Subregion is presented in Exhibits A through C. Exhibit D lists all projects that were disqualified due to CEQA non-compliance and ineligibility. Exhibit E lists all projects that are not being recommended for funding. A summary of all projects recommended for award, by project type, is provided below (the county where the project is located is shown in parentheses after each project).

Ranch and Farm Infrastructure Development (5 projects totaling \$1,217,591)

- 670 – provide for the repair and construction of stock ponds, 1,200 feet of encased irrigation canals and watering troughs as well as perimeter fence replacement (Placer)
- 699 – includes over 2 miles of fencing, creation of off-stream watering facilities, irrigation diversion structures as well as weed treatment on over 400 acres (Plumas; Sierra)

- 705 – improvements for cattle management/water sources at 4 sites by using fencing and off-site watering facilities (Madera)
- 718 – installation of spring boxes, troughs, inflow/outflow pipes, as well as, fencing to control traffic in sensitive areas (Lassen)
- 725 –the construction of 7.5 miles of fencing for grazing management, as well as, the removal of 677 – 1,152 acres of western juniper (Lassen)

Conservation Easement Acquisitions (5 projects totaling \$1,329,811)

- 674 – a conservation easement on the 47-acre Side Hill Citrus organic farm near the city of Lincoln (Placer)
- 703 – a conservation easement on the 1,240-acre Sinnamon Meadows property near Bridgeport (Mono)
- 724 – a conservation easement on the 142-acre Chadwick Ranch near Loyalton (Sierra)
- 726 – a conservation easement on the 262-acre Key Brand Angus Ranch near Greenville (Plumas)
- 731 – a conservation easement on 375-acre Flynn Ranch near Ducor (Tulare)

Invasive Species Removal (4 projects totaling \$978,019)

- 666 – treatments of noxious weeds on 6,933-acres and 6.57 miles of stream including the California Department of Fish and Game Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area (Sierra)
- 689 – treatment of noxious weeds within private ranch lands as well as public and private reserves on a total of 5,218-acres and 5 miles of stream (Kern)
- 700 – management of 5,870-acres of agricultural lands with known weed populations, resulting in a 70% decrease in net infested areas and eradication of 15 sites (Inyo)
- 707 – removal of A and B rated invasive weed populations through chemical and manual control methods at seven project areas (El Dorado; Alpine)

Stream Restoration (3 projects totaling \$689,002)

- 680 – stream bank stabilization project with crossing locations for a center pivot system on a 3.5-acre area (Modoc)
- 694 – two bank stabilization projects and two fish passage and irrigation dam stabilization projects impacting 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat, as well as, 2,720 feet of stream channel (Plumas)
- 720 – restoration of 1.3 miles of a stream and 50-acres of wet meadows through resurfacing and regrading of 10 check dams (Lassen)

Meadow Restoration (1 project totaling \$294,817)

- 685 – restoration of approximately 100-acres along 1.5 miles of channel near Adin (Lassen)

Pre-Project Activities (11 projects totaling \$646,625)

- 684 – the project will collect data to develop a site-specific grazing management plan, pre- and post-restoration monitoring plan collecting and analyzing data, as well as, obtaining CEQA/NEPA clearance and the appropriate permitting (Alpine)
- 690 – preparation of final restoration designs, obtaining permits, collecting data to determine grazing compatibility with meadow management after restoration, as well as, obtaining CEQA/NEPA compliance (Tuolumne)
- 693 – assessment of the site for planning document preparation for a meadow restoration project, engineering survey and design work, as well as, NEPA compliance (El Dorado)
- 722 – conduct due diligence work in preparation for a conservation easement acquisition on the Pyle Ranch property (Lassen)
- 734 – site assessment and identification of proper best management practices for landowners, improving data collection and revising pesticide use methodology, preparing designs for re-vegetation or wildlife enhancement, and preparing farm plans for certifications (El Dorado)
- 735 – site assessment and identification of proper best management practices (BMP) for landowners; pollution prevention complete with a timeline and project design; support to farmers/ranchers to teach BMPs for sustainable framing/ranching practices (Amador)
- 737 – site assessment and identification of proper best management practices (BMP) for landowners; pollution prevention analysis complete with a timeline and project design; support to farmers/ranchers to teach BMPs for sustainable framing/ranching practices (Placer)
- 740 – the development of a Conceptual Area Protection Plan and four conservation easement appraisals (Tehama; Butte)
- 751 – preparation of a baseline study and development of restoration and management plans for property located within a conservation easement and on Williamson Act contracted land (Shasta)
- 752 – completing a full wetland delineation at the riparian restoration site, conducting surveys in preparation for completing CEQA documentation and permits for the upcoming riparian restoration project (Nevada)
- 753 – the due diligence work involved in preparing for the acquisition of the conservation easement on the 238-acre Ratto Ranch (Tuolumne)

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

SNC worked with the Department of General Services' Environmental Services Section, the Deputy Attorney General assigned to assist the SNC and RBF Consulting to review project proposals for compliance with CEQA requirements. This round saw a significant decrease in the number of projects with serious CEQA compliance issues from previous grant rounds. There are no doubt various reasons for this outcome, including a concerted effort by SNC Staff to work early on with applicants to ensure that there was a clear understanding of the requirements of CEQA. Staff will continue to review the success of this grant round in order to inform future efforts.

Unfortunately, two projects were found to have impediments to CEQA compliance during the course of environmental review, and led to the 2 projects being disqualified from further evaluation. These barriers included:

- CEQA requirements not being addressed in the application;
- Submittal of outdated or incomplete information;
- Projects not qualifying for an exemption from CEQA and not having a valid lead agency to prepare the appropriate documentation.

Twenty-seven (27) projects being recommended require the SNC to complete a Notice of Exemption (NOE) and file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse. NOEs have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval. Copies of all proposed NOEs are included in this report within Exhibit F.

Notices of Determination (NODs) have been prepared for the Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694) and the Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 685). Copies of the proposed NODs are included in this report within Exhibit F. Before approving the Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694), the SNC must find that the Plumas National Forest FONSI signed August 2011 satisfies the requirements of CEQA and adopt findings in support of that conclusion. Before approving the Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 685), the SNC must find that the Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration signed October 2012 satisfies the requirements of CEQA and adopt findings in support of that conclusion. If the Board approves the projects after adopting the CEQA findings, it will also authorize the Executive Officer to file NODs with the State Clearinghouse. For these projects, the SNC is serving as a Responsible Agency in accordance with CEQA Guidelines. The environmental documents are on file at the offices of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends the Board (a) adopt necessary California Environmental Quality Act findings and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for project SNC 694, the Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project; (b) adopt necessary California Environmental Quality Act findings and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for project SNC 685, the Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project; (c) adopt the proposed Notice of Exemptions for approved projects; and (d) authorize the grants listed in Agenda Item IX, Exhibit A. Staff additionally recommends the Board authorize staff to enter into the necessary agreements for the recommended projects and direct staff to file the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act documentation with the State Clearinghouse.

Agenda Item IX Exhibit A

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

March 7, 2013

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
92.50	North	Lassen	720	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office	Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project	\$198,225.00
90.75	North Central	Sierra	724	Feather River Land Trust	Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement	\$97,750.00
88.75	North Central	Plumas	726	Feather River Land Trust	Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement	\$350,000.00
87.50	East	Mono	703	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement	\$350,000.00
87.00	Central	Placer	674	Placer County Community Development Resource Agency	Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement	\$185,000.00
87.00	North Central	Plumas; Sierra	699	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project	\$316,820.00
87.00	North	Lassen	725	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration	\$350,000.00
86.00	East	Alpine	684	American Rivers	Integrated Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow	\$75,000.00
86.00	South	Madera	705	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvement Project	\$18,607.00
85.75	North Central	Plumas	694	Plumas Corporation	Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project	\$341,000.00
84.50	Central	Placer	670	Placer County	Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements	\$325,000.00
84.00	North	Shasta	751	Shasta Land Trust	Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning	\$39,600.00
84.00	Central	Nevada	752	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Grant	\$68,075.00
83.67	South Central	Tuolumne	690	American Rivers	Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow	\$62,000.00
83.50	North	Lassen	685	Pit Resource Conservation District	Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$294,817.00
83.25	North Central	Sierra	666	Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc.	The Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project	\$348,850.00
82.00	North	Modoc	680	Pit Resource Conservation District	Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project	\$149,777.00
81.75	Central; East	El Dorado; Alpine	707	El Dorado County Department of Agriculture	Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties	\$266,500.00
81.67	North	Lassen	718	Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office	Rush Creek Improvement Project	\$207,164.00
81.17	South Central	Tuolumne	753	Tuolumne County Land Trust, Inc.	Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement - Appraisal and Planning	\$19,650.00
80.75	East	Inyo	700	Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project	\$88,249.00
80.75	North	Lassen	722	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement	\$35,000.00
80.50	South	Tulare	731	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed	\$347,061.00
80.25	North Central	Tehama; Butte	740	Northern California Regional Land Trust	Pine Creek Linkage Project	\$50,300.00
79.50	South	Kern	689	Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council	Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project	\$274,420.00
78.00	Central	El Dorado	693	El Dorado National Forest	Cody Meadow Restoration Project	\$72,000.00
77.95	South Central	Amador	735	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching: Amador County	\$75,000.00
77.95	Central	El Dorado	734	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming - Phase II	\$75,000.00
77.95	Central	Placer	737	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching: Placer County	\$75,000.00
Total, All Projects						\$5,155,865.00

Agenda Item IX Exhibit B

LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY PROJECT TYPE

March 7, 2013

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
Ranch and Farm Infrastructure Development						
87.00	North Central	Plumas; Sierra	699	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project	\$316,820.00
87.00	North	Lassen	725	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration	\$350,000.00
86.00	South	Madera	705	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvement Project	\$18,607.00
84.50	Central	Placer	670	Placer County	Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements	\$325,000.00
81.67	North	Lassen	718	Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office	Rush Creek Improvement Project	\$207,164.00
Total, 5 Ranch and Farm Infrastructure Projects						\$1,217,591.00
Conservation Easement Acquisition						
90.75	North Central	Sierra	724	Feather River Land Trust	Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement	\$97,750.00
88.75	North Central	Plumas	726	Feather River Land Trust	Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement	\$350,000.00
87.50	East	Mono	703	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement	\$350,000.00
87.00	Central	Placer	674	Placer County Community Development Resource Agency	Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement	\$185,000.00
80.50	South	Tulare	731	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed	\$347,061.00
Total, 5 Conservation Easement Acquisition Projects						\$1,329,811.00
Invasive Species Removal						
83.25	North Central	Sierra	666	Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc.	The Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project	\$348,850.00
81.75	Central; East	El Dorado; Alpine	707	El Dorado County Department of Agriculture	Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties	\$266,500.00
80.75	East	Inyo	700	Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project	\$88,249.00
79.50	South	Kern	689	Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council	Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project	\$274,420.00
Total, 4 Invasive Species Removal Projects						\$978,019.00

Agenda Item IX Exhibit B

LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY PROJECT TYPE

March 7, 2013

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
Stream Restoration						
92.50	North	Lassen	720	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office	Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project	\$198,225.00
85.75	North Central	Plumas	694	Plumas Corporation	Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project	\$341,000.00
82.00	North	Modoc	680	Pit Resource Conservation District	Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project	\$149,777.00
Total, 3 Stream Restoration Projects						\$689,002.00
Meadow Restoration						
83.50	North	Lassen	685	Pit Resource Conservation District	Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$294,817.00
Total, 1 Meadow Restoration Project						\$294,817.00
Pre-Project Activities						
86.00	East	Alpine	684	American Rivers	Integrated Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow	\$75,000.00
84.00	Central	Nevada	752	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Grant	\$68,075.00
84.00	North	Shasta	751	Shasta Land Trust	Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning	\$39,600.00
83.67	South Central	Tuolumne	690	American Rivers	Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow	\$62,000.00
81.17	South Central	Tuolumne	753	Tuolumne County Land Trust, Inc.	Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement - Appraisal and Planning	\$19,650.00
80.75	North	Lassen	722	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement	\$35,000.00
80.25	North Central	Tehama; Butte	740	Northern California Regional Land Trust	Pine Creek Linkage Project	\$50,300.00
78.00	Central	El Dorado	693	El Dorado National Forest	Cody Meadow Restoration Project	\$72,000.00
77.95	Central	El Dorado	734	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District	Fish Friendly Farming - Phase II	\$75,000.00
77.95	South Central	Amador	735	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching: Amador County	\$75,000.00
77.95	Central	Placer	737	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching: Placer County	\$75,000.00
Total, 11 Pre-Project Activities Projects						\$646,625.00
Total, All Projects						\$5,155,865.00

Agenda Item IX Exhibit C

LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDED PROJECTS BY SUBREGION

March 7, 2013

County	Score	SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested
North Subregion					
Lassen	92.50	720	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office	Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project	\$198,225.00
Lassen	87.00	725	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration	\$350,000.00
Shasta	84.00	751	Shasta Land Trust	Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning	\$39,600.00
Lassen	83.50	685	Pit Resource Conservation District	Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project	\$294,817.00
Modoc	82.00	680	Pit Resource Conservation District	Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project	\$149,777.00
Lassen	81.67	718	Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake field Office	Rush Creek Improvement Project	\$207,164.00
Lassen	80.75	722	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement	\$35,000.00
7 Projects Totaling					\$1,274,583.00
North Central Subregion					
Sierra	90.75	724	Feather River Land Trust	Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement	\$97,750.00
Plumas	88.75	726	Feather River Land Trust	Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement	\$350,000.00
Plumas; Sierra	87.00	699	Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District	Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project	\$316,820.00
Plumas	85.75	694	Plumas Corporation	Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project	\$341,000.00
Sierra	83.25	666	Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc.	The Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project	\$348,850.00
Tehama; Butte	80.25	740	Northern California Regional Land Trust	Pine Creek Linkage Project	\$50,300.00
6 Projects Totaling					\$1,504,720.00
Central Subregion					
Placer	87.00	674	Placer County Community Development Resource Agency	Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement	\$185,000.00
Placer	84.50	670	Placer County	Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements	\$325,000.00
Nevada	84.00	752	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Grant	\$68,075.00
El Dorado	78.00	693	El Dorado National Forest	Cody Meadow Restoration Project	\$72,000.00
El Dorado	77.95	734	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District	Fish Friendly Farming - Phase II	\$75,000.00
Placer	77.95	737	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching: Placer County	\$75,000.00
6 Projects Totaling					\$800,075.00
South Central Subregion					
Tuolumne	83.67	690	American Rivers	Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow	\$62,000.00
Tuolumne	81.17	753	Tuolumne County Land Trust, Inc.	Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement - Appraisal and Planning	\$19,650.00
Amador	77.95	735	California Land Stewardship Institute	Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching: Amador County	\$75,000.00
3 Projects Totaling					\$156,650.00
South Subregion					
Madera	86.00	705	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvement Project	\$18,607.00
Tulare	80.50	731	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed	\$347,061.00
Kern	79.50	689	Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council	Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project	\$274,420.00
3 Projects Totaling					\$640,088.00
East Subregion					
Mono	87.50	703	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement	\$350,000.00
Alpine	86.00	684	American Rivers	Integrated Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow	\$75,000.00
Inyo	80.75	700	Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project	\$88,249.00
3 Projects Totaling					\$513,249.00
Multiple Subregion Projects					
El Dorado; Alpine	81.75	707	El Dorado County Department of Agriculture	Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties	\$266,500.00
1 Project Totaling					\$266,500.00
Total, 29 Projects					\$5,155,865.00

Agenda Item IX Exhibit D
LIST OF ALL DISQUALIFIED PROJECTS
 March 7, 2013

SNC ID #	Organization	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for Disqualification	County	Subregion
698	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	Solutions from the Ground - Working Landscapes & Functioning Watersheds	\$75,000.00	Ineligible Project	Plumas	North Central
706	Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Meadow Restoration and Forage Improvement Project	\$80,257.03	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Madera	South
717	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts	Cosumnes River Technical Assistance Mobile Lab	\$64,300.00	Ineligible Project	El Dorado; Amador	Central; South Central
750	Plumas County Department of Agriculture	Plumas-Sierra Counties Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Project	\$240,874.00	Ineligible Project	Plumas; Sierra	North Central
760	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Rangeland and Habitat Enhancements at Blue Oak Ranch	\$48,752.00	CEQA/NEPA Non-Compliance	Tulare	South
		5 Projects Totaling	\$509,183.03			

Agenda Item IX Exhibit E
LIST OF ALL PROJECTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING
March 7, 2013

Score	Subregion	County	SNC ID	Organization	Project Title	Amount
77.75	Central	Placer	678	Placer Land Trust	Taylor Ranch Preserve Coon Creek Restoration Project	\$65,000.00
77.25	North	Lassen	723	Pit Resource Conservation District	Ash Valley Ranch Irrigation Infrastructure Efficiency Project	\$350,000.00
77.25	North	Lassen	736	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District	Susan River Watershed Irrigation Infrastructure Improvement Project	\$350,000.00
76.75	North; North Central	Lassen; Sierra	687	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District	Lahontan Basins Region Integrated Perennial Pepperweed Management Plan	\$75,000.00
76.75	North	Lassen	743	Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Western Regional Office	Leavitt Lake Ranch Irrigation Improvement Project	\$297,601.00
76.00	Central	El Dorado	747	El Dorado County Resource Conservation District	Future Farmers of America Agricultural Leadership Program	\$249,250.00
74.75	North	Lassen	682	Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District	Stroing and Beaty Ranches - Stream Restoration Project	\$75,000.00
74.50	Central	Nevada	759	Placer Land Trust	Marino-Correia Ranch: Marino Agricultural Easement Acquisition	\$350,000.00
74.25	Central	El Dorado	688	American River Conservancy	Wakamatsu Colony Farm Habitat Restoration and Enhancement	\$51,550.00
73.25	South Central	Mariposa	696	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Kelly Ranch Conservation Easement	\$184,000.00
73.00	North Central	Sierra	667	Resources for Humanity	Genasci Ranch Riparian Restoration	\$117,846.00
72.00	South Central	Mariposa	728	The Trust for Public Land	Kelsey Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition	\$350,000.00
71.50	Central	Nevada	677	Truckee River Watershed Council	Dry Creek Watershed Restoration Planning	\$74,965.00
71.25	Central	El Dorado	686	American River Conservancy	Salmon Falls Ranch Restoration and Improvement Plan	\$66,000.00
71.25	North	Modoc	746	Pit River Tribe	Riparian Fence Project	\$199,042.41
71.25	Central	Nevada	758	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Sanford Ranch: Sanford-Thompson Agricultural Easement Acquisition	\$320,000.00
70.50	North	Lassen	721	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration	\$34,950.00
69.00	Central; East; North Central; South; South Central	Plumas; Sierra; Nevada; Placer; El Dorado; Amador; Calaveras; Tuolumne; Mariposa; Alpine; Madera; Fresno; Tulare	679	California Invasive Plant Council	Preventing Yellow Starthistle Spread in the Sierra Nevada	\$298,931.00
68.25	Central	Nevada	730	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Sanford Ranch: Sanford-Dominquez Agricultural Easement Acquisition	\$260,000.00
66.50	South	Tulare	719	Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE)/WildPlaces	Ranchland/Oak Woodland Site Improvement and Restoration Project	\$265,475.00
66.00	Central	Placer	676	Meadow Vista Trails Association	Simpson Ranch Working Landscape Preservation Project	\$350,000.00
64.00	South Central	Mariposa	701	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Bean Creek Preserve Meadow Restoration Project	\$12,050.00
63.75	South Central	Tuolumne	714	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Bull Meadow Restoration Plan	\$89,600.00
63.50	South Central	Amador; Calaveras; Tuolumne	732	Central Sierra Resource, Conservation and Development	Agriculture and the Floating Island Treatment Project: A Natural Alternative	\$165,000.00
60.50	South	Kern	716	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Conservation of a Working Ranch in the South Sierra Foothills	\$349,644.00
58.75	South Central	Tuolumne	709	Tuolumne Utilities District	Power Creek Restoration at Cedar Ridge Apple Ranch	\$350,000.00
54.50	North Central	Tehama	671	Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Ponderosa Way Erosion/Sediment Delivery Prevention Plan	\$46,855.33
53.75	South	Kern	675	Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District	Dove Spring Riparian Pasture Exclosure	\$15,731.23

Agenda Item IX

Exhibit A and CEQA Documents for all Recommended Projects

March 7, 2013

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

Project Title: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$198,225.00

Total Project Cost: \$291,147.00

Application Number: 720

Final Score: 92.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project will increase management efficiency of cattle and water resources on the Pete's Valley Ranch while improving watershed health and providing benefits to wildlife in an upper reach of the Susan River Watershed in Lassen County, California. The project includes restoration of 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek and approximately 50-acres of wetlands and wet meadows. Specifically, 10 check dams will be resurfaced and regarded, and Pete's Creek will be restored to a historic channel. Ranch access roads will be stabilized, fencing will be installed to protect restored areas, and livestock watering improvements will be developed.

Connection of the stream to its floodplain will restore hydrologic function to its historic condition. The desired result will be a self maintaining stream where energy from peak flows is dissipated across a broad, well vegetated wetland surface.

Direct outcomes of the project include restored groundwater hydrology; improved forage for livestock production; and public benefits through enhanced wet meadow and wetlands habitat for greater sage grouse, migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and a variety of other wildlife species.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete Project Design	July 30, 2013
Fencing	July 30, 2013
Water Developments	July 30, 2013
Road Maintenance	April 30 – July 30-2013
Earthwork	July- October 30, 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 30, 2013
Revegetation	July - December 2014
Post- Monitoring	October 30 – June 30, 2015
Six Month Progress Report	April 2014, October 2014
Final Report	December 31, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$181,250.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$16,975.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$198,225.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - California Department of Fish and Game
 - Intermountain West Joint Venture

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project (SNC 720)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located approximately nine miles north of the County Road A27/Belfast Road intersection, approximately 13 miles northeast of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, is requesting \$198,225 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for improving water quality and protecting water resources while efficiently managing livestock (cattle) on the Pete's Valley Ranch. The project would result in the restoration of approximately 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek and 50-acres of wetlands/wet meadows. Project activities would include installing approximately two miles of fence, resurfacing and re-grading 10 existing check dams, returning Pete's Creek to historic channel, reconnecting the stream to its floodplain to allow peak flows to be dissipated, thereby reducing overall maintenance requirements, and enhancing habitat value for a variety of wildlife species (e.g. Greater sage grouse, migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer). The project would require that documentation from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) be provided to the district engineer to demonstrate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The landowner and USFWS have an existing landowner agreement through 2022 that includes a written commitment to provide access for completing project work and necessary follow-up through the term of the agreement. The purpose of the project is to return the stream to a natural state in order to minimize long-term maintenance and increase ecological integrity within the watershed. The project would restore groundwater hydrology, improve water quality, and enhance wet meadow and wetlands habitat for wildlife species.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Service

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301, "Existing Facilities;" Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;" and Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, which permits the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination; Section 15303, Class 3, which permits

construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (infrastructure improvements and installation of fencing) to allow for restoration of Pete's Creek and improved grazing management activities that will protect wetland/wet meadow habitat and water resources for the long-term. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Feather River Land Trust

Project Title: Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$ 97,750.00

Total Project Cost: \$222,750.00

Application Number: 724

Final Score: 90.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) will purchase a conservation easement over the 142-acre Chadwick Ranch, located immediately adjacent to Loyalton Elementary and High Schools in Sierra County. The landowner currently leases the property for cattle grazing and haying and will continue to do so under the easement.

The conservation easement will protect a working ranch, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space, as well as guarantee permanent educational access to this land. The property contains 142-acres of irrigated pasture, wetlands, and exceptional cottonwood-willow riparian habitat. It includes three branches of Smithneck Creek, a major tributary to the Middle Fork Feather River.

The Chadwick Ranch is centered in Sierra Valley, which is designated by the National Audubon Society as a Nationally-Important Bird Area and an important stopover in the Pacific Flyway. After acquisition of the conservation easement, FRLT's school-based K-12 Learning Landscapes education program plans on highlighting agriculture and local food production, as well as, stream restoration and ecology on the Chadwick Ranch. Using funds donated by FRLT partners, teachers and students will be trained and supported to plan and implement hands-on stewardship and restoration projects on the property including invasive weeds management, restoration of native plants, wildlife viewing and habitat enhancement. The Northern Sierra Partnership has committed \$65,000 in capital toward the purchase of the easement, as well as, \$30,000 toward staff, legal, baseline, and other pre-acquisition costs needed to complete the easement. The owner, Anne Chadwick, will also donate \$30,000 towards long-term management of the easement and protection of the land.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Six Month Progress Report	October 15, 2013
Close Escrow- Transfer of CE	October 31, 2013
Final Report	May 30, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$85,000.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$12,750.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$97,750.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Northern Sierra Partnership
 - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Types of Jobs Created.
- Number of Acres Conserved.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Number of significant sites protected or preserved.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement Project (SNC 724)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is bounded by Highway 49 (Main Street) on the south, County Road A24/Beckwith Road on the east, and Poole Lane on the north, in Loyalton, Sierra County, California.

Project Location – City: Loyalton

Project Location – County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Feather River Land Trust is requesting \$97,750 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for a conservation easement over the 142-acre Chadwick Ranch, which is currently under Williamson Act contract. This project consists of purchasing a conservation easement over the Chadwick Ranch, which will ensure continued agricultural use of the ranch and provide opportunities for education in agriculture for the students at the adjacent Loyalton Elementary and Loyalton High Schools. The purpose of the conservation easement is to protect productive agricultural land (Chadwick Ranch), wildlife habitat, and open space in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Land Trust

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15317, "Open Space Contracts or Easements," and 15325, "Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources"

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Chadwick Ranch Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15317, Class 17, which permits the establishment of agricultural preserves, the making and renewing of open space contracts under Williamson Act, or the acceptance of easements or fee interests in order to maintain the open space character of the area; and Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat and natural conditions, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing a conservation easement to protect the working ranch and habitat in perpetuity and guarantee permanent educational access to the working ranch. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Feather River Land Trust

Project Title: Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$350,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$475,000.00

Application Number: 726

Final Score: 88.75

PROJECT SCOPE

The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) will purchase a 262-acre conservation easement to protect a portion of the Rogers Key Brand Angus Ranch in Plumas County.

The Key Brand Ranch is located in Indian Valley, just 4 miles east of the small town of Greenville. At over 25,000-acres, Indian Valley is one of the Northern Sierra's most important valleys for both wildlife habitat and local agricultural production. The 627-acre Key Brand Ranch contains 365-acres of wetland, montane riparian and wet meadow habitat types with an additional 262-acres of upland meadow and improved irrigated pasture used primarily for agricultural production. The landowner has received funding approval for a permanent "Wetland Reserve Program" (WRP) easement, which will be held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and will be completed in 2013. This WRP easement will prohibit development and subdivision while restricting grazing in nearly 365-acres of the property's prime wetlands. The easement with FRLT would protect the remaining property's 262 productive acres that are located adjacent to the current WRP easement area.

The ranch directly contributes to the local agricultural economy by producing both hay and high quality angus beef. The Key Brand Ranch provides valuable habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife and plant species. In addition to abundant wildlife, the property contains evidence of use by the Mountain Maidu, including tools and artifacts from an abandoned Maidu Village. Remnants of a stone foundation on the ranch are the likely site of a general store owned by Peter Lassen. The landowner has agreed to allow educational and recreational public use of the property within the easement for events organized, sponsored, and insured by FRLT or its partners, including the Plumas

Unified School District. The proposed easement acquisition is funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and a generous bargain sale donation from the landowner.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Baseline Document Report	July 30, 2013
Close of Escrow- Transfer of CE	July 30, 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 30, 2013
Final Report	December 31, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$320,000.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$30,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Plumas County Supervisor Robert Meacham
 - Northern Sierra Partnership
 - Jim Wilcox, Plumas Corporation
 - California Department of Fish and Game (2)
 - Plumas Audubon
 - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
 - Feather River RCD
 - Environmental Director, Greenville Rancheria
 - Sierra Farmstead
 - Defenders of Wildlife, California Program Director
 - Save Our Sandhill Cranes, President
 - California Cattlemen's Association
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Number of Acres Conserved.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement Project (SNC 726)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in Indian Valley, approximately four miles east of Greenville and five miles north of Taylorsville, along North Valley Road, in Plumas County, California.

Project Location – City: Greenville and Taylorsville

Project Location – County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Feather River Land Trust is requesting \$350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to purchase a conservation easement over 262-acres of the 627-acre Key Brand Ranch, which is currently under Williamson Act contract. Protection for the remaining 365-acres is being sought through a program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This project consists of purchasing a conservation easement over the 262-acres of the ranch to protect upland meadow and farmland. The conservation easement would prohibit subdivision of the parcels; however the land owner would be allowed to build one (1) residential structure in the future, along with allowing for the maintenance and limited construction of common agricultural related buildings and infrastructure necessary for the operations of the ranch. The conservation easement would protect productive agricultural land in sustained agricultural use, and also protect wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Feather River Land Trust

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325, "Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources"

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Rogers Key Brand Ranch Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing a conservation easement to protect the working ranch and habitat in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Project Title: Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement

Subregion: East

County: Mono County

SNC Funding: \$ 350,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$1,167,400.00

Application Number: 703

Final Score: 87.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The purpose of this project is to seek a permanent agricultural conservation easement for the 1,240-acre Sinnamon Meadows located near the popular recreation destinations of Virginia Lakes and Bridgeport in Mono County. This site is an important recreational, historic, natural, agricultural, and scenic resource for the area. This project will aid in the protection of threatened working agricultural landscapes as the land will be available for continued grazing. The agricultural conservation easement will restrict the future uses of the property to agricultural activities and open space. The property has been identified as a high priority for preservation by a planning effort for the conservation of the Bi-State population of greater sage grouse.

The completion of this project provides numerous public benefits including the protection of crucial habitat for multiple special status wildlife species and the protection of water resources that flow across and originate on the property. The long-term management of the property will be focused on the continued use and maintenance of the land as seasonal pasture grazed by livestock.

Mono County is about 95% publically owned land. The development pressure in the remote areas of the county is for 40-acre summer homes. This property is a pocket of privately owned property and highly desirable for 40-acre parcels.

The project supports Proposition 84 goals through the protection of the meadow and the streams that originate on the property. It also aligns with the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant program by preserving and protecting the lands for ongoing and future agricultural uses. This project leverages SNC funds as matching funds of more than 70% of the total project cost are being secured from additional sources including Wildlife Conservation Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Federal Farm and Ranch Land protection Program (FRPP).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Final legal review of easement document	July 29, 2013
Baseline Conditions Report completed	July 29, 2013
Adaptive management plan completed with NRCS and DFW assistance	July 29, 2013
Escrow and easement completed and recorded	August 29, 2013
Six month progress report submitted	November 15, 2013
Final report and performance measures submitted	December 29, 2013
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 29, 2013

NOTE: A significant amount of work towards completing this high priority conservation project has already been completed at the time of this award. ESLT is confident the completion of the project will be possible within six months of grant awards.

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$348,364.00
Indirect**	\$436.00
Administrative***	\$1,200.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner
 - California Department of Fish and Game
 - Mr. Tim Hansen, District 4 Supervisor, Mono County
 - State of Nevada Department of Wildlife

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
- Acres of Land Conserved

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Sinamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement Project (SNC 703)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is bisected by Dunderberg Meadow Road and is located adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, 1.5 miles east of Hoover Wilderness, approximately 9 miles southwest of Bridgeport and approximately 6 miles northwest of Mono City, in Mono County, California. The project is within Sections 16, 19, 20, 21, and 28 of Township 3 North, Range 25 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Location – City: Bridgeport and Mono City

Project Location – County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust is requesting \$350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to purchase a conservation easement over 1,240-acres of privately owned ranch containing mountain meadow pastures, rangeland, and forest. No ground disturbing activities would occur as a part of this proposed project. The easement would restrict the future uses of the property to agricultural activities and open space, thus protecting the wildlife habitat, as well as, scenic and agricultural resources.

The project area has been specifically identified as a high priority property for habitat preservation by a planning process that involves land and wildlife management agencies as well as local stakeholder groups and members of the agricultural community. The project would provide a conservation easement for habitat that supports the bi-state population of greater sage-grouse, which has been determined to warrant listing by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); a final USFWS listing determination is expected within a year. The project area is also adjacent to USFWS identified critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. In addition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has determined that the project area provides suitable habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Pacific fisher, California wolverine, and Sierra Nevada red fox, all of which are species of concern. The purpose of the conservation easement is to protect agricultural land (high elevation irrigated meadow pasture), wildlife habitat (aspen groves, sagebrush scrub, and conifer forest), including critical habitat, and open space in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15325, "Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Sinnamon Meadows Agricultural Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing an agricultural conservation easement to protect the high elevation irrigated meadow pasture, aspen groves, sagebrush scrub, and conifer forest habitats in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency

Project Title: Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement

Subregion: Central

County: Placer County

SNC Funding: \$185,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$340,000.00

Application Number: 674

Final Score: 87

PROJECT SCOPE

The Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement Project is the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on an organic mandarin and citrus orchard. The 47-acre farm is located on Pleasant Hill Road near Lincoln in Placer County.

Side Hill Citrus' organic farming practices protect and enrich the soil, avoid putting harmful chemicals into the ground, and protect the Coon Creek Watershed. Protecting the Side Hill Citrus property will maintain open space, retain natural systems and processes, contribute to maintaining the local agricultural economic base, maintain local specialty crops, and conserve energy. The owner will run interpretive programs at the site as part of an organic farming/education program.

In conjunction with addressing Proposition 84 objectives and many SNC program goals, the Side Hill Citrus conservation easement meets multiple objectives for Placer County's Placer Legacy program. The Placer Legacy program was developed in accordance with the Placer County General Plan as a critical step toward protection, preservation, and restoration of the integrity, productivity, and biodiversity of the County's natural resources.

Other funds leveraged include \$75,000 from Placer County for project administration and pre-project due diligence, \$10,000 from Placer Land Trust, \$50,000 from the Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust, and \$20,000 from the landowner.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
6 month progress report	September 30, 2013
CE Acquisition	January 31, 2014
Final Report	March 30, 2013
Copies of recorded conservation easement documents	March 30, 2013

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
*Direct	\$185,000.00
**Indirect	0
***Administrative	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$185,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Placer Land Trust
 - Nevada Irrigation District
 - UC Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - Placer County Agricultural Commission
 - The Natural Trading Company
 - Placer County Farm Bureau
 - Placer Grown
 - Joanne Neft, Agriculture Advocate and Founder of Mountain Mandarin Festival
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Conserved.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement Project (SNC 674)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located at 4065 Mt. Pleasant Hill Road, in Lincoln, California, approximately 3.3 miles northwest of Auburn, in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Lincoln

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Placer County Community Development Resource Agency is requesting \$185,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for the purchase of a conservation easement on the 47-acre Side Hill Citrus Farm. Other funding sources for the purchase of the conservation easement include Placer Land Trust, and Placer County Open Space Trust Fund and General Fund, and Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust. This project includes purchasing a conservation easement, which will allow for sustained agricultural operations. The conservation easement would prohibit any subdivision of the parcels and would allow for only one (1) residential structure to be built in the future, if desired, along with allowing for the maintenance and limited construction of common agricultural related buildings and infrastructure necessary for the operations of the farm. The purpose of the project is to purchase a conservation easement that will protect productive agricultural land, oak woodland, riparian corridor, wildlife habitat, and open space in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325, “Transfers of Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Side Hill Citrus Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of establishing a conservation easement to protect the working farm as an organic mandarin and citrus orchard in perpetuity, along with implementation of an onsite interpretive organic farming/education program. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas, Sierra

SNC Funding: \$316,820.00

Total Project Cost: \$357,982.00

Application Number: 699

Final Score: 87.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project provides multiple natural resource benefits that are important to Californians and the Upper Feather River Watershed. Six separate project components on agricultural land and various outreach tasks within the Sierra Valley and the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) will enhance water quality, improve wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion and leverage earlier enhancement investments on up to 2000-acres of land in the Sierra Valley.

Project tasks include installation of three miles of riparian fencing to enhance conservation management on 1150-acres of riparian/wetland areas; development of new off-stream livestock watering systems to protect sensitive riparian areas; upgrading a deteriorated wooden irrigation diversion structure to increase water conservation, and implementation of weed control management techniques on up to 2000-acres within the district. Through this project, the SVRCD will offer public education components to help improve local conservation techniques and understanding by providing tours, resource materials, signage, and agri-tourism opportunities.

This project contributes to agricultural viability and the local economy with regained productive pasture, increased water management efficiency, grazing management, and financial incentives using local contractors and vendors. In kind and financial partnership assistance for this project comes from multiple sources, including Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), landowners, FRCWG, RAC Funding for Plumas and Sierra Counties, UC Extension, SVRCD and Plumas-Sierra Farm Bureau.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Award Notification & Signed SNC Contract	April 2013
Procure Program Manager & Project Coordinator; begin SNC invoicing.	May 2013
Weed treatment contractor selection and contract(s); completed landowner weed agreements	June 2013
Landowner meeting: meet the weed treatment contractor, review the project plan, provide weed identification and management information; assess learning via pre & post presentation poll. (meeting materials; attendance sheet)	June 2013
Project design & layout and timelines; pre-project photo points/documentation; completed well & weed permits	August 2013
Tailgate Tour of project sites for landowners & stakeholders; (materials, attendance sheet).	November 2013
Outreach sign development and installation (2 ea); Development and distribution of "weeds" education materials; Development and publication of SVRCD website page with weed and other conservation information and resources	December 2013
Individual sites: project implementation and oversight: photo and note documentation; project documents and requests for payment collected by SVRCD.	December 2013
Website posting and announcement	December 2013
Weed treatment(s)	September 2014
Evaluate Site #1 water system and plan/install needed components to enhance water efficiency and delivery.	September 2014
Public outreach: develop SVRCD project content for the website (i.e. landowner stories); support Plumas Sierra Weeds Management Group tour	September 2014
Project performance monitoring	September 2014
Weed treatment & Project performance monitoring	September 2015
Weed treatment & Project performance monitoring	September 2015
Six Month Progress Reports	October 2013, April 2014, October 2014, April 2015, October 2015, April 2016, October 2016,
Submit Final Report	March 1, 2017
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 1, 2017

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$253,941.00
Indirect**	\$21,555.00
Administrative***	\$41,324.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$316,820.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS of SUPPORT

- Support
 - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
 - Sierra County Board of Supervisors
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Office
 - Upper Feather River Watershed Group
 - Feather River Land Trust
 - Plumas Sierra Department of Agriculture
 - Feather River Resource Conservation District
- Opposition
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number and Diversity of People Reached.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected.
- Acres of Land Improved.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project
(SNC 699)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in Sierra Valley on six sites near Sattley, Calpine, Loyalton, and Vinton, in Plumas and Sierra Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Sattley, Calpine, Loyalton, and Vinton

Project Location – County: Plumas and Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) is requesting \$316,820 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to implement projects on private agricultural lands at six sites in order to enhance water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce soil erosion on private and public lands within Sierra Valley. Project activities are as follows: Site 1, installation of 5,300 feet of fencing and two off-stream watering facilities for livestock (served by one new agricultural well and solar pump in two pastures); Site 2, installation of 1.5 miles of riparian fencing; Site 3, weed management on approximately 400-acres (chemical, hand pulling, and goat grazing); Site 4, irrigation diversion structure replacement with an upgraded, concrete structure; Site 5, installation of 0.5 mile exclusion fencing; and Site 6, weed treatment areas (up to 2,000-acres for treatment, non-restricted herbicides, hand pulling, and biological control with goat grazing). Management strategies and other information would be made available on the SVRCD website to enhance the public's understanding of watershed health and conservation and their role in weed containment.

The purpose of the project is to provide natural resources benefits to the Upper Feather River Watershed. The project would improve water quality; reduce potential sources of erosion; improve water conservation and water use efficiency; restore healthy vegetation biodiversity through noxious weed containment and control; enhance riparian and habitat areas along waterways and natural springs within the project sites; and, provide educational components to improve conservation understanding and stimulate additional conservation activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15302, "Replacement or Reconstruction"; Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures"; and Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Sierra Valley Agricultural Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2, which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and, Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project involves minor alternations to private ranch and agricultural land and vegetation through installation of permanent fencing within riparian corridors and habitat areas for purposes of grazing management; application of herbicide treatments on noxious weed populations; and construction of an off-stream watering facility for animal stock. The proposed improvements would not result in significant adverse effects and would require limited ground disturbance. The proposed weed control activities would not be ground-disturbing and would not adversely impact any cultural resources. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Lassen County Fire Safe Council

Project Title: Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$350,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$950,000.00

Application Number: 725

Final Score: 87.00

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will complete restoration activities, exclusionary livestock fencing, and hydrologic monitoring on 667-acres of degraded native grassland/rangeland on the Ash Valley Ranch, a cattle operation in Adin, CA. This work will complement 1,100-acres of similar work already completed on the 5,500-acre ranch. The project area includes both private land and public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Overly dense Western juniper and Eastside pine stands will be removed from montane wet meadows and sagebrush-steppe ecosystems to reduce the risk for high-intensity wildfire, and restore hydrologic function to native plant communities that support livestock and wildlife. Following removal, most of the material will be chipped and hauled to an electrical power producing facility to be used as fuel.

The project will also construct up to 40,000 linear feet of “wildlife friendly” livestock fencing enclosures to protect wet meadow and restored areas.

The project will also assist in continuation of established vegetation and hydrologic monitoring on the ranch to measure effectiveness of restoration efforts.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete project layout and prepare bid solicitations	April – May 2013
Set up photo monitoring points (pre-treatment)	May – July 2013
Select contractor	June - July 2013

Restoration treatments	July 2013 – August 2014
Fence construction	July – September 2013
6 month progress report	October 31, 2013
Hydrologic monitoring	April 2013 July 2013 October 2013 March 2014 June 2014 September 2014
Vegetation Monitoring	July 2013 June 2014
6 month progress report	March 31, 2014
Post-project photo monitoring	April – October 2014
Prepare completed GIS files for project	September 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	October 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$330,396.00
Indirect**	\$13,000.00
Administrative***	\$6,604.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$350,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Field Office
 - Greenleaf Power
 - Lassen County Board of Supervisors
 - Modoc National Forest, Big Valley Ranger District
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Pit Resource Conservation District
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration Project (SNC 725)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Adin and 16 miles northwest of Ravendale, between Ash Valley to the north, the Madeline Plains to the east, State Route 139 to the west and Grasshopper Valley to the south, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Adin and Ravendale

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) is requesting \$350,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for the restoration of 780-acres of wet meadow and native rangeland on Ash Valley Ranch, which includes both private and public lands, the implementation of a fencing plan, and the continuation of vegetative and hydrological monitoring that has been conducted on the Ash Valley Ranch for the past three years. Project activities include removal of invasive western juniper via shear and chainsaw; skid trails would be minimized to reduce potential effects on the landscape. The plant material removed would be chipped and hauled to offsite electrical power-producing facilities to be utilized as fuel. Following mechanical treatments, hand crews would remove smaller junipers or other junipers that are not able to be cut mechanically. Approximately one brush pile per every one to five acres may also be required to help reduce the removal of wildlife cover. Additionally, approximately 8.5 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing would be installed for the purposes of grazing management to enhance and sustain the native grassland restoration efforts. Pre-construction surveys for special status species would be completed, specifically for northern goshawk and Sandhill crane, and if nesting species are found, a buffer zone will be established around the nest. Any cultural resources identified during pre-construction surveys will be flagged and avoided. The purpose of the Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration Project is to allow for the restoration of native grassland to improve habitat and hydrologic function by returning native grasslands in Ash Valley to pre-settlement conditions characterized by productive wet meadows, sagebrush steppe communities, and functioning watersheds, combined with grazing management (livestock fencing). Implementation of the project would support the long-term ecological values and the health of the watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen County Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;" and Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Ash Valley Ranch Native Grassland Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of land management activities and minor land alterations (installation of fencing and juniper removal) that in turn would provide for the restoration and enhancement of native plant species and hydrologic function, as well as the effective management of grazing lands. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources would occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: American Rivers

Project Title: Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow

Subregion: East

County: Alpine County

SNC Funding: \$75,000

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

Application Number: 684

Final Score: 86.0

PROJECT SCOPE

Hope Valley Meadow is located at the intersection of Highways 88 and 89, thoroughfares between Gold Country and Lake Tahoe and is one of the largest meadows in the Sierra Nevada. The overall Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Project has three main goals: 1) to restore the hydrologic function and full range of ecosystem services that will include natural water storage, flood attenuation, increased forage, aquatic and riparian habitat and recreational values; 2) assist the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in determining whether well-managed grazing could be compatible with post-restoration management objectives and identify questions and solutions associated with re-introducing grazing at this site; and 3) validate a forage model with on-the-ground data that predicts increased forage as a result of meadow restoration.

The project has been designed to proceed in four phases, with Phase 1 (assessment and conceptual restoration designs) already completed and Phase 2 (technical restoration designs) being completed by December 2013. This request is for Phase 3 of the project which will include pre-restoration forage monitoring; review, discussion and synthesis of best management practices around grazing on the restored site; data collection sufficient for the USFS to begin developing a site-specific management plan; and permitting including completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review so that the site is "shovel-ready." Phase 4 will be implementation of meadow restoration and adaptive management.

This project aligns with the stated focus of the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant cycle as it is a Category Two project that will lead to meadow restoration which will improve habitat and hydrologic function. The completion of this project will

also address questions regarding how, when and where grazing could be introduced to meadow sites after restoration is complete – creating a framework that may be used on other meadow restoration sites where the re-introduction of grazing as a management tool is under consideration. This project aligns with Proposition 84 goals including contributing to the protection of rivers and streams, their watersheds and associated land and other natural resources through the implementation of meadow restoration.

American Rivers has leveraged SNC funding by securing an additional \$75,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bella Vista Foundation as a match for this request.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Finalized work plan and budget	June 1, 2013
Signed subcontracts/grants with project partners	June 30, 2013
Development of final monitoring plan for gathering necessary data	June 30, 2013
Biannual finance and performance reports	November 15, 2013
Installation of monitoring equipment	November 15, 2013
Final CEQA document	May 15, 2014
Biannual finance and performance reports	May 15, 2014
Compilation and analysis of best management practices	July 15, 2014
Biannual finance and performance reports	November 15, 2014
401 and 404 Permits (including Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan-SWPPP)	December 15, 2014
Pre-restoration data collected and analyzed	September 15, 2015
Final monitoring report	November 15, 2015
Final NEPA document	December 15, 2015
Draft Report	April 15, 2016
Final Report	May 15, 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	May 15, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$61,984.90
Indirect**	\$3,232.50
Administrative***	\$9,782.60
GRAND TOTAL	\$75,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
 - Friends of Hope Valley

- Oppose – N/A

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of people reached
- Dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
- Number and type of jobs created
- Number of new, improved or preserved economic activities
- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Integrated Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow (SNC 684)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Hope Valley, at the intersection of State Route (SR) 88 and SR-89, approximately 5.5 miles west of Alpine Village, approximately 9.5 miles northwest of Markleeville, approximately 10 miles southeast of South Lake Tahoe, and approximately 10 miles northeast of Kirkwood Mountain Resort, in Alpine County, California.

Project Location – City: Alpine Village and Markleeville

Project Location – County: Alpine

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

American Rivers is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for funding to conduct pre-restoration forage monitoring, identify best management practices (BMP) for grazing, collect data to support the U.S. Forest Service’s (USFS) development of a site-specific management plan, and prepare environmental documentation and permitting on USFS managed land in Alpine County. The proposed project would collect pre-restoration forage data to calibrate a meadow restoration forage model, prepare a monitoring report, and identify BMPs centered around grazing on the restored site resulting in a site-specific grazing management plan to be implemented by USFS. It will also include the preparation of appropriate documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act as well as obtain appropriate permits. The purpose of the project is to ascertain the full range of ecosystem services at the meadow, provide the USFS a grazing management plan for implementation, and to validate a forage model. The benefits of the project include a better understanding of the ecological health/grazing balance, increased habitat and forage, and increased water quality.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American Rivers

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, “Information Collection”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Hope Valley Meadow Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of conducting pre-restoration forage monitoring, identifying BMPs for grazing, collecting data for a site-specific management plan, and preparing environmental documentation and permitting. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council

Project Title: Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvements Project

Subregion: South

County: Madera

SNC Funding: \$18,607.00

Total Project Cost: \$50,072.90

Application Number: 705

Final Score: 86.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The Long Ridge Allotment is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotment used annually for spring forage from March through June by Sierra Nevada foothill ranchers who operate a 125 cow/calf pair ranching operation and a 300 cow/calf pair ranching operation.

The project goal is to improve livestock distribution through providing off-site livestock water developments which would also improve use and condition of upland forage and reduce localized impacts, improve riparian condition and integrity by protecting springs and seeps from cattle impacts and facilitate livestock handling through construction of needed handling facilities. The improvements include: Horseshoe Bend Trail Spring Enclosure and Livestock Water Development, Coyote Spring Livestock Water Development, Smalley Cove Livestock Handling Facility and Livestock Water Development, and Powerhouse #4 Livestock Handling Facilities.

The work would be a collaborative effort between the USFS and the Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council (YSRCDC). The YSRCDC will act as fiscal agent and the USFS will implement the projects along with the permittees (associated ranchers) whom not only support this project, but would assist with the construction and implementation of these proposed rangeland improvements.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Scheduling Year 1 Work	September 2013
Procure and Deliver (P&D) Materials for HBT* Riparian Exclosure and OSLWD**	October 2013
Begin HBT Riparian Exclosure and OSLWD	November 2013
SNC 6 Month Report	December 2013
P&D Materials for Powerhouse #4 Corral and Holding Field	January 2014
Construct Powerhouse #4 Corral and Holding Field	February 2014
SNC 12 month progress report	June 2014
Scheduling Year 2	September 2014
P&D Materials for Coyote Spring OSLWD	October 2014
Begin Coyote Spring OSLWD	November 2014
Scheduling Year 3 Work	September 2015
P&D Materials for Smalley Cove (SC) Corral and OSLWD	January 2015
Construct SC Corral and OSLWD	February 2015
Final Report to SNC	December 1, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$15,476.00
Indirect**	\$704.00
Administrative***	\$2,427.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$18,607.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Chowchilla-Redtop RCD
 - North Fork Rancheria
 - Coursegold RCD
 - Central Sierra Watershed Committee
 - Foundation for Resource Conservation
 - North Fork Community Development Council

- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Stream Bank Protected and Restored.
- Acres of Land Improved and Restored.
- Number and Value of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvements Project (SNC 705)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Sierra National Forest, north and east of Kerckhoff Lake on the San Joaquin River, approximately 5 miles south of North Fork, in Madera County, California.

Project Location – City: North Fork

Project Location – County: Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council is requesting \$18,607 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for minor improvements to rangelands to protect riparian areas from livestock impacts, while improving livestock distribution within the Long Range Allotment to limit livestock impacts, located in the Sierra National Forest (SNF). The Long Ridge Allotment is a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotment used annually for spring forage from March through June by two ranchers. Project activities would provide improvements to an estimated 1,541-acres; project activities include constructing a 100 foot by 100 foot barbed wire fence enclosure around the perimeter of the springs and seep area adjacent to the Horseshoe Bend system trail, developing an off-site livestock water trough away from sensitive riparian areas, constructing a spring box at Coyote Springs, replacing the existing wooden corral at the Smalley Cove Pasture and placing a spring box in the spring to the north of the corral, and constructing a 0.5-acre barbed wire fence holding field with a pipe corral and holding pens at the junction of Southern California Edison Powerhouse #4 and Madera County Road 235. The purpose of the project is to reduce localized impacts and improve livestock distribution to limit livestock impacts by providing offsite livestock water developments; and improve riparian conditions and integrity by protecting springs and seeps from livestock impacts.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council/National Forest Service

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;" and Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Long Ridge Allotment Rangeland Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation

that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor improvements (offsite water developments, fencing, corral improvements) to allow for improvements to forage, vegetation and soil conditions on an estimated 1,541-acres and improvements of 0.02 mile (1,156 linear feet) of riparian habitat which will allow for increased habitat protection and improved watershed health for the long-term. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Plumas Corporation

Project Title: Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Plumas

SNC Funding: \$341,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$565,460.00

Application Number: 694

Final Score: 85.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project addresses channel erosion, fish passage barriers, and loss of agricultural productivity along Greenhorn Creek in American Valley near the town of Quincy in Plumas County. Land use along the channel is primarily agricultural. The project seeks to improve water quality and trout productivity by stabilizing actively eroding areas of stream bank and streambed, and restoring fish passage at two agricultural diversion dams. These actions will also stem the on-going loss of agricultural land to bank erosion, and protect the two diversion dams from failure.

The Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project is comprised of six (6) treatment areas along Greenhorn Creek in American Valley – four (4) to be funded under this grant. One of the six treatment areas was constructed in October 2011. The SNC funding will treat 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,720 feet of channel.

Two of the treatments specifically address bank stabilization, while the other two address fish passage and irrigation dam stabilization. The two bank stabilization treatment areas (Farnworth & Hansen/Shea/Labbe) will involve laying back 6-8 feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks and installing boulder vanes. The 2.8-acre Farnworth treatment area will treat 220 feet of bank and install 30 cubic yards of boulders in two vanes. The Hansen/Shea/Labbe treatment area will stabilize 900 to 1,800 feet of channel and install 220 to 435 cubic yards of boulders in 10 to 20 vanes. [Uncertainty with treatment at this location is due to the recent occupation of one of the eroding banks by bank swallows, a California threatened species. Pre-construction surveys and close coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game will determine the final degree of treatment in this area.]

The two fish passage treatments are located at agricultural irrigation dams, both of which are in danger of collapse. Bed erosion below both of these dams has created impassable fish barriers, and is undermining the bed on which the dams are built. Loss of these dams would be catastrophic for both Greenhorn Creek and the irrigators. The irrigators would lose substantial productivity from their irrigated pastures, and the channel would be subject to severe head-cutting, which would also lead to drying of the meadow (and subsequent loss of irrigation efficiency). On-going bed erosion has created an abrupt drop of eight feet at these dams to date. Treatment will consist of rock channel and floodplain structures that will stabilize the bed, allow upstream fish migration, and protect the dams. The structures will be constructed at a 5% grade. The structures are designed to require no maintenance, allow fish passage, and dissipate the energy of falling water. They are built with a series of riffles and pools in the constructed channel, and a rocked floodplain that will carry over-banking flood flows. The Reid Dam structure will require 4,000 cubic yards of rock, and the Shea Dam will require 2,800 cubic yards. Transporting these large volumes of rock would render the project prohibitively expensive without a nearby source. Some rock and transportation were donated to the project in 2010 by CC Meyers, Inc., and is now stockpiled five miles from the project site.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Rock size engineering review	July 1-14, 2013
Pre-project monitoring data collection	July – September 2013
Construction contract advertised and awarded	July – August 2013
County grading permit received	August 2013
Stormwater Construction General Permit (CGP) documents registered	September 1, 2013
Shea/Hansen/Labbe Reach construction	September 15 – October 9, 2013
Shea Ranch fish passage construction	October 9-31, 2013
First six month progress report to SNC	December 31, 2013
Second six month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2014
CGP documents registered	August 15, 2014
Farnworth reach construction	September 1-9, 2014
Reid dam fish passage construction	September 10-30, 2014
Third six month progress report to SNC	December 31, 2014
Revegetation where needed	May 2015
Fourth six month progress report to SNC	June 30, 2015
Post-project monitoring data collection	July – September 2015
Final Report to SNC	December 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 1, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$313,890.00
Indirect**	\$5,420.00
Administrative***	\$21,690.00
GRAND	\$341,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Plumas County Board of Supervisors
 - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group Executive Committee
- Opposition
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear feet of stream bank protected or restored.
- Acres of land protected or restored.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2011062025

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21.

County: Plumas County

Project Description: The Plumas Corporation has requested \$341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel at four sites along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. The proposed project would construct bank stabilization treatments in two of the treatment areas; this would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. Two fish passage treatments are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams; treatment at these two locations would involve placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows.

As Lead Agency a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on March 7, 2013, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670

Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:
Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Matthew Daley, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4698
4. Project Location:
The project is located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
Plumas Corporation
550 Crescent Street
Quincy, CA 95971
6. General Plan Designation:
Floodplain, Special Plan-Scenic Area, Special Plan – Scenic Road, Secondary Suburban, Important Agriculture
7. Zoning:
AP (Agricultural Preserve), GA (General Agriculture), S-3 (Secondary Suburban), FP (Floodplain), SP-ScA (Special Plan – Scenic Area), SP-ScR (Special Plan (Scenic Road), MH (Mobile Home Combining Zone)
8. Description of Project:
The Plumas Corporation has requested \$341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel in four discrete units along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. Of the four treatment areas, two sites would provide treatments for bank stabilization and two sites would provide treatments to improve fish passage.

The two bank stabilization treatment areas (Farnworth and Hansen/Shea/Labbe) would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. The boulder vanes are a line of boulders set at floodplain elevation and angled upstream to maintain flow vectors in the center of the channel, which help to induce deposition along the bank and maintain depth in pools through scouring action. The 2.8-acre Farnworth treatment area would treat 220 feet of bank and would install 30 cubic yards of boulders in two vanes. The Hansen/Shea/Labbe

reach would treat between 900 and 1,800 feet of bank and would install between 220 and 435 cubic yards of boulders in 10 to 20 vanes.

Two fish passage treatment areas are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams. Treatment would consist of placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and building a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows. The Reid Dam structure would require 4,000 cubic yards of rock and the Shea Dam would require 2,800 cubic yards of rock.

Construction work would entail the use of an excavator, a track loader, transportation of rock, and a water truck, as well as, follow-up re-vegetation and noxious weed removal during the first two years of project completion. Each treatment area would require a temporary flow bypass channel and coffer dams to de-water the construction area and protect water quality and aquatic life during construction. In the fish passage treatment areas, irrigation ditches would be used to bypass the flow; a temporary channel would be excavated (and re-contoured after construction) in the other two treatment areas.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Land uses at and surrounding the project area includes suburban residential, secondary suburban residential, rural residential, agriculture, and agriculture preserve, timber resources, roadway/highway, railroad, and federal land. The project area is located within a flood zone.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board*

California Department of Fish and Game (now California Department of Fish and Wildlife)*

Plumas County Building and Planning Department***

*Issued Permit

**Approved the Finding of No Significant Impact

***Approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project ultimately includes six treatment areas along Greenhorn Creek, totaling 21-acres and 3,633 feet of stream channel. The proposed project has been under development since 2007, beginning with a request for assistance with erosion problems by several agricultural landowners. Topographic surveys and design work were completed with a planning grant from the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and funding from the Shea Ranch. The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee funded completion of environmental review for the entire project and construction of the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels, which was completed in October 2011. A second treatment area, the Chandler Road East Bridge, addresses bed stabilization by using boulder vanes and a floodplain culvert and would be constructed using landowner funds, thus it is not a part of the proposed project. The remaining four treatment areas are thus a part of this proposed project.

The Plumas County Planning Department acted as Lead Agency under CEQA in May 2011 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in July 2011. The USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District prepared an Environmental Assessment and adopted a Finding of No Significant Impact in August 2011 for the site at the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels (completed in 2011).

The proposed project would stabilize the eroding stream banks and restore fish passages by removing barriers, thus improving water quality and trout productivity. In addition, the proposed project would help to maintain the agricultural productivity in the area. These actions would stem the on-going loss of agricultural land to bank erosion and protect the two diversion dams from failure.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Negative Declaration

Plumas County Building and Planning Services, *Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH 2011062025. July 2011.

Reid/PNF Treatment Unit of the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact

USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District, *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact: Reid/PNF Treatment Unit of the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Environmental Assessment*. August 2011.

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to protect and improve water quality, improve trout productivity, and maintain agricultural productivity along Greenhorn Creek in Plumas County by reducing bank erosion and improving fish passage. The purpose of the proposed project is to: 1) reduce on-going erosion of stream bank on Greenhorn Creek; 2) improve water quality through the reduction of sediment loads; 3) restore fish passage through the area thus improving fish productivity; 4) maintain productivity on the existing agricultural lands surrounding Greenhorn Creek; and 5) improve irrigation dam stability.

The Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) includes environmental impact analysis of a total of six treatment sites along Greenhorn Creek. Erosion control and bank stabilization treatment was completed at the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels in October 2011. Bed stabilization at the Chandler Road East Bridge site, analyzed under the IS/MND, would involve boulder vanes and a floodplain culvert along 540 feet of channel. The Chandler Road East Bridge is under separate funding and is not part of this proposed project.

The Plumas Corporation would treat 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel at four sites along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. Of the four treatment areas, the treatment at two sites involve bank stabilization and the treatment at the remaining two sites involve bank stabilization and improving fish passage.

The two bank stabilization treatment areas (Farnworth and Hansen/Shea/Labbe) would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. The boulder vanes are a line of boulders set at floodplain elevation

and angled upstream to maintain flow vectors in the center of the channel, which help to induce deposition along the bank and maintain depth in pools through scouring action. The 2.8-acre Farnworth treatment area would treat 220 feet of bank and install 30 cubic yards of boulders in two vanes. The Hansen/Shea/Labbe reach would treat between 900 and 1,800 feet of bank and install between 220 and 435 cubic yards of boulders in 10 to 20 vanes.

Two fish passage treatments are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams. Treatment would consist of placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows. The Reid Dam structure would require 4,000 cubic yards of rock and the Shea Dam would require 2,800 cubic yards of rock.

Construction work would entail the use of an excavator, a track loader, transportation of rock, and a water truck, as well as follow-up re-vegetation and noxious weed removal during the first two years of project completion. Each treatment area would require a temporary flow bypass channel and coffer dams to de-water the construction area and protect water quality and aquatic life during construction. In the fish passage treatment areas, irrigation ditches would be used to bypass the flow; a temporary channel would be excavated (and re-contoured after construction) in the other two treatment areas.

Permits for the proposed project have been issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Nationwide Permit 27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement Area) in July 2012, California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region (Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit) in July 2011, and California Department of Fish and Game (currently known as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement) in October 2011.

Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel in four discrete units along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. Of the four treatment areas, two sites would provide treatments for bank stabilization and two sites would provide treatments to improve fish passage. The Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project IS/MND identifies potential resource impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and transportation and traffic. Specifically, the proposed project may result in increased emissions from diesel equipment; the disturbance of streams; temporary habitat disruption; temporary disturbance of special-status plant and animal species; the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities; soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or release of hazardous materials into the environment; violation of water quality standards; degradation of water quality; and truck traffic and turning movements at area intersections. Based on the IS/MND, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project IS/MND. The project proponent would implement measures identified in the IS/MND, and described below, to lessen potential impacts to air quality, biological and cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and transportation and traffic.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact."

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An **INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The Plumas County Building and Planning Services, as the lead agency, also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Executive Officer

Responsible Agency

Title

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

Project Title: Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project (SNC 694)

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH# 2011062025

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21.

Description of Project: The Plumas Corporation has requested \$341,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund the treatment of 13.6-acres of aquatic and riparian habitat and 2,270 feet of stream channel at four sites along Greenhorn Creek using bank sloping, boulder vanes, and fish passage structures. The proposed project would construct bank stabilization treatments in two of the treatment areas; this would involve laying back six to eight feet high eroding banks to a 2:1 slope, vegetating the banks, and installing boulder vanes. Two fish passage treatment areas are located at the Reid and Shea agricultural irrigation dams; treatment at these two locations would involve placing rock channel and floodplain structures at a five percent grade by building a series of riffles and pools in the channel and a rocked floodplain that would carry over-banking flood flows.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

Plumas County Building and Planning Services, *Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH# 2011062025. July 2011.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the potential impacts of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. Air Quality

During construction, there would be the potential for increased emissions from diesel equipment. Trucks hauling materials to the Shea Dam and Reid Dam sites may increase dust on the roads. There would also be short-term soil disturbances within the project sites which could result in increased dust (particulate matter). Operation of diesel equipment could also temporarily impact air quality. Construction impacts are considered potentially significant without mitigation. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers air quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures: The grading activity will be conducted in a manner in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Appropriate measures for this type of project include the preparation of a dust control plan. The dust control plan shall contain the following mitigation measures:

- MM-1** All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded shall be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering may occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage, if necessary.
- MM-2** All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emission.
- MM-3** All on-site vehicle traffic shall be limited to a speed of 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads.
- MM-4** All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavating activities on a project site shall be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 miles per hour.
- MM-5** All inactive portions of the site shall be covered, seeded, or watered until a suitable cover is established. Alternatively, the applicant shall be responsible for applying County-approved non-toxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer's specification) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance.
- MM-6** All material transported off-site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle.
- MM-7** Paved streets adjacent to the project shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud which may have resulted from activities at the project site.
- MM-8** The project proponent shall re-establish ground cover on the site through seeding and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance.

2. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is expected to enhance Plumas County designated deer winter range and waterfowl nesting habitats by improving riparian habitat and vegetation along the stream channel. The proposed project may cause direct impacts to streams, plants, and habitat; the proposed project may cause indirect impacts to habitat, wildlife, and plants. Key impacts on

habitat include: temporary re-routing of channel flows from the existing channel into a bypass channel during construction; increasing the percentage of pool (versus riffle) habitat; increasing bank angle (from vertical to 2:1 slope) so that vegetation can become established; removing riparian vegetation from the gravel bar and planting it on the banks; increasing riparian vegetation on the newly sloped banks; decreasing pasture habitat to improve bank angle on vertical banks; increasing riparian habitat by planting stream banks that currently do not support vegetation; temporarily increasing sedimentation during construction; and improving water quality of riverine habitat in the long term by decreasing sedimentation from eroding banks. The proposed project may cause temporary impacts on special-status animal and plant species as follows: reptile species (Pacific pond turtle), avian species (willow flycatcher, Sandhill cranes, yellow warbler), bat species (western red bat, Pallid bat, and Townsend's big-eared bat), fish species (rainbow trout and brown trout). No sensitive plant species were identified during the project-level field survey. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

MM-9 Flag and avoid any sensitive plants that may be found during construction. Flag and avoid noxious weed areas, cleaning equipment, using weed free material and mulch, remove plants and/or seed heads prior to construction, and remove noxious weed plants for three years after construction.

MM-10 The following shall be implemented:

- a. Pacific pond turtles – Re-survey the project area prior to construction to avoid directly crushing individuals with heavy equipment.
- b. Willow flycatcher – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities OR construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest.
- c. Sandhill cranes – Either construct the project outside of the limited operating period (LOP), which is after August 1, or survey for cranes within a half-mile of the project area to determine presence and location prior to any disturbance.
- d. Yellow warbler – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities OR construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest.

MM-11 Trout – capturing (via electroshocking) and moving trout out of each immediate work area.

3. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Although no known archaeological or paleontological resources occur on-site, ground disturbance has the potential to disturb previously unknown cultural resources or human remains. The field survey identified one potentially historic structure, the Reid irrigation dam; however, the consulting archaeologist recommends that the site is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is not a historic property as defined in 36 CFR 800.4. By decreasing the hydraulic drop of the dam, the fish passage structure proposed downstream is expected to protect the dam from damage due to further erosion of bed and banks. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-12** If project ground disturbance should expose a cultural deposit, it is recommended that the disturbance stop until an archaeologist can evaluate the material. In the event human remains are discovered during project activity, existing law requires that project managers contact the county coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, both Native American Commission and any identified descendants shall be notified.

4. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project may result in substantial soil erosion and loss of topsoil during construction. There is potential for heavy equipment to directly impact soil porosity by increasing compaction. Organic matter and soil nutrients may be temporarily decreased during construction; however, project activities would be controlled by Best Management Practices (BMPs) and soil disturbance outside of the sloped bank and gravel bar would be minimal. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers geological and soils impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-13** Divert water around the work areas as discussed in the Water Diversion Plan.
- MM-14** Vegetate, seed, and mulch the newly sloped banks, fish passage structures, and other disturbed areas.
- MM-15** Construction shall occur during the low flow period, and coincide with the most favorable moisture conditions on the meadow (i.e., a dry meadow surface).
- MM-16** Topsoil and any organic material in the area of excavation would be removed and stockpiled adjacent to the bank. When the bank has been sloped, the stockpiled topsoil with associated organics and native seed bank would be spread on the bank.
- MM-17** All desirable plant material that would be impacted would be removed and transplanted. Locations of transplants are prioritized according to need for maximum soil protection in areas of potentially high stress such as: 1) the bottom half of the newly sloped bank, 2) the top half of the newly sloped bank, 3) outcurves, 4) fish passage bank and floodplain areas.
- MM-18** All equipment travel and haul routes would be restricted to the smallest area possible, and via existing access roads. Equipment travel on these roads would be limited to moving equipment in to start and out when finished. Any additional compaction to these roads would be scarified perpendicular to expected surface water flow and dressed with scattered organic material if necessary.
- MM-19** Staging areas and temporary haul routes used during the project would be subsoiled to the full depth of compaction to restore soil porosity, perpendicular to surface flow directions. Areas with residual meadow sod would only be lightly scarified to preserve sod integrity. The emphasis is on the least soil disruption while loosening the soil. Extensive mixing or plowing can have a negative effect on soil microorganisms. This technique has been successful in loosening the soil, restoring soil porosity, providing a high infiltration capacity, and thereby reducing cumulative watershed effects.

5. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Although not anticipated, the transport of fuel and lubricants may occur during project implementation and there is the potential for a spill to occur if equipment overturns or during equipment fueling and maintenance operations; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers hazards and hazardous materials impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

MM-20 Equipment would be re-fueled and serviced outside of the riparian area.

6. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

During construction, there would be short-term soil disturbances within the project sites which could result in the violation of water quality standards and otherwise substantially degrade water quality; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers hydrology and water quality impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures: In addition to the implementation of MM-13 through MM-19, the following mitigation measures are required:

- MM-21** Pump any water that subsurfaces into the work areas onto vegetated floodplain so that it can filter through vegetation before re-entering the stream channel.
- MM-22** Deploy sedimats® below the work areas in the channel to capture settleable solids that may enter the stream channel.
- MM-23** Service and re-fuel equipment outside of riparian areas to prevent harmful materials from being washed into the water.
- MM-24** Control Construction in Streamside Management Zones by keeping an effective vegetative filter for sediment generated by erosion from road fills, dust drift and oil traces; maintain existing shade, riparian habitat and channel stabilizing vegetation as much as possible. Maintain as much of the floodplain surface as possible in a resistant, undisturbed condition to limit erosion by flood flows.
- MM-25** Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment production as much as possible.
- MM-26** Collect water quality samples and document water quality data.

7. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

During construction, there would be a short-term increase in truck traffic, with an estimated 406 trips. Right and left turn movements would occur off of State Route 89, which could temporarily slow traffic at the Chandler and Quincy Junction roads. Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project covers transportation and traffic impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

MM-27 Plumas Corporation shall obtain an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for State Route 89 traffic and from Plumas County for county road traffic prior to beginning construction.

MM-28 Warning signs shall be placed in both directions on all roads with truck traffic associated with the project in compliance with the encroachment permits.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project (SNC 694) (State Clearinghouse No. 2011062025), located along Greenhorn Creek, west of Chandler Road, off of State Route 89, immediately east of Quincy, in American Valley, Plumas County, California, Township 24 North, Range 10 East, Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, and 21. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project. It is intended to be used by Plumas County Building and Planning Services staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project ultimately includes six treatment areas along Greenhorn Creek, totaling 21 acres and 3,633 feet of stream channel. The proposed project has been underway since 2007, beginning with a request for assistance with erosion problems by several agricultural landowners. Topographic surveys and design work were completed with a planning grant from the Plumas County

Board of Supervisors and funding from the Shea Ranch. The Plumas County Resource Advisory Committee funded completion of environmental review for the entire project, and construction on the USDA Forest Service and Reid Ranch parcels in October 2011. A second treatment area, the Chandler Road East Bridge, addresses bed stabilization by using boulder vanes and a floodplain culvert and would be constructed using landowner funds, thus it is not a part of the proposed project. The remaining four treatment areas are thus a part of the proposed project.

The Plumas County Planning Department acted as Lead Agency under the CEQA in May 2011 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in July 2011. The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. The mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND would apply to the proposed Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Greenhorn Creek Integrated Restoration Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Integrated Greenhorn Creek Restoration Project, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the Plumas County Building and Planning Services department or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the Plumas County Building and Planning Services in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The Plumas County Building and Planning Services shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the Plumas County Building and Planning Services shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

TABLE 1-1: INTEGRATED GREENHORN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
Air Quality							
MM-1	All material excavated, stockpiled, or graded shall be sufficiently watered, treated, or covered to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the property boundaries and causing a public nuisance or a violation of an ambient air standard. Watering may occur at least twice daily, with complete site coverage, if necessary.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-2	All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered or have dust palliative applied as necessary for regular stabilization of dust emission.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-3	All on-site vehicle traffic shall be limited to a speed of 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-4	All land clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavating activities on a project site shall be suspended as necessary to prevent excessive windblown dust when winds are expected to exceed 20 miles per hour.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-5	All inactive portions of the site shall be covered, seeded, or watered until a suitable cover is established. Alternatively, the applicant shall be responsible for applying County-approved non-toxic soil stabilizers (according to manufacturer's specification) to all inactive construction areas (previously graded areas which remain inactive for 96 hours) in accordance with the local grading ordinance.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-6	All material transported off-site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent public nuisance, and there must be a minimum of six (6) inches of freeboard in the bed of the transport vehicle.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-7	Paved streets adjacent to the project shall be swept or washed at the end of each day, or more frequently if necessary, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud which may have resulted from activities at the project site.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-8	The project proponent shall re-establish ground cover on the site through seeding and watering in accordance with the local grading ordinance.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: INTEGRATED GREENHORN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance			
				Initials	Date	Remarks	
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES							
MM-9	Flag and avoid any sensitive plants that may be found during construction. Flag and avoid noxious weed areas, cleaning equipment, using weed free material and mulch, remove plants and/or seed heads prior to construction, and remove noxious weed plants for three years after construction.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-Construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-10	<p>The following shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pacific pond turtles – Re-survey the project area prior to construction to avoid directly crushing individuals with heavy equipment. b. Willow flycatcher – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities <u>OR</u> construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest. c. Sandhill cranes – Either construct the project outside of the limited operating period (LOP), which is after August 1, or survey for cranes within a half-mile of the project area to determine presence and location prior to any disturbance. d. Yellow warbler – Re-survey habitat within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the project area before construction to ensure that no individuals are present that could be directly disturbed by construction activities <u>OR</u> construction would begin after the limited operating period (LOP), which ends August 31, to ensure that the young have fledged the nest. 	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: INTEGRATED GREENHORN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-11	Trout – capturing (via electroshocking) and moving trout out of each immediate work area.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Project Manager			
CULTURAL RESOURCES							
MM-12	If project ground disturbance should expose a cultural deposit, it is recommended that the disturbance stop until an archaeologist can evaluate the material. In the event human remains are discovered during project activity, existing law requires that project managers contact the county coroner. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, both Native American Commission and any identified descendants shall be notified.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, Plumas County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager			
GEOLOGY/SOILS							
MM-13	Divert water around the work areas as discussed in the Water Diversion Plan.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-14	Vegetate, seed, and mulch the newly sloped banks, fish passage structures, and other disturbed areas.	During construction / Upon Project completion	During construction / Post-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-15	Construction shall occur during the low flow period, and coincide with the most favorable moisture conditions on the meadow (i.e., a dry meadow surface).	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-16	Topsoil and any organic material in the area of excavation would be removed and stockpiled adjacent to the bank. When the bank has been sloped, the stockpiled topsoil with associated organics and native seed bank would be spread on the bank.	During construction / Upon Project completion	During construction / Post-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: INTEGRATED GREENHORN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-17	All desirable plant material that would be impacted, would be removed and transplanted. Locations of transplants are prioritized according to need for maximum soil protection in areas of potentially high stress such as: 1) the bottom half of the newly sloped bank, 2) the top half of the newly sloped bank, 3) outcurves, 4) fish passage bank and floodplain areas.	During construction / Upon Project completion	During construction / Post-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-18	All equipment travel and haul routes would be restricted to the smallest area possible and via existing access roads. Equipment travel on these roads would be limited to moving equipment in to start and out when finished. Any additional compaction to these roads would be scarified perpendicular to expected surface water flow and dressed with scattered organic material if necessary.	During construction / Upon Project completion	During construction / Post-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-19	Staging areas and temporary haul routes used during the project would be subsoiled to the full depth of compaction to restore soil porosity, perpendicular to surface flow directions. Areas with residual meadow sod would only be lightly scarified to preserve sod integrity. The emphasis is on the least soil disruption while loosening the soil. Extensive mixing or plowing can have a negative effect on soil microorganisms. This technique has been successful in loosening the soil, restoring soil porosity, providing a high infiltration capacity, and thereby reducing cumulative watershed effects.	During construction / Upon Project completion	During construction / Post-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS							
MM-20	Equipment would be re-fueled and serviced outside of the riparian area.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY							
MM-21	Pump any water that subsurfaces into the work areas onto vegetated floodplain so that it can filter through vegetation before re-entering the stream channel.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			

TABLE 1-1: INTEGRATED GREENHORN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
MM-22	Deploy sedimats® below the work areas in the channel to capture settleable solids that may enter the stream channel.	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-construction / During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-23	Service and re-fuel equipment outside of riparian areas to prevent harmful materials from being washed into the water.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-24	Control Construction in Streamside Management Zones by keeping an effective vegetative filter for sediment generated by erosion from road fills, dust drift and oil traces; maintain existing shade, riparian habitat and channel stabilizing vegetation as much as possible. Maintain as much of the floodplain surface as possible in a resistant, undisturbed condition to limit erosion by flood flows.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-25	Minimize stream channel disturbances and related sediment production as much as possible.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
MM-26	Collect water quality samples and document water quality data.	During construction	During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, and Project Manager			
TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC							
MM-27	Plumas Corporation shall obtain an encroachment permit from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for State Route 89 traffic and from Plumas County for county road traffic prior to beginning construction.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, Plumas County Public Works, Caltrans			
MM-28	Warning signs shall be placed in both directions on all roads with truck traffic associated with the project in compliance with the encroachment permits.	Prior to Project implementation / During construction	Pre-construction / During construction	Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Planning Services, Plumas County Public Works, Caltrans			

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Placer County Department of Facility Services

Project Title: Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$325,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$407,500.00

Application Number: 670

Final Score: 84.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements Project will complete the most critical infrastructure improvements needed to support long term ranching, habitat protection and public access at Hidden Falls Regional Park (Hidden Falls) - A 1,200-acre open space preserve and passive park owned by Placer County and located between the communities of Auburn and Lincoln. The following improvements will be completed:

- Repair of the existing stock pond and irrigation canal to correct uncontrolled seepage and capacity loss from sediment;
- Treatment of one mile of eroding ranch roads;
- Repair of perimeter fencing; and,
- Construction of watering troughs to deter grazing animals (including public equestrians using the trail system) from stream courses.

Placer County and its grant funding partners, including Sierra Nevada Conservancy, have invested \$10 million into the purchase and development of Hidden Falls Regional Park in order to protect its natural resources and support public access and enjoyment. The Agricultural and Public Access Improvements Project will complete the most critical upgrades needed on the Hidden Falls property in order to support long term ranching, aid in wildfire risk reduction through vegetation grazing, and reduce sediment into the Coon Creek Watershed.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Ranch Road Abandonment	June 3, 2013 – December 27, 2013
6 Month Progress Report	October 11, 2013
Construction of Watering Troughs	June 3, 2013 – December 16, 2014
Perimeter Fence Replacement	January 2, 2014 – December 17, 2014
6 Month Progress Report	May 12, 2014
6 Month Progress Report	November 11, 2014
Rehabilitation of stock pond	January 1, 2014 – September 9, 2015
6 Month Progress Report	May 12, 2015
6 Month Progress Report	August 11, 2015
Canal Encasement	January 1, 2014 – September 9, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 1, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$320,000.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$5,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$325,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Placer County Resource Conservation District
 - Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition
 - REI, Inc.
 - Sun City Lincoln Hills Hiking Club
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements Project
(SNC 670)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located along Mears Road and Mears Place, approximately six miles northwest of Auburn and approximately eight miles northeast of Lincoln, in Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Auburn and Lincoln

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Placer County is requesting \$325,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for ranch management to continue ranching and grazing for the purpose of vegetation management, habitat health and agricultural preservation; habitat protection; and public access at the 1,200-acre Hidden Falls Regional Park. This project includes infrastructure improvements which include repairing the 0.6-acre existing stock pond by dredging and lining with an impermeable membrane such as clay; repairing the 1,200 foot spur of the Whiskey Diggins irrigation canal by encasing the canal in piping with outlets for controlled flow; re-contouring (grading) abandoned sections of a ranch road to allow sheet flows over the area without concentrating in the existing ruts and channels and installing a layer of all-weather base-rock to the existing ranch roads to control erosion and dust; constructing three watering troughs located inside the paddocks and deterring grazing animals (including public equestrians using the trail system) from Coon Creek; and repairing and replacing up to eight miles of perimeter fencing. The purpose of the project is to repair and improve critical infrastructure needed to support ranch management, protect habitat, and provide continued public access to the park.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Placer County

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301, "Existing Facilities"; Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures"; Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Hidden Falls Regional Park Agricultural and Public Use Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, which permits the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination; Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor

modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; and Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (existing infrastructure improvements) that in turn provide land management activities that will protect habitat and water resources, thus resulting in the continued use of the parkland for existing ranching and recreational uses. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Shasta Land Trust

Project Title: Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning

Subregion: North

County: Shasta

SNC Funding: \$39,600.00

Total Project Cost: \$39,600.00

Application Number: 751

Final Score: 84.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The grant provides pre-project planning activities necessary to implement important restoration projects on the Hathaway Ranch, which is currently protected by a Shasta Land Trust (SLT) conservation easement. SLT will create specific project designs for future restoration work in the riparian areas of Oak Run Creek, develop project designs for installing riparian area exclusion fencing with associated off-stream livestock watering facilities, develop a management plan to manage grazing to the benefit of native species composition and improved livestock forage, complete baseline reports for the site, and acquire all applicable permits for these projects.

The Hathaway Ranch is a 6,600-acre cattle ranch in central Shasta County. SLT acquired a conservation easement that permanently protects the Hathaway Ranch in 2006. The ranch is losing several acres of valuable rangeland every year due to large erosion events along Oak Run Creek and stretches overgrown with Himalayan blackberry.

Deliverables of this grant include creation of at least four site-specific restoration plans, a baseline report, and a grazing management plan. The completion of these important plans will enable SLT to initiate targeted and beneficial restoration and enhancement projects that will measurably improve watershed health, agricultural viability, habitat, and water quality of Oak Run Creek.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
GIS mapping and plant species assessment	September 2013
Grazing management plan completion	April 2014
Permitting and CEQA compliance	September 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$36,600.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$3,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$39,600

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Shasta College Biology Department
 - Shasta College GIS Program

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments.
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning Project (SNC 751)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on the Hathaway Ranch. Oak Run Creek and Oak Run Road traverse the southern portion of the project site, approximately two miles south of State Route 299, approximately seven miles northeast of Palo Cedro and approximately 12 miles east of Redding, in Shasta County, California.

Project Location – City: Palo Cedro

Project Location – County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Shasta Land Trust (SLT) is requesting \$39,600 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for funding to conduct pre-project planning activities for future riparian restoration projects along Oak Run Creek, within the Hathaway Ranch, located within a conservation easement and subject to a Williamson Act contract. Project activities include creating specific project designs for future restoration work in the riparian areas of Oak Run Creek, developing a grazing management plan, completing baseline studies for the site, and acquiring all applicable permits. Restoration work could include, but is not limited to, implementing weed treatment of Himalayan blackberry stands, placing armor on eroding banks to reduce erosion, installing alternative stock watering improvements, and installing riparian fencing. The goal of the restoration plan is to improve streambank integrity, minimize loss of ranchland during flood events, and create a removal plan of invasive species (specifically Himalayan blackberry). Project site design activities would include design of riparian fencing and off-stream livestock water facilities. The purpose of this project is to complete planning and permitting for future restoration projects that would restore riparian areas, provide best management practices for the existing cattle ranch, and promote ecosystem health.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Shasta Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Hathaway Ranch Riparian Zone Restoration Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of completing the site analysis and restoration site design, obtaining permits to restore portions of Oak Run Creek, and providing best management practices for the

existing cattle ranch operations. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant:	Bear Yuba Land Trust
Project Title:	Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Project
Subregion:	Central
County:	Nevada
SNC Funding:	\$ 68,075.00
Total Project Cost:	\$150,075.00
Application Number:	752
Final Score:	84.00

PROJECT SCOPE

This planning project will complete a Management Plan and a Riparian Restoration Project Design with associated environmental review documentation and permits that will lead to restoration activities on 652-acres of land along the banks of the Bear River in Nevada County. Completion of the plan will help establish a grazing regime and infrastructure that preserves water quality of the Bear River and Little Wolf Creek and benefits the plant and wildlife communities that are an important part of the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the Blue Oak Woodland community.

The Garden Bar Preserve connects to 8,600-acres of protected lands within the Bear River Watershed. Garden Bar has been used for agricultural production for the past 150 years, and is seasonally grazed by a leasee. Runoff from all agricultural lands along the Little Wolf Creek corridor flows through this property before meeting the Bear River. Lack of management has led to many negative impacts - seen in the erosion of sensitive riparian corridors used as water sources by cattle, as well as the establishment of invasive plant communities. These noxious weeds have built up and are creating thick layers of thatch that inhibit other native plant and forage growth and increase fire danger. This project will contribute to sustaining ecosystem functions and services and help to ensure the long-term ecological health of the system and dependent ranch enterprises.

Other project contributions come from the Oak Mitigation Fund, Bear Yuba Land Trust, and community volunteers.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Surveys (Vegetative, Bird & Wildlife, Hydrological, Archeological, RDM)	June 2013 – May 2016
Wetland Delineation Report	April 2014
Consultations- Contractors:	
Restoration Resources, Inc.	July 2013 – December 2015
UC Cooperative Extension	September 2013 – September 2015
CalFire	August 2013 – July 2014
Management Plan	August 2015
Riparian Restoration Design	June 2015
CEQA/permits	May 2016
Six Month Progress Reports	December 2013, June 2014, December 2014, June 2015, December 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 1, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$51,975.00
Indirect**	\$8,000.00
Administrative***	\$8,100.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$68,075.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - UC Cooperative Extension
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Sierra Streams Institute
 - California Native Plant Society/Redbud Chapter
 - Wolf Creek Community Alliance

- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Project (SNC 752)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located along Little Wolf Creek, approximately 0.5 mile east of the terminus of Austin Ranch Road and approximately 0.75 mile west of the terminus of Garden Bar Road, approximately nine miles west of Lake of the Pines and approximately 10 miles northeast of Lincoln, in Nevada County, California.

Project Location – City: Lake of the Pines and Lincoln

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Bear Yuba Land Trust is requesting \$68,075 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for research and preparation of a Management Plan and Riparian Restoration Project Design on the Garden Bar Preserve, which comprises approximately 652-acres. The Preserve lies within a large connected region of conserved lands (approximately 8,600-acres) within the Bear Valley Watershed. The property is not actively managed, and grazing has led to negative impacts in the form of erosion of on-site waterways and overabundance of invasive plant communities (e.g. Medusahead and Barbed Goat Grass) which inhibit other plant growth and increase fire danger. The project proposes to reassess existing grazing operations on the Garden Bar Preserve, to identify new options for grazing management, and to prepare a Management Plan and a Riparian Restoration Project Design in order to develop a grazing regime that would benefit on-site plant and wildlife communities, as well as, water quality and hydrologic features, and design site restoration/protection in eroded areas to contribute to the greater health of the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the Blue Oak Woodland community on a regional level. The purpose of this project is to gather the necessary information and to prepare guidance documents and plans so that future grazing management decisions would support ecosystem functions on the Garden Bar Preserve and ensure the long-term ecological health of the system and dependent ranchlands in the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bear Yuba Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Garden Bar Preserve Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

The project consists of data collection and site surveys, and the preparation of a Management Plan and a Riparian Restoration Project Design for the purposes of onsite grazing management on the Garden Bar Preserve. The project is ultimately aimed at the restoration and long-term protection of wildlife habitat and water quality in support of improving and sustaining ecosystem functions and services for the long-term. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: American Rivers

Project Title: Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow

Subregion: South Central

County: Tuolumne

SNC Funding: \$62,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$124,000.00

Application Number: 690

Final Score: 83.67

PROJECT SCOPE

High in the Sierra Nevada near Sonora Pass, a tributary to the Middle Fork Stanislaus River flows into three-acre Shell Meadow. The meadow provides important breeding habitat for Yosemite toads and other sensitive species. A recent site visit indicated two headcuts in the stream channel. The main headcut was approximately 5-feet deep and the side headcut was approximately 3-feet deep.

The project will result in completed plans for on-the-ground activities to prevent the advancement of the headcuts. Stabilization of the headcuts will keep the channel from incising, preventing a drop in the water table, restoring floodplain connectivity, and preventing conversion of the meadow plant community to dryland species.

The project has three main goals. The first is to protect Shell Meadow and its associated high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The second is to assist the U.S. Forest Service in determining how grazing could be compatible with post-restoration management at the site by gathering the information necessary for a site-specific management plan. The third is to develop a project model that demonstrates both how to take preventative action to protect a meadow before full-scale degradation occurs and how to develop appropriate questions and solutions for integrating grazing with meadow management.

Conceptual restoration design and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be at the project onset. SNC funding will provide for technical restoration design that integrates grazing and meadow health, in addition to permitting and remaining clearances for follow-up site improvement activities.

Additional funding for this project has been provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Bella Vista Foundation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Signed subcontracts/grants with project partners	June 2013
Finalize data collection work plan	July 2013
Complete and Submit Six-Month Progress Report	December 2013
Compile materials/applications required for permits	February 2014
Acquire completed permits (401 and 404)	June 2014
Complete and Submit Six-Month Progress Report	June 2014
Complete design drawings	July 2014
Finalize restoration cost-estimate and contractor requirements	August 2014
Finalize and distribute request for bids	September 2014
Monitoring data collected	November 2014
Complete and Submit Six-Month Progress Report	December 2014
Compile analyzed data and monitoring report	January 2015
Complete and Submit Final Report	January 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 31, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$51,168.00
Indirect**	\$2,746.00
Administrative***	\$8,086.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$62,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Stanislaus National Forest

- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of people reached.
- Dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and type of jobs created.
- Number of new, improved or preserved economic activities.
- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments.
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow Project (SNC 690)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located within the Stanislaus National Forest, approximately one mile south of Sonora Pass Highway, approximately two miles west of Dardanelle and 12 miles southeast of Bear Valley, in Tuolumne County, California.

Project Location – City: Dardanelle

Project Location – County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

American Rivers is requesting \$62,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for data collection and preparation of a monitoring report which will support the preparation of restoration designs and grazing management techniques for long-term protection of Shell Meadow. Shell Meadow is a high-priority restoration site located in the Stanislaus National Forest that is threatened by two headcuts of the tributary flowing through the meadow. The meadow lies within an active grazing allotment; however, livestock are presently excluded on-site. The project would involve assisting the National Forest Service (NFS) in identifying strategies that would allow grazing to be compatible with post-restoration management on-site through data gathering conducted in support of preparation of a site-specific management plan. The data would be used to calibrate and develop a model which will demonstrate effective preventative actions to avoid further degradation of the meadow, and to develop solutions to manage and integrate future grazing activities with meadow sites supporting sensitive habitat. The project would result in completing final restoration designs, and obtaining permits for future meadow restoration. The purpose of the project is to protect the high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitat of the meadow by allowing for data collection in support of preparation of a monitoring report (with data analysis/restoration design) for long-term maintenance of the hydrologic and ecosystem functioning of Shell Meadow.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: American Rivers

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Integrated Meadow Restoration and Grazing in Shell Meadow Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection to support the NFS in preparing a site-specific management plan for grazing compatibility with post-restoration

management at Shell Meadow; coordinating required permitting; and preparing design plans for future restoration of Shell Meadow. The project will allow for development of a project model that identifies appropriate actions to prevent full-scale meadow degradation and that allows for assessment of the integration of grazing with meadow management. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Pit Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$294,817.00

Total Project Cost: \$304,817.00

Application Number: 685

Final Score: 83.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will restore and reconnect meadows and stream channels along 4.3 miles of Butte Creek on 100-acres of privately owned ranch land within the upper Pit River Region in Lassen County. Fencing will then be installed so that future grazing can be managed to protect restored streambanks and riparian areas. Restoration efforts in this watershed contribute to the valuable public benefits derived from increased water quality and regulated flows that feed the Sacramento River, the Delta, and large numbers of California water users.

A portion of the stream channel within the meadow has become entrenched and subsequently reduced the amount of water available to sustain the surrounding meadow. Past management practices initiated a "high line" ditch system and diversion structures, and these resulted in the creation of a gullied channel. Currently, the lower portion of the meadow is entrenched, and headcuts are moving upstream and encroaching on areas (70-acres) that are providing the most productive forage and habitat. The restoration plan will restore the physical processes that historically maintained the Butte Creek Meadow. This includes reconnecting the primary stream channel to its naturally evolved floodplain. The landowner is also committed to changing livestock management grazing within the meadow so that cattle do not affect the stability of restored streambanks.

Desired outcomes from the project include: 1) reducing the cross-sectional area of Butte Creek so that flows overtop at a 1.5 to two-year frequency interval; 2) improve shallow groundwater storage by 40%; 3) create a vegetation community within the meadow that is dominated by species (66% cover) adapted to moist soil conditions (i.e. facultative

wetland and/or obligate wetland indicator categories); and 4) create several pastures within the restored meadow area for livestock grazing.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Post-Design/Pre-Construction Review Bid	July 30, 2013
Project Construction	October 30, 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 31, 2013
Monitoring Post-Project	March 30, 2014
Six Month Progress Report	April 30, 2014
Final Report	June 30, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	July 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$270,467.00
Indirect**	\$6,050.00
Administrative***	\$18,300.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$294,817.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Pit RCD- Watershed Management Strategy

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Types of Jobs Created.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.
- Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: **FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

Project Title: Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 685)

State Clearinghouse No.: SCH# 2012092018

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/State Route (SR) 139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14, and 15.

County: Lassen County

Project Description: The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting \$294,817 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for wetland restoration along Butte Creek in Big Valley. This project would utilize plug and pond techniques along 1.5 miles of creek channel. The project includes excavating sod and topsoil for re-vegetation, excavating and transporting fill material to the entrenched stream channels, constructing a grade control structure, filling a ditch and replanting salvaged vegetation and replacing topsoil. Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

As Lead Agency a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above described project on March 7, 2013, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Report (EIR) accompanied by an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15177) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of project approval.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration, with attached Initial Study, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at the following location:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

(530) 823-4670

Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR:

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:
Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 685)
2. Responsible Agency Name and Address:
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Matthew Daley, Program Coordinator (530) 823-4698
4. Project Location:
The proposed project is located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/SR 139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14 and 15.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
Pit Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 301
Bieber, CA 96009
6. General Plan Designation:
Extensive Agriculture
7. Zoning:
EA
8. Description of Project:
The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting \$294,817 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for wetland restoration along Butte Creek in Big Valley. This project would utilize plug and pond techniques along 1.5 miles of creek channel.

The proposed project would construct six to nine ponded water areas and seven to nine plugs (2.1 acres) on the main or finger gullies of Butte Creek. The plug elevations would be the same or slightly higher than other meadow elevations, so flood flows would sheet overland at low velocities (less than one foot per second), with only a few inches in depth. Normal discharges would flow into existing remnant channels. The proposed project would accommodate the design streamflow and sediment contributions of the basins. The ponds would be connected to groundwater sources, with surface water flowing through only one pond on a secondary remnant channel. One grade control structure would incorporate rock into the channel and occur at the downstream portion of the proposed project site.

The extensive network of gullies along Butte Creek would require approximately 59,000

cubic yards of gully plug material excavated from the ponds or higher elevation areas. Any existing meadow sod and willow in the gully bottoms would be transplanted to completed plugs, pond margins, and to areas of remnant channel that are currently un-vegetated. Topsoil from the borrow ponds would be salvaged, stockpiled, and spread on top of completed plugs. Plugs would be revegetated with locally collected native grass and forb seeds.

Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Big Valley basin is used primarily for agricultural production, consisting primarily of hay, rice, and livestock production. The Modoc National Forest surrounds the greater area and is used for timber production and infrequent dispersed recreation. Ash Creek Wildlife Area is approximately five miles northwest of the proposed project. The project area is located within a flood zone.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly California Department of Fish and Game)

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Pit Resource Conservation District*

*Approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposed project area lies within a large fault-block valley that was once a lake during the Pleistocene era. Several tributaries, including Butte Creek, enter the valley from the east and provide water resources for wildlife, fish, and agriculture. Butte Creek becomes a low gradient stream after draining surrounding mountains in the southeast portion of the valley and joins Ash Creek near the town of Adin. The low gradient portion of the stream has associated meadow habitat for a length of 4.5 miles before joining Ash Creek. The creek channel is severely entrenched and is depositing excessive amounts of sediment into Ash Creek. The entrenchment also results in lower groundwater levels, associated conversion of meadow habitat to grassland habitat, and poor wetland habitat for fish and wildlife.

Within the 100-acre project area (the Higgins Ranch), roughly one-half of the stream and associated meadow is productive; however, head cuts within the primary and secondary channels are moving up into this productive area, and if left untreated, will eventually “drain” the meadow and look similar to the downstream reach. The downstream reach is typical of most severely entrenched streams in the region. Non-native grasses, mostly cheat grass and Madusae head dominate the land and provide little habitat for wildlife and forage for livestock. The base elevation in the degraded reach is approximately six to eight feet lower than historic levels, and the width is approximately seven to ten times wider. The creek continues to widen

and has developed an inset floodplain. It is still very unstable in most areas, and during high flows, streambanks slough off and contribute high levels of sediment to Butte Creek and other receiving water bodies.

The Higgins Ranch was recently acquired through a lease-own option. Prior to purchase, the Higgins family already manages 720-acres where they produce registered beef, hay, and quarter horses. Haying only occurs in the more intact reach of Butte Creek, and grazing occurs in both the degraded and stable reaches. Some of the higher elevation portions of the meadow are tilled and planted with grain which is also hayed.

The Pit Resource Conservation District acted as Lead Agency under the CEQA in September 2012 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in October 2012.

The proposed project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area. None of the meadow is irrigated, and the restoration plan has been designed to sustain the stream and meadow system in order to be hayed and grazed.

PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pit Resource Conservation District, *Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH 2012092018. October 2012.

Basic Features of the Project

The goal of the proposed project is to restore wetland resources, improve water quality, and improve the productivity of the working ranch, which includes hay, beef and quarter horses. The purposed of the proposed project is to reconnect stream channels to the floodplain and restore the meadow in order to improve water quality, aquatic and terrestrial natural resources, and improve the agricultural productivity of the meadow, while reducing the streambank erosion and improving flow conditions.

The Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) includes environmental impact analysis described in the proposed project's IS/MND includes seven to nine pond areas and seven to nine plug areas along Butte Creek.

The proposed project would construct six to nine ponded water areas and seven to nine plugs (2.1-acres) on the main or finger gullies of Butte Creek. The plug elevations would be the same or slightly higher than other meadow elevations, so flood flows would sheet overland at low velocities (less than one foot per second), with only a few inches in depth. Normal discharges would flow into existing remnant channels. The proposed project would accommodate the design streamflow and sediment contributions of the basins. The ponds would be connected to groundwater sources, with surface water flowing through only one pond on a secondary remnant channel. One grade control structure would incorporate rock into the channel and occur at the downstream portion of the proposed project site.

The extensive network of gullies along Butte Creek would require approximately 59,000 cubic yards of gully plug material excavated from the ponds or higher elevation areas. Any existing meadow sod and willow in the gully bottoms would be transplanted to completed plugs, pond

margins, and to areas of remnant channel that are currently un-vegetated. Topsoil from the borrow ponds would be salvaged, stockpiled, and spread on top of completed plugs. Plugs would be revegetated with locally collected native grass and forb seeds.

Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area

Permits for the proposed project are currently being obtained and include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Nationwide Permit 27, Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement Area), California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region (Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement).

Impacts Identified Relevant to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request

The action before the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is providing \$294,817 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to fund wetland restoration along 1.5 miles of Butte Creek, totaling 2.1-acres, using plug and pond techniques. The Butte Creek Restoration Project IS/MND identifies potential resource impacts related to biological resources and cultural resources. Specifically, the proposed project may result in the disturbance of streams; temporary habitat disruption; temporary disturbance of special-status plant and animal species; the potential to inadvertently disturb unknown cultural resources or human remains during ground-disturbing activities. Based on the IS/MND, the project would not cause any additional significant effects on the environment not previously examined in the Butte Creek Restoration Project IS/MND. The project proponent would implement measures identified in the IS/MND, and described below, to lessen potential impacts to biological and cultural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:		
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards / Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Responsible Agency)

On the basis of this evaluation:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Governing Board determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by, or agreed to by, the project proponent. An **INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** was prepared that adequately analyzed the action for which the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will provide grant funding, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project, and the SNC Board has adopted findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15096(h) and 15091. The Plumas County Building and Planning Services, as the lead agency, also adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program that identifies the timing of mitigation measures and which parties will be responsible for implementing them; the SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures.

Signature

Date

Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Printed Name

Title

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Responsible Agency

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

Project Title: Butte Creek Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 694)

State Clearinghouse Number: SCH# 2012092018

Project Location: The proposed project is located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/SR-139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14, and 15.

Description of Project: The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting \$294,817 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for wetland restoration along Butte Creek in Big Valley. This project would utilize plug and pond techniques along 1.5 miles of creek channel. The project includes excavating sod and topsoil for re-vegetation, excavating and transporting fill material to the entrenched stream channels, constructing a grade control structure, filling a ditch and replanting salvaged vegetation and replacing topsoil. Construction methods include the operation of dirt moving machinery (e.g. excavator, loader, scraper) to remove or add soil to create benches, reconstruct channels, fill enlarged channels, create ponds, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas. The project site is currently hayed and grazed. The project would protect the productive half of the meadow and convert the non-productive lower half to something similar to the upper area.

Findings: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(d) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(g) and (h), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), as a Responsible Agency, has reviewed and considered the following documents prepared by the Lead Agency (CEQA):

Pit Resource Conservation District, *Butte Creek Restoration Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration*. SCH 2012092018. October 2012.

Using its independent judgment, the SNC makes the following finding:

The above listed document: a) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the project, and b) is adequate for use by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for assessing the potential impacts of funding the grant request now before the SNC for approval.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy hereby makes the following findings regarding the significant effects of the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081 and Section 15091 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is expected to enhance designed to aquatic and terrestrial natural resources by reconnecting Butte Creek with the floodplain. The proposed project may cause direct impacts to streams, plants, and habitat; the proposed project may cause indirect impacts to habitat, wildlife, and plants. No federally or state listed threatened, endangered, candidate or other special-status species would be adversely affected by the proposed project. No special-status plant or fish species were found during surveys or are expected to occur on the project.

The disturbance of stream macro-invertebrates, which complete their life cycle as reproductive terrestrial winged insects, may result in a possible reduction of foraging and prey species availability in the short-term for bird and bat species. Over the long-term, the creation of ponds would provide additional foraging habitat that benefits bird and bat species and their associated prey. Wildlife surveys would be conducted prior to construction activities and limited operating periods would be implemented on a site specific need if special status bird and bat species are identified.

Construction equipment would be steam-cleaned prior to entering the project site to reduce the risk of introducing noxious weeds. All plugs would be seeded with native grasses and forbs. In addition, monitoring would be done post-project for three years for noxious weed invasion and, if found, would be hand removed.

Impacts are considered potentially significant. The IS/MND for the Butte Creek Restoration Project covers biological resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-1** Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Greater Sandhill Crane and Swainson's Hawk. Prior to construction activities, a qualified wildlife biologist will conduct surveys for the greater Sandhill crane and Swainson's hawk if construction activities start prior to August 1st. Surveys will document if the species is nesting within or adjacent to the project site. If the species is found nesting within or directly adjacent (within 150 yards) of the project site, construction activities should be conducted at a time when the adults are not nesting, or when they are no longer nesting and/or when the young have fledged.

2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric site patterns identified in the Modoc Plateau have documented an intensive prehistoric annual presence. The private land survey report (conducted for this project) and historic resource records have been sent to, and received by the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System in Chico. All known archaeological resources were flagged for the completion of the proposed project design.

A ditch was built along the east side of the meadow prior to 19451, and has since been abandoned. This ditch has enlarged over time. Although the ditch is more than 72 years old, the archaeological report prepared under the Butte Creek Restoration Project IS/MND recommends that the site is not significant and is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register under any of the relevant evaluation criteria.

The proposed project design avoids all known archaeological and historical resources. In the event that an archaeological or historical resource is uncovered during construction activities, there would be a temporary halt to the activity until a determination is made by a qualified archaeologist. The IS/MND for the Butte Creek Restoration Project covers cultural resources impacts for the proposed project and provides mitigation measures. Those mitigation measures that apply specifically to the proposed project are listed below.

Finding: Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.

Facts in Support of the Finding: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy concurs with the lead agency that the following mitigation measures will reduce the project's environmental effects to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

- MM-2** State Compliance. Whenever human remains of Native American origin are discovered, close compliance with state requirements will be followed. This includes immediate cessation of work and notification of the appropriate authorities.
- MM-3** Work stoppage. Immediately upon discovery of any cultural resources, work will be stopped in the immediate area. Work will only be started again upon notification of the appropriate authorities and approval for restart has been obtained.

The SNC Board has considered the environmental documentation prepared for the project, adopts the findings listed in this document, and approves the project. A Notice of Determination (NOD) indicating the results of these findings will be filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Section 15096(i) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer of the SNC is authorized to file the NOD.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information used to support the findings made herein pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15091 or 15096(h), and the facts, statements, and information presented herein, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Jim Branham

Title Executive Officer

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

1.1 MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM CONTENTS

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the proposed Butte Creek Restoration Project (SNC 685) (State Clearinghouse No. 2012092018), located along Butte Creek in Big Valley, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Susanville Road/State Route (SR) 139 intersection, approximately three miles southeast of Adin and approximately 12 miles east of Bieber, Lassen County, California, Township 38 North, Range 9 East, Sections 10, 14, and 15. The MMP includes a brief discussion of the legal basis for and the purpose of the program, discussion, and direction regarding complaints about noncompliance, a key to understanding the monitoring matrix, and the monitoring matrix itself.

1.2 LEGAL BASIS OF AND PURPOSE FOR THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM

California Public Resources Code §21081.6 requires public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting programs whenever certifying an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). This requirement facilitates implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

The MMP contained herein is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA as they relate to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Butte Creek Restoration Project. It is intended to be used by Pit Resource conservation District staff, participating agencies, the developer, project contractors, and mitigation monitoring personnel during implementation of the proposed project. The SNC is not responsible for implementing any of these measures and is not proposing any additional mitigation measures for this project.

Mitigation is defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370 as a measure that does any of the following:

- Avoids impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- Minimizes impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- Rectifies impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- Reduces or eliminates impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
- Compensates for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

1.3 BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Butte Creek Restoration Project would construct six to nine ponded water areas and seven to nine plugs (2.1 acres) on the main or finger gullies of Butte Creek. Butte Creek becomes a low gradient stream after draining surrounding mountains in the southeast portion of the valley and joins Ash Creek near the town of Adin. The low gradient portion

of the stream has associated meadow habitat for a length of 4.5 miles before joining Ash Creek. The creek channel is severely entrenched and is depositing excessive amounts of sediment into Ash Creek. The entrenchment also results in lower groundwater levels, associated conversion of meadow habitat to grassland habitat, and poor wetland habitat for fish and wildlife.

Within the 100-acre project area (the Higgins Ranch), roughly one-half of the stream and associated meadow is productive; however, head cuts within the primary and secondary channels are moving up into this productive area, and if left untreated, will eventually “drain” the meadow and look similar to the downstream reach. The downstream reach is typical of most severely entrenched streams in the region. Non-native grasses, mostly cheat grass and Madusae head dominate the land and provide little habitat for wildlife and forage for livestock. The base elevation in the degraded reach is approximately six to eight feet lower than historic levels, and the width is approximately seven to ten times wider. The creek continues to widen and has developed an inset floodplain. It is still very unstable in most areas, and during high flows, streambanks slough off and contribute high levels of sediment to Butte Creek and other receiving water bodies.

The Pit Resource Conservation District acted as Lead Agency under the CEQA in September 2012 and prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration in October 2012.

The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts and provided mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. The mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND would apply to the proposed Butte Creek Restoration Project and are identified in the Mitigation Monitoring Table on the following pages.

1.4 MITIGATION MONITORING TABLE

The Mitigation Monitoring Table identifies the mitigation measures proposed for the Butte Creek Restoration Project. These mitigation measures are reproduced from the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Butte Creek Restoration Project, and conditions of approval for the project. The table has the following columns:

Mitigation Measure/Summary: Lists the mitigation measures identified within the IS/MND for a specific impact, along with the number for each measure enumerated in the IS/MND.

Implementation Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be completed.

Monitoring Phase: Identifies at what point in time, review process, or phase the mitigation measures will be monitored.

Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party: References the Pit Resource Conservation District or any other public agency with which coordination is required to satisfy the identified mitigation measure.

Verification of Compliance: Spaces to be initialed and dated by the individual designated to verify adherence to a specific mitigation measure.

1.5 NONCOMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS

Any person or agency may file a complaint asserting noncompliance with the mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The complaint shall be directed to the Pit Resource Conservation District in written form, providing specific information on the asserted violation. The Pit Resource Conservation District shall conduct an investigation and determine the validity of the complaint. If noncompliance with a mitigation measure has occurred, the Pit Resource Conservation District shall take appropriate action to remedy any violation. The complainant shall receive written confirmation indicating the results of the investigation or the final action corresponding to the particular noncompliance issue.

TABLE 1-1: BUTTE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Measure		Implementation Phase	Monitoring Phase	Enforcing Agency / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance		
					Initials	Date	Remarks
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES							
MM-1	Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys for Greater Sandhill Crane and Swainson's Hawk. Prior to construction activities, a qualified wildlife biologist will conduct surveys for the greater Sandhill crane and Swainson's hawk if construction activities start prior to August 1 st . Surveys will document if the species is nesting within or adjacent to the project site. If the species is found nesting within or directly adjacent (within 150 yards) of the project site, construction activities should be conducted at a time when the adults are not nesting, or when they are no longer nesting and/or when the young have fledged.	Prior to Project implementation	Pre-construction	Pit Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Project Manager			
CULTURAL RESOURCES							
MM-2	State Compliance. Whenever human remains of Native American origin are discovered, close compliance with state requirements will be followed. This includes immediate cessation of work and notification of the appropriate authorities.	During construction	During construction	Pit Resource Conservation District, Lassen County Coroner, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager			
MM-3	Work stoppage. Immediately upon discovery of any cultural resources, work will be stopped in the immediate area. Work will only be started again upon notification of the appropriate authorities and approval for restart has been obtained.	During construction	During construction	Pit Resource Conservation District, Native American Heritage Commission, and Project Manager			

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sierra Valley Fire Safe and Watershed Council

Project Title: Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement

Subregion: North Central

County: Sierra

SNC Funding: \$348,850.00

Total Project Cost: \$362,970.00

Application Number: 666

Final Score: 83.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The Upper Long Valley Creek Watershed Project in northeast Sierra County will use permitted chemical and hand treatment methods to eradicate noxious weeds such as perennial pepperweed, knapweeds and thistle on up to 6,933-acres of public and private lands in upper watershed waterways and riparian areas.

This project will contribute to the economic viability of Sierra County public and private agricultural and ranching lands by maintaining and improving forage quality and preventing weed spread to agricultural lands downstream of infested (treatment) areas. The project supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's mission and program areas by improving the environmental condition of riparian and associated upland habitats and working lands, and enhancing the region's ability to sustain high-quality agricultural productivity. The project meets Proposition 84 requirements by protecting perennial and seasonal waterways in a region where water supply and reliability is often limited, and by protecting existing natural resources from further introduction and spread of noxious weeds and associated habitat degradation.

This project is supported by numerous in-kind assistance activities from landowners, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
SCFSWC/DFG instruct 1 st Education Workshop – (participation record, literature/presentations, landowner survey)	May 2013
Landowner/DFG Pest Control Advisor field meetings – (copies of treatment prescriptions for each parcel)	August 2013
First Weed Control Treatment by Contractor	December 2013
NRCS Develop Contracts with Landowners – (copies of contracts)	May 2013 – May 2016
SCFSWC/DFG instruct 2nd Education Workshop – (participation record, literature/presentations, landowner survey)	March 2014 – June 2014
Second Weed Control Treatment	May 2014 – December 2014
SCFSWC/DFG instruct 3 rd /final Education Workshop – – (participation record, literature/presentations, landowner survey)	March 2015 – June 2015
Third and Final Weed Control Treatment	May 2015 – March 2016
Project Completion	March 21, 2016
Final Report – deliverables: 1) final monitoring report/maps showing the acreage of the improved (treated) area in each year of the project, 2) summary and discussion of the landowner surveys used to document improvements in knowledge and behavior, 3) photo-documentation 4) summary of the quantitative monitoring assessing weed control efficacy.	September 1, 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	October 1, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$294,800.00
Indirect**	\$20,250.00
Administrative***	\$33,800.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$348,850.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Honey Lake Resource Conservation District
 - Nevada Land Trust
 - NRCS
 - UC Cooperative Extension
 - Department of Fish and Game
 - Sierra County Board of Supervisors

- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved and/or Restored.
- Number of People Reached.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project (SNC 666)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located adjacent to the California-Nevada border and U.S. Route 395, immediately west of Bordertown, Nevada. The project is approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Granite Hills and approximately 5.4 miles south of Hallelujah Junction in Sierra County, California.

Project Location – City: Bordertown, NV

Project Location – County: Sierra

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc. (SCFSWC) is requesting \$348,850 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for implementation of a noxious weed control program. The project would treat existing populations of noxious weeds within private and public ranching lands in the upper Long Valley Creek Watershed. The project would be implemented for three years within the upper Long Valley Creek riparian corridor, adjacent upland areas, and tributaries. The project area includes a portion of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area (HJWLA) and six private parcels for a total of approximately 6,933-acres and 6.5 linear miles of stream channel. Weed removal would occur through chemical and non-chemical control techniques which would be deployed using hand-held equipment and limited use of boom sprayers mounted on trucks. The project would also provide annual workshops focused on noxious weed prevention, treatment, and management in each year of the grant. The purpose of the project is to protect and restore vegetative resources, improve riparian and associated upland habitats, and contribute to an improved regional economy through better habitat quality that enables production of sustainable products. Further, the project would protect perennial and seasonal waterways, and would protect existing natural resources from the further introduction and spread of noxious weeds and associated habitat degradation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc.

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, “Minor Alterations to Land”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Upper Long Valley Creek Agricultural Lands Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project consists of minor land alterations (chemical and mechanical weed control) that are intended to improve the habitat quality and condition of agricultural lands

within the project area and to help to sustain the economic viability of the affected ranches by maintaining forage quality and the integrity of the grazing lands and associated riparian corridors, combined with the implementation of educational programs. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Pit Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project

Subregion: North

County: Modoc

SNC Funding: \$149,777.00

Total Project Cost: \$166,277.00

Application Number: 680

Final Score: 82.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement and Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project will improve wetland resources, water quality, and the operation of a third generation working ranch in the Upper Pit River Watershed in Modoc County. The project involves stabilizing up to 3,000 feet of stream banks while also creating crossing locations within the stream for wheels of a center pivot irrigation system.

The project is expected to increase sprinkler irrigation efficiency by approximately 20%, and is vital for the landowner to continue working the ranch. Work done to stabilize and restore stream banks will result in reduced erosion and will help to enhance in-stream habitat for many fish species. The project expects to improve stream habitat through increases in summer base flows, cooler water temperatures, and the retention of channel pools during the dry season. Surrounding riparian habitat will also be improved by increasing forage and cover. The project is unique because of its combination of habitat improvement and increased potential for efficient hay production.

The wheel stream-crossing locations serve two purposes: 1) allow a hardened and stable surface for wheels to roll; and 2) provide grade control within the stream to prevent further erosion. This project will implement an innovative approach to increasing irrigation and land-use efficiency while achieving environmental benefits to the watershed, and may be used as a model for designing future similar projects.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Post-Design/Pre-Construction Review Bid	July 30, 2013
Project Construction	July - October 30, 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 31, 2013
Monitoring Post-Project	July 2013 – March 30, 2014
Six Month Progress Report	April 30, 2014
Final Report	June 30, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	July 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$125,427.00
Indirect**	\$6,050.00
Administrative***	\$18,300.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$149,777.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Alan and Kathie Nelson

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Types of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement/Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project (SNC 680)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in Round Valley, approximately 2.25 miles north of Adin, in Modoc County, California.

Project Location – City: Adin
Project Location – County: Modoc

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Pit Resource Conservation District is requesting \$149,777 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to enhance the bank of Dutch Flat Creek and to provide wheel crossings for the pivot irrigation/sprinkler system on the Nelson Ranch; the project totals 3,000 linear feet of creek improvements and a total disturbance area of 3.5-acres. Project activities include resloping constriction points within the floodplain, transporting fill material to low areas, constructing cross vanes, placing gravel, and replanting salvaged vegetation. Construction methods include operating machinery (e.g., excavator, loader, and scraper) to create benches, move and place rocks, and remove dirt from higher elevation areas in order to minimize erosive flood forces in the floodplain. The cross vanes would be constructed to allow a pivot irrigation/sprinkler system to cross the creek on a stable surface, thus providing grade control within the entrenched stream. Special status species (e.g., nesting raptors) have the potential to occur on-site, thus construction activities would be timed to avoid impacts on any species. There are no known cultural resources on the property. The purpose of the project is to improve the form and function of Dutch Flat Creek and its floodplain, stop soil erosion, improve fish habitat, and minimize long-term maintenance and loss of agriculture infrastructure. The project would improve water quality, reduce potential sources of erosion, improve floodplain function by allowing flows to spread evenly within the channel to support establishing meadow conditions, and enhance riparian and habitat areas along the creek within the project site.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Pit Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Dutch Flat Creek Enhancement/Nelson Ranch Sustainability Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project involves minor alternations to private ranch and agricultural land and creek enhancement by resloping the streambank and providing cross vanes of gravel to allow safe crossing of the pivot

irrigation/sprinkler system for purposes of improving the form and function of Dutch Flat Creek and its floodplain, stopping soil erosion, improving fish habitat, and minimizing long-term maintenance and loss of agriculture infrastructure resulting from bank erosion. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: El Dorado County Department of Agriculture

Project Title: Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties

Subregion: Central and East

County: El Dorado, Alpine

SNC Funding: \$266,500.00

Total Project Cost: \$480,500.00

Application Number: 707

Final Score: 81.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will eradicate invasive weeds using permitted mechanical and chemical methods. The project encompasses seven treatment areas in El Dorado County and two in Alpine County. The work will treat up to 98 privately-owned lands in or near the communities of Georgetown, Camino, Indian Creek, Somerset, Cedar Ravine, Woodfords, and Markleeville and public Caltrans rights-of-way along Highways 50 and 88. The majority of lands to be treated are private agricultural lands used for grazing and feed production. Additionally, an existing comprehensive roadside survey and eradication program for both counties will be extended.

All treatment areas will be surveyed and mapped utilizing a geographical positioning system (GIS). Maps will be created showing the changes in the individual population sizes and densities. All data will be compared to historical records to determine success in the eradication efforts. The target weed species are all aggressive invaders that thrive in roadside and agricultural wetland and drainage areas. Protecting these watersheds will ultimately protect and preserve productive agricultural crop lands and grazing lands, helping to ensuring long-term economic viability.

By continuing eradication efforts on the infestations before they are allowed to expand into an uncontrollable size, the project is protecting unique native plant communities and wildlife, while simultaneously preventing further spread west into California along major transportation corridors. Public agency project partners (Carson Water District, U.S. Forest Service, El Dorado County Agriculture Department, etc) will treat their sites

utilizing their own funds, which will be counted towards \$214,000 of in-kind contributions for this project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Start of Work (surveys, photo points, landowner docs acquired)	July 2014
Treatment season 1	July 2014 - June 2015
Treatment season 2	July 2015 - June 2016
Treatment season 3	July 2016 - December 2015
Mapping Analysis and Reporting	April 2016
Mapping and Analysis Final Report	April 2017
Six Month Progress Reports	January 2015, July 2015, January 2016, July 2016, January 2017
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 1, 2017

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$242,272.73
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$24,227.27
GRAND TOTAL	\$266,500.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - El Dorado Weed Management Area
 - The Alpine/Upper Carson Weed Management Area,
 - Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada.

- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Diversity of People Reached.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties Project (SNC 707)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on seven sites in El Dorado County up to the edge of the Lake Tahoe Basin and two sites in Alpine County, surrounding Woodfords and Markleeville, in California.

Project Location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Alpine and El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The El Dorado County Department of Agriculture is requesting \$266,500 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to implement an integrated pest management approach to eradicate aggressive noxious weed populations and complete surveys/mapping of the noxious weed populations at nine sites in El Dorado and Alpine Counties. The noxious weeds out-compete native vegetation and eventually create a monoculture that negatively impacts agricultural and range lands. In addition, invasive weeds contribute to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Thus, the project would provide for the ongoing protection of agricultural and range lands within these Counties, and ultimately the South Fork of the American River Watershed in El Dorado County and the Upper Carson River Watershed in Alpine County, from the potential adverse effects of invasive noxious weeds. The project would involve seven targeted locations in El Dorado County and two in Alpine County, all on privately-held lands. The project would include implementing chemical and manual noxious weed treatments, as outlined in the integrated pest management approach, and mapping the noxious weed populations at the sites. Treatments will occur over three seasons, beginning Summer 2014, and include hand-pulling individual plants and applying herbicides.

No sensitive cultural resources are known to be present at the project sites. If ground-disturbing methods are identified as successful, staff will work with landowners and resource managers to confirm presence or absence of cultural resources prior to undertaking any ground-disturbing eradication work.

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation's PRESCRIBE will be used to identify any special-status species in the project areas. If weed eradication activities are to take place within habitats identified in PRESCRIBE, visual surveys will be conducted at infestation sites, and herbicide use will be limited or avoided in those areas and weed removal will be limited to hand-pulling only.

The purpose of the project is to eradicate invasive noxious weed populations for the protection of creeks and streams in the lower sections of the local watersheds. Protection of such watersheds would ultimately allow for preservation of native grasses (agricultural lands) and range lands in the project area, in support of their long-term economic viability.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado County Department of Agriculture

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land," and Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Noxious Weed Eradication in El Dorado and Alpine Counties Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes; and Section 15306, Class 6, which permits data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project consists of implementing chemical and manual noxious weed treatments, as outlined in the integrated pest management approach, and mapping the noxious weed populations at nine sites in El Dorado and Alpine Counties. The noxious weeds out-compete native vegetation and eventually create a monoculture that negatively impacts agricultural and range lands. The invasive weeds contribute to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Thus, weed eradication would maintain and/or improve hydrologic functions within the affected watersheds, protect the long-term viability of agricultural and range lands in the region, and preserve native grasses. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management
Eagle Lake Field Office

Project Title: Rush Creek Improvement Project

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$207,164.00

Total Project Cost: \$350,000.00

Application Number: 718

Final Score: 81.67

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will result in constructing up to 8 miles of fencing to protect Rush Creek and related riparian areas, and make improvements to seven natural springs to provide sustainable water sources across 500-acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for cattle, sheep, and wildlife.

The project will permanently fence off the degraded Rush Creek Tributary portion of the project area to vehicular traffic and temporarily fence it off to grazing. The Rush Creek Tributary area is currently being overused, in part, due to a lack of adequate water sources across the landscape. Cattle, sheep, wild horses and burros are conditioned to use familiar places that provide adequate resources. The Rush Creek Tributary area is a convenient, accessible and reliable water source and feeding place. In addition, the Nobles Trail traverses through the tributary for about four miles and parallels Smoke Creek Road, a main thoroughfare. Eliminating vehicles from the tributary will protect botanical and cultural resources, eliminate pollution associated with oil and gas emissions and reduce soil compaction. Temporarily eliminating grazing allows the vegetation to rest and to recover naturally.

Seven dispersed springs have been identified for improvement. All are located within a 10 mile radius of the Rush Creek tributary area and all are adjacent to established roadways. The project will install spring boxes, cradled aluminum troughs, inflow and outflow pipes and escape ladders; this allows small wildlife species to escape if they happen to fall into the trough. Spring box improvements provide quality water for livestock, wildlife, wild horses, burros, and allow grazing permittees to more adequately

distribute the grazing pattern across the landscape. In addition, it will conserve two important riparian areas. Fencing will protect the water sources, soils and vegetation and enhance the riparian meadows, improve water quality and provide a naturally sustainable ecosystem.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Weed Inventories/Treatments	June 2013, Annual thru 2015
Special Status Plant Survey	June 30, 2013
Fencing and Spring Improvements	June 2013 – October 2014, 2015
Six Month Progress Reports	December 31, 2013, June 30, 2014, December 3, 2014, June 30, 2015
Final Report	October 30, 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$188,331.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$18,833.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$207,164.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Nevada Department of Wildlife

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of land improved or restored.
- Linear feet of stream bank protected or restored.
- Number of significant sites protected or preserved.
- Feet of trail/path constructed or improved.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Rush Creek Improvement Project (SNC 718)

Project Location – Specific:

The project includes nine sites located in the Rush Creek Tributary area, near the California/Nevada Border, the center of the sites is located approximately 9 miles east of U.S. Route 395, approximately 24 miles east of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) Eagle Lake Field Office is requesting \$207,164 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to close a segment of Noble's Trail to vehicular traffic, develop/redevelop eight springs, and conserve two riparian areas, all within an approximate 10 mile radius of Rush Creek Tributary, totaling approximately 500-acres of improved and restored land. Project activities include spring re-development (replace/upgrade existing infrastructure) at Phone Trough, Coyote Spring, Rush Canyon Spring, Jenkins Spring, Sheep Rail Spring 1, Lower Line Spring, and Antelope Spring; Lone Willow Spring would be developed (install spring box and infrastructure). In general, construction work includes installing spring boxes, cradled aluminum troughs, inflow and outflow pipes, and escape ladders. Ground disturbing work entails a backhoe used to dig a trench from the collection box to the trough area. Riparian areas would be fenced at the spring sites as well. Additional fencing includes two miles of steel pipe fencing at Five Springs, four miles of four-wire design fencing at Rush Creek Tributary, and two miles of four-wire design fencing at Upper Line Spring. At the Rush Creek Tributary location, fencing would be installed with water gaps to allow livestock to access the two water sources and gates allowing pedestrian and equestrian traffic would be installed at the north and south ends of the Noble's Trail segment; vehicular traffic would be excluded. Surveys for cultural resources were conducted in September, October, and November of 2012 and cultural resources were identified located near project activities at two locations; however, sites would be flagged and avoided and an archaeological monitor would be present. The project would avoid any special status species and would ultimately benefit special status plant species (silverleaf milk vetch). The purpose of the project is to redistribute/redirect grazing livestock, reduce bare soil to less than 20 percent throughout the Rush Creek Tributary area, protect wagon track swales on Noble's Trail/Rush Creek Tributary, ultimately increase the Rush Creek population of silverleaf milk vetch, improve riparian wildlife habitat, and improve ecological processes and water quality at Five Springs and Upper Line Springs. The benefits of the project include improvement of ecological conditions and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality and watershed conditions, and protection of the Noble's Emigrant National Historic Trail.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15302, "Replacement or Reconstruction"; and, Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Rush Creek Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2, which allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; and Section 15303, Class 3, which permits construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The project involves closing a segment of Noble's Trail to vehicular traffic by installing fencing, developing/redeveloping eight springs, and conserving two riparian areas, all within an approximate ten-mile radius of Rush Creek Tributary. At sites with cultural resource sensitivity, resources would be avoided and an archaeological monitor would be present. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Tuolumne County Land Trust

Project Title: Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement – Appraisal and Planning

Subregion: South Central

County: Tuolumne

SNC Funding: \$19,650.00

Total Project Cost: \$26,150.00

Application Number: 753

Final Score: 81.17

PROJECT SCOPE

This grant will provide funding to complete all planning necessary to secure funding for purchase of a conservation easement (CE) on the Ratto Ranch, a 238-acre ranch located near the city limits of Sonora, California. The conservation easement being sought for this property will protect water quality within the headwaters of the Peppermint Creek Watershed, a tributary of the Tuolumne River.

The ranch has many additional values including its historic buildings, vernal pools, wetlands, rare animals and scenic landscapes which have been used for various classic film productions. The biological assessment completed for this property lists 186 plants, 47 animal and 27 different bird species, with several categorized as threatened and or special species of concern. The wetlands found in this watershed function as a buffer to upstream active residential development. Residential development pressure in the area is high and bordering ranches on the east side have recently been subdivided. The property is designated for 37-acre parcel sizes and is conducive to small ranch subdivision.

Work to be conducted includes:

- Historical and Environmental Site Assessments
- Conservation Easement Drafted
- Complete a Baseline Study and Monitoring Plan
- Complete Appraisal and Associated Reviews

Additional funding for this project is being provided by the local chapters of Audubon and the California Native Plant Society along with the Film Commission and Friends organization.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete Environmental Site Assessment	December 2013
Complete Historical Site Assessment	December 2013
Complete and Submit Six-month Progress Report	December 2013
Complete Baseline Study	June 2014
Complete Monitoring Plan	June 2014
Complete and Submit Six-month Progress Report	June 2014
Complete Conservation Easement Language	December 2014
Complete and Submit Six-month Progress Report	December 2014
Complete Appraisal	March 2015
Conduct and Complete Appraisal Review	June 2015
Complete and submit Final Report	June 2015
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2015

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$15,150.00
Indirect**	\$2,500.00
Administrative***	\$2,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$19,650.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Audubon California
 - California Native Plant Society
 - California Rangeland Trust
 - Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
 - Sierra Foothill Conservancy
 - Tuolumne County Agricultural Commissioner
 - Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors
 - Tuolumne County Film Commission
 - Tuolumne County Visitor's Bureau

- Tuolumne Heritage Commission
 - Trust for Public Land
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement - Appraisal and Planning Project (SNC 753)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located approximately two miles northwest of Sonora and approximately three miles southwest of Columbia, between public wild lands (New Melones/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Stanislaus National Forest), in Tuolumne County, California.

Project Location – City: Columbia, Sonora

Project Location – County: Tuolumne

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Tuolumne County Land Trust is requesting \$19,650 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete planning activities, including an appraisal and site assessment for future purchase of a conservation easement on the historic Ratto Ranch. The 238-acre Ratto Ranch is a working cattle ranch that supports wetlands, vernal pools, rare plants, and historic buildings; contributes to water quality within Peppermint Creek (a tributary of the Tuolumne River); provides scenic value along State Route 49; and has been historically used as a movie production site. The project would involve site assessments for environmental and cultural resources and documentation of the history of the ranch with regard to the film industry. Recommendations would be made for preservation of historic structures and rare plants, woodland management, and pasture and wetland improvements. The findings of the assessments would be made publicly available. An appraisal would be conducted to determine the value of the conservation easement, and a conservation easement would be drafted. A baseline study and monitoring plan would also be prepared to ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are met in the future. The purpose of this project is to conduct site assessments, land appraisal, and a baseline study/monitoring plan for the future purchase of a conservation easement to preserve the natural and historic resources on the Ratto Ranch in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tuolumne County Land Trust, Inc.

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, “Information Collection”
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement – Appraisal and Planning Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project would consist of site assessments and management recommendations, land appraisal, and a baseline study/monitoring plan for future purchase of a

conservation easement to provide long-term preservation of the natural resources on Ratto Ranch. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Project Title: Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal

Subregion: East

County: Inyo County

SNC Funding: \$88,249.00

Total Project Cost: \$88,249.00

Application Number: 700

Final Score: 80.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will augment current invasive plant management efforts within the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) area, a massive riverine restoration project that includes thousands of acres of grazing rangeland in the southern Owens Valley in Inyo County. The goals of the project include the management of 5,870-acres of known weed infested agricultural lands and the eradication of 15 of the 38 identified weed population sites.

The outcomes of this project supports Proposition 84 goals by enhancing the overall function of the watershed, improving environmental conditions such as wildlife habitat, flood control capacity, water quality, and native plant habitat. Additionally the project aligns with the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands grant program by enhancing the local agriculture production through higher quality and quantity of forage and crops, as well as, protecting the natural resources and processes that facilitate agricultural production. The applicant is also leveraging SNC funds by providing \$55,000 as in-kind funding for this project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Seasonal field staff hiring activities	April 2013
Training and orientation of staff	May 1-3, 2013
Field work and treatment activities	May 6-31, 2013
Field work and treatment activities	August 1-30, 2013
Season wrap-up and analysis	October 28-31, 2013

Annual report compilation	October 28-31, 2013
Progress Report	October 2013
Seasonal field staff hiring activities	April 2014
Progress Report	April 2014
Training and orientation of staff	May 1-2, 2014
Field work and treatment activities	May 5-30, 2014
Field work and treatment activities	August 1-29, 2014
Season wrap-up and data analysis	October 20-29, 2014
Final report compilation	October 30-31, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 15, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$88,249.00
Indirect**	\$ 0
Administrative***	\$ 0
GRAND TOTAL	\$88,249.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Eastern Sierra Land Trust
 - Sierra Club – Range of Light Chapter
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Acres of Weeds Managed.
- Reduction of known sites.
- Eradication of high-value sites.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project (SNC 700)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is generally bordered to the west by U.S. Route 395, located approximately 0.75 mile north of Lone Pine, in Inyo County, California.

Project Location – City: Lone Pine

Project Location – County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office is requesting \$88,249 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for eradication or reduction of weed populations at 38 sites within a 52,000-acre area directly upstream of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP). The project is part of ongoing invasive plant management activities on sites upstream of the LORP aimed at increasing watershed function. Project activities include eradicating invasive species at 15 of the 38 sites with a 70 percent overall reduction, by using herbicides (outside the buffer zone required by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Regional Water Quality Control Board), hand pulling techniques with appropriate disposal, and surveying 52,000 acres for any new invasive species populations. The purpose of the Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Restoration Project is to supplement ongoing invasive plant management activities in sites upstream of the LORP in order to increase the ability of the watershed to provide water for both agricultural activities and for municipal use in Los Angeles through improved watershed function.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land;" and Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes; and Section 15306, Class 6, which permits data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project consists of minor land alterations (weed eradication/reduction) and surveying activities that would in turn provide for improved rangeland and watershed functioning while reducing the threat of the spread of weeds onto croplands, and allow for the recordation of unknown "pioneer" weed populations to enable more effective management and control of

potential threats to surrounding agricultural lands. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____ *Revised 2005*

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Project Title: Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement

Subregion: North

County: Lassen

SNC Funding: \$35,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$35,000.00

Application Number: 722

Final Score: 80.75

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will enable Lassen Land and Trails Trust to complete pre-project work necessary to acquire a conservation easement to protect 578-acres of a working landscape near Susanville in Lassen County.

A conservation easement on this working ranch will improve water quality in the Honey Lake Valley through protection of this threatened segment of the riparian corridor of Gold Run Creek, a tributary to the Susan River. In addition to preserving ecological values, an easement will preserve the economic viability of this working ranch. Lassen Land and Trails Trust has identified the Pyle Ranch as critical for protection due to the continuing adjacent development threats to water resources and wildlife habitat.

The Pyle Ranch includes several acres of riparian corridor, and approximately 400-acres tilled for feed crops and 160-acres of irrigated meadow and pasture. The ranch sits in the Honey Lake Valley in Lassen County. State Highway 36, the primary transportation route into Susanville from the west, borders the northeastern edge of the property. Due to the proximity of this property to Susanville and its location on a major transportation corridor, the Pyle Ranch is under considerable development pressure. A significant number of adjacent properties have been sub-divided and have been subject to lot line adjustments for both commercial and residential development. An existing conservation plan was developed in 2010 with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to implement irrigation water management and resource management to improve water quality, water storage and wildlife habitat conditions. This plan will provide a base upon which a conservation easement can be drafted to ensure that these resources are protected in perpetuity. The Sierra Nevada Red Fox (*Vulpes*

vulpes necator), which is also currently under review for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act may be found on the ranch property. The ranch is also within the seasonal migration corridor for the Lassen mule deer herd, which is in decline. In addition, other species known to occupy habitats like those found on the Pyle Ranch include approximately 30 species of mammals, 15 species of reptiles, 5 species of amphibians, and 30 species of birds.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Develop Draft Conservation Easement/Negotiation	May 2013 - September 2013
RFP State-Certified Real Estate Appraiser	September 2013
Select Appraiser	October 2013
Complete Appraisal	November 2013
Purchase and Sale Agreement; Draft Monitoring Plan; Development of Funding Sources	November 2013 - February 2014
Six Month Progress Report	October 30, 2013
Final Report	March 30, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	June 30, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$32,400.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$2,600.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$35,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Honey Lake Valley RCD

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement Project (SNC 722)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Honey Lake Valley, south of Sierra Road and north of Richmond Road, adjacent to State Route 36 and along Gold Run Creek, approximately 1.3 miles south of Susanville, in Lassen County, California.

Project Location – City: Susanville

Project Location – County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Lassen Land and Trails Trust is requesting \$35,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to conduct preliminary research for establishing a conservation easement in the future that would preserve 582 acres of working ranch and agricultural lands on the B&V Pyle Ranch, and providing protection of a portion of the Gold Run Creek riparian corridor. The conservation easement would allow for preservation of the economic viability of the working B&V Pyle Ranch, which consists of 22 acres of riparian corridor, 160 acres of irrigated meadow and pasture, and 400 acres tilled for feed crops. The project would identify resource protection and restoration priorities for the B&V Pyle Ranch which is within the Honey Lake Watershed; update the existing Lassen County Richmond Gold Run Area Plan (May 1983), most of which was developed in the 1990s and early 2000s, to address such priorities for the protection of water resources, agricultural uses, and wildlife habitat; draft a conservation easement and monitoring plan to preserve the critical conservation values (e.g. water resources and working agricultural lands); complete an appraisal by a State-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser; execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement; and identify potential funding sources for acquisition of the conservation easement. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to allow for the future purchase of a conservation easement that would protect and sustain, in perpetuity, working agricultural lands, including a portion of a critical riparian corridor and associated wildlife habitat. The project would ultimately contribute to watershed improvement, wildlife habitat conservation, and long-term preservation of the agricultural heritage of the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen Land and Trails Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Pyle Ranch Conservation Easement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency

has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of the identification of resource protection and restoration strategies for the B&V Pyle Ranch which is within the Honey Lake Watershed; research and coordination with appropriate parties to complete the land appraisal; executing a Purchase and Sale Agreement; and identification of funding sources to allow for long-term protection of agricultural operations, water resources, and wildlife habitat on the working B&V Pyle Ranch. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Project Title: Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed

Subregion: South

County: Tulare

SNC Funding: \$ 347,061.00

Total Project Cost: \$1,496,544.00

Application Number: 731

Final Score: 80.50

PROJECT SCOPE

The purpose of the project is to acquire a conservation easement on part of a southern Sierra foothills ranch in the White River Watershed. Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the landowner regard this as “Phase 1” of placing the entire ranch under easement protection. The ranch contains valuable grassland, sycamore alluvial woodland, vernal pool and blue oak savannah habitats that are suitable for a number of special status species such as San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, vernal pool fairy shrimp, burrowing owl and a variety of other grassland-dependent species. This working ranch has been the home of, and directly managed by, the same family since 1874. The property is strategically positioned to achieve grassland, riparian and blue oak woodland conservation goals, and to contribute to large-scale habitat connectivity for climate change adaptation. It straddles the transition between valley grasslands and blue oak woodlands, and is bisected by riparian corridors that connect these two major communities to mixed conifer and chaparral habitats at higher elevations. It also encompasses rare alkali meadows and blue oak woodlands that are vulnerable to fragmentation by development. This property, as currently zoned could be split into 160- acre parcels, with the potential of 2 residences on each parcel. To the west of this land within less than a mile, conversion to low density residential is underway. Phase 1 will protect intermittent streams and associated springs in the Fountain Springs Gulch area in the northeast corner of the ranch. The project will result in establishment of a conservation easement on approximately 480-acres, with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy covering the purchase price and transaction costs on roughly 380-acres and the landowner donating the conservation easement on the remaining 100-acres. If the goal of eventual protection of the entire ranch is achieved, it will directly conserve

1.75 miles of the White River riparian corridor, as well as, many more miles of intermittent streams and numerous springs that feed into the White River Watershed. It would also conserve thousands of acres of blue oak woodland and grassland; vernal pools and associated special status species; a stretch of rare sycamore alluvial woodland; and habitat for as many as 18 special status species.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
SNC Grant Authorization	June 30, 2013
Identify title or loan subordination issues that need to be resolved, if any	July 2013
Execute purchase & sale agreement and open escrow	July 31, 2013
Satisfy conditions of purchase & sale agreement for SNC-funded conservation easement	October 31, 2013
6-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2013
Final Report to SNC	January 31, 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	January 31, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$342,219.00
Indirect**	0
Administrative***	\$4,842.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$347,061.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Southern Sierra Partnership
 - Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected.
- Number of Special Significance Sites.
- Acres of Land Conserved.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Acquisition of a Conservation Easement in the White River Watershed Project
(SNC 731)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is bisected by Old Stage Road, located immediately south of Fountain Springs, in Tulare County, California.

Project Location – City: Fountain Springs

Project Location – County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sequoia Riverlands Trust is requesting \$347,061 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to purchase a conservation easement over 375-acres of a working ranch in the White River Watershed, which is currently under Williamson Act contract. The conservation easement includes riparian, sub-irrigated meadow, and blue oak woodland areas at the east end of a planned six-mile wildlife/connectivity corridor, linking the blue oak woodlands and meadows to grasslands and the White River. The conservation easement would protect existing agricultural land uses (rangeland) and wildlife habitat, including sub-irrigated meadow and one mile of riparian corridor, in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);

Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15325, "Transfers of
Ownership of Interest in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical
Resources"

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Acquisition of a conservation easement in the White River Watershed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15325, Class 25, which permits the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. The project consists of purchasing a conservation easement to protect the rangeland, wildlife habitat, wildlife/connectivity corridor, sub-irrigated meadow, and one mile of riparian corridor, in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Northern California Regional Land Trust

Project Title: Pine Creek Linkage Project

Subregion: North Central

County: Tehama

SNC Funding: \$50,300.00

Total Project Cost: \$50,300.00

Application Number: 740

Final Score: 80.25

PROJECT SCOPE

The Pine Creek Linkage Project will facilitate the acquisition of conservation easements on four (4) large, working ranches totaling approximately 13,848-acres located within the Pine Creek Watershed in southeastern Tehama County on the border of northern Butte County. 12,768 of 13,848-acres (92%) of the land acquisition is contiguous and the project will permanently protect vital habitat connectivity through a mosaic of habitats already providing essential migration habitat and critical deer winter forage.

Northern California Regional Land Trust (NCRLT) will negotiate terms of the conservation easements with the landowners and develop the easement deeds. Deliverables generated from the Project will include a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) approved and adopted Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) and four (4) appraisals. With the CAPP and appraisals completed, NCRLT will formally seek funding from DFG and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to purchase conservation easements on the four (4) properties.

When completed, the 13,848-acres of protected ranches will sustain oak woodland, grassland, migration corridors, critical deer winter range, water quality, and habitats for many sensitive species that rely solely or in part on this landscape. In addition, by maintaining watershed health and promoting groundwater recharge, the project supports existing downstream uses such as recreation and irrigation.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Negotiate terms and draft four (4) deeds of conservation easement with landowners	May 1 – July 31, 2013
Commission appraisals on subject properties meeting SNC and WCB guidelines and specifications	August 2013
Review existing regional CAPPs, specifically the Lassen Foothills Ecological Reserve	May 1 – June 30, 2013
Work with DFG personnel to prepare Project CAPP using provided DFG template	July 1 – August 31, 2013
Complete Project CAPP and submit to DFG for review and approval	September 2013
Complete appraisals	November 2013
Submit deliverables (Project CAPP and completed appraisals) to SNC	December 2013
Report on all Performance Measures that are incorporated into the grant agreement in the Final Report, in accordance with the Detailed Performance Measures descriptions.	March 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	July 1, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$50,300.00
Indirect**	\$0
Administrative***	\$0
GRAND TOTAL	\$50,300.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - California Department of Fish and Game – Northern Region
 - California Department of Fish and Game – Northern Central Region
- Opposition
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments.
- Percent of pre-project and planning efforts resulting in project implementation.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Pine Creek Linkage Project (SNC 740)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located east of State Route 99, within the Pine Creek Watershed, approximately seven miles north of Chico, approximately 10 miles west of Paradise, and approximately 19 miles east of Corning, in Butte and Tehama Counties, California.

Project Location – City: Chico, Paradise, Corning

Project Location – County: Butte and Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Northern California Regional Land Trust is requesting \$50,300 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to prepare the Conceptual Area Protection Plan and appraisals of four working ranches totaling approximately 13,848 acres. The proposed project would complete the Conceptual Area Protection Plan and property appraisals necessary to gain funding for a conservation easement; funding for the easement is currently anticipated to be from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. Activities under this project include review of existing plans, coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, obtain approvals from CDFW for the Conceptual Area Protection Plan, negotiate draft Deeds of Conservation Easement with current landowners, and appraise the four working ranches. The purpose of this project is to prepare a site specific Conceptual Area Protection Plan and complete property appraisals in order to apply for state funding for a conservation easement over four working ranches, ultimately protecting vital linkage habitat and critical deer winter forage in perpetuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Northern California Regional Land Trust

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Pine Creek Linkage Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of preparing a Conceptual Area Protection Plan, receiving CDFW approval on the Conceptual Area Protection Plan per the requirements of state funding (currently anticipated to be from the California Wildlife Conservation Board), and appraising the four working ranches in order to apply for state funding for a conservation easement, thus protecting vital linkage habitat in perpetuity. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council

Project Title: Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural lands Improvement Project

Subregion: South

County: Kern

SNC Funding: \$274,420.00

Total Project Cost: \$274,420.00

Application Number: 689

Final Score: 79.50

PROJECT SCOPE

Public and private landowners in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Watersheds agree that the single greatest threat to the viability of their ranching and agricultural lands is the uncontrolled spread of noxious weed species. The Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project proposes to implement a strategic noxious weed control program within this complex of public and private land, thereby slowing and perhaps even stopping, the spread of noxious weeds, and improving overall watershed health, habitat quality, and the condition of agricultural lands within the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Watersheds. The proposed project will also decrease the likelihood of the spread of noxious weeds to un-infested areas including private and public agricultural and ranching lands located adjacent to and downstream of the project area, and contribute to the economic viability of Sierra grazing and farm lands by maintaining and improving both hay and forage quality.

By prescribing site-specific treatments, the project treats noxious weeds stands within private ranching lands and on public lands and private preserves utilized by ranchers in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River and in the Walker Basin Creek Watersheds. Target species include, but are not limited to, 7 noxious weeds, specifically, *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Arundo donax* (Giant Cane), *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian Olive), *Lepidium latifolium* (Perennial Pepperweed), *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife), *Centaurea solstitialis* (Yellow Starthistle), and *Tamarix ramosissima* (Salt Cedar), on a complex of 11 public and private lands. Mechanical treatment methods employed include the following: Cutting and/or girdling

of target trees with application of herbicide to the cut areas; mowing, disking, and grazing. The project's Pest Control Advisor will meet with individual landowners, observe their specific areas of infestations, develop treatment prescriptions and agree upon the treatment method(s).

In addition to the chemical and mechanical weed control measures specified above, the project partners will develop noxious plant identification print materials and fact sheets for distribution to participants and community stakeholders. A monitoring report will summarize the acres of land improved, the species of weeds treated and maps identifying treatment areas.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
SNC Grant Authorization	June 30, 2013
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with the Audubon Kern River Preserve Manager, Land Steward and Department of Fish & Game(DFG) Pest Control Advisor will develop education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record, copies of literature/presentations provided to participants, and copy of landowner participation agreements.	September 30, 2013
Landowner /licensed weed control contractor with technical assistance of DFG Pest Control Advisor will conduct fields meetings - deliverables include copies of treatment prescriptions for each parcel.	December 31, 2013
SNC 6 Month Report	December 31, 2013
First Weed Control Treatment by weed control contractor and employees conducting back pack spraying.	March 31, 2014
SNC 12 month progress report	June, 2014
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Advisor will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies	September 2014
Second Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.	December 31, 2014
18-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2014
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies	March 31, 2015
Third Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more	June 30, 2015

than one spray episode as needed.	
24-Month Progress Report	June 30, 2015
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations provided to participants and to stakeholders and agencies	September 30, 2015
30-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2015
Fourth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.	June 30, 2016
36-Month Progress Report	June 30, 2016
DMRC&D WSC in coordination with AKRP Manager, Land Steward and DFG Pest Control Adviso will review and update education print materials including land owner participation agreements – deliverables includes participation record and copies of literature/presentations	September 30, 2016
42-Month Progress Report	December 31, 2016
Fifth Weed Control Treatment, treatment may involve more than one spray episode as needed.	June 30, 2017
48-Month Progress Report	June 30, 2017
Final Report to SNC	December 1, 2017
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	December 31, 2017

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$189,456.00
Indirect**	\$0.00
Administrative***	\$28,418.40
GRAND TOTAL	\$274,420.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Eastern Kern RCD
 - Kern River Valley Revitalization
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- The Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project
(SNC 689)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is divided into three parts located in the Kern River Valley, South Fork and North Fork of Kern River, and the Walker Basin Watersheds. The first part begins where the South Fork Kern River enters Kern Valley from the Sierra and extending along eight miles of riparian area to the Take Line of Lake Isabella, along State Route 179, near Onyx and Weldon. The second part of the project is along the North Fork Kern River riparian area north of the Take Line of Lake Isabella, along Kelso Valley Road, near Kernville. The third part of the project is located along Indian Creek and Walker Basin Creek in the Walker Basin, approximately 15 miles south of the Town of Lake Isabella, along Berlando Road and Walker Basin Road. The entire project is located in Kern County, California.

Project Location – City: Onyx, Weldon, Kernville, Lake Isabella

Project Location – County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council is requesting \$274,420 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to treat noxious weeds using mechanical and chemical methods on a total of 5,218-acres and five miles of streams located in three distinct areas in north-central Kern County. Areas include a portion of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW, formerly Department of Fish and Game) Canebrake Ecological Reserve and Audubon Kern River Preserve and nine private parcels. Four herbicide options, depending on the site, would be applied by hand or backpack equipment. Work would not occur during the special-status bird nesting season (southwestern willow fly-catcher and yellow billed cuckoo) and the herbicide application method would target only the intended noxious weeds, and is designed not to drift or overspray to non-target vegetation. Mechanical methods for removing invasive species include cutting and/or girdling of target trees with application of herbicide to the cut areas. No ground disturbing activities would occur. The purpose of the project is to reduce the existing noxious weed populations to below a level of ecological significance and enhance landowner knowledge and behavior toward noxious weed prevention. The project would protect and restore vegetative resources, improve riparian and associated upland habitats, improve the habitat quality of the working ranches, and protect existing natural resources from further introduction and spread of noxious weeds.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15304, "Minor Alterations to Land"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Kern River Valley and Walker Basin Agricultural Lands Improvement Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which permits minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project involves chemical and non-chemical weed treatments to private and public lands and riparian areas to reduce existing noxious weed populations which would allow for the natural restoration of native vegetation. No ground disturbing activities would occur. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer

Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: El Dorado National Forest

Project Title: Cody Meadow Restoration Project

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$72,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$72,000.00

Application Number: 693

Final Score: 78.00

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of this project is to conduct planning and design activities and complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation that is needed to undertake a meadow restoration project to improve hydrologic function, water quality, and habitat within Cody Meadow to ensure the long-term viability of an historic and active grazing allotment.

Cody Meadow is located on the Placerville Ranger District of the El Dorado National Forest, entirely on Forest Service Lands under federal jurisdiction. The meadow consists of 123-acres of mapped meadows contained in a long narrow valley situated within the headwaters of the South Fork American River Watershed. The Cody Meadow Unit allotment is grazed annually by 350 head of cattle. Cody Meadow has been adversely impacted by soil erosion from past grazing activities, as well as by roads and OHV trails, thus limiting the natural filtering capacity of the meadow system. An Allotment Management Plan was created in 2007 to manage grazing activities, but the meadow is still in need of restoration.

The Cody Meadow Restoration Project will also support long-term ecological value and economic viability of the Cody Meadow Allotment as well as improve the water quality health of the South Fork American River Watershed. U.S. Forest Service and Trout Unlimited personnel will be contributing in-kind support to this project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Work begins (survey work begins when snow allows)	April 2013
Survey/inventory, proposed action/purpose & need (concurrent), project initiation letter	July 2013
Public involvement plan and scoping	August 2013
Issues & alternatives, specialist reports written (final, except where consultation is required)	September 2013
Six Month Progress Report	October 2013
Consultation completed, all specialist reports finalized	December 2013
NEPA document written	January 2014
Engineering survey and design	February 2014
Comment period	March 2014
Decision document written, project completed	April 2014
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	May 1, 2014

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$56,171
Indirect**	\$5,029
Administrative***	\$10,800.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$72,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - NRCS
 - Trout Unlimited
 - USDA Forest Service

- Oppose
 - N/A

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Percent of Pre-Project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Cody Meadow Restoration Project (SNC 693)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located in the Placerville Ranger District of the El Dorado National Forest, entirely on Forest Service Lands, 32 miles east of Placerville, approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Twin Bridges, and approximately 8 miles southeast of Kyburz, in El Dorado County, California, Township 10 North, Range 17 East, Section 6, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Location – City: Twin Bridges

Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The El Dorado National Forest is requesting \$72,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program for planning, design and environmental review of improvements for future meadow restoration activities within the 123-acre Cody Meadow. The meadow has been identified as a priority restoration project by the NFS, and would be designed to be consistent with the El Dorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Act. The project would involve data collection in the form of site surveys and assessments for existing environmental conditions/resources and identification of potential actions required to achieve the desired meadow improvements. Engineering survey and design work would also be completed for restoration improvements to be implemented in the future. Following the planning and initial environmental review and a National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) document would be prepared and approved for the project. The purpose of this project is to complete design work and NEPA documentation needed to undertake restoration activities in order to improve hydrologic function, water quality, and habitat within Cody Meadow. The project will also enhance the long-term ecological value of Cody Meadow and the health of the Headwaters South Fork American River Watershed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado National Forest

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Cody Meadow Restoration Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource evaluation, identification of appropriate design and improvement measures, and preparation of a NEPA document to allow for future meadow restoration in support of

improving hydrologic function, water quality, and habitat within Cody Meadow. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: California Land Stewardship Institute

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Amador County

Subregion: South Central

County: Amador

SNC Funding: \$ 75,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$134,000.00

Application Number: 735

Final Score: 77.95

PROJECT SCOPE

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over Amador County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas.

The Fish Friendly Farming/Fish Friendly Ranching (FFF/FFR) program operated by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will work directly with landowners to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) will be prescribed and if needed projects will be designed using the FFF/FFR templates and working with the owner. This project will complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000 acres up to a maximum of 5000 acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments.

Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor.

CLSI will enroll up to 70 agricultural and ranching properties in the FFF/ FFR program and will complete land owner agreements /enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued. CLSI is also providing in-kind services which further leverages SNC's award.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete First Year Site Enrollment	June 2013
Conduct First Year BMP Training	June 2013
Conduct First Year Site Assessments	August 2013
Issue Certifications	September 2013
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2013
Complete Second Year Site Enrollment	January 2014
Conduct Second Year BMP Training	January 2014
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	June 2014
Conduct Second Year Site Assessments	August 2014
Issue Certifications	September 2014
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2014
Complete Third Year Site Enrollment	January 2015
Conduct Third Year BMP Training	January 2015
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	June 2015
Conduct Third Year Site Assessments	August 2015
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2015
Issue Certifications	February 2016
Finalize Data Collection and Pesticide Use Revision	March 2016
Complete Project Designs	March 2016
Completed and submit Final Report	March 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 30, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$63,000.00
Indirect**	\$4,500.00
Administrative***	\$7,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$75,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - Amador Resource Conservation District
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Amador County Project (SNC 735)

Project Location – Specific:

The project is located on agricultural and rangeland areas generally between State Route 49 and the edge of mapped farmland within Amador County, California.

Project Location – City: Plymouth, Amador City, Sutter Creek, Jackson, and Pine Grove

Project Location – County: Amador

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis and site assessment on a minimum of 3,000-acres and a maximum of 5,000-acres of agricultural and rangeland areas generally from SR 49 east to the edge of the mapped farmland within Amador County, which have a general ratio of 15 linear feet of creek/river corridor per acre of agricultural and range lands in order to provide appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the area. The project would conduct a pollution prevention analysis on a minimum of 3,000-acres and a maximum of 5,000-acres and provide a BMP list with a timeline and project design. The site assessments would cover soil erosion, water use, chemical use, stream networks, agricultural areas, grazing areas, and non-agricultural areas. The CLSI would also provide the tools necessary for farming/ranching to implement BMPs for sustainable farming/ranching practices. The CLSI and the Amador County Resource Conservation District (RCD) will also provide assistance in implementing the BMPs and will complete annual photo monitoring. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation and identification of appropriate site-specific BMPs that are fish friendly. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare site-specific BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Land Stewardship Institute

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Amador County Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource evaluation and identification of appropriate site-specific BMPs that are fish friendly. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: El Dorado County Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farm Phase 2

Subregion: Central

County: El Dorado

SNC Funding: \$ 75,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$154,000.00

Application Number: 734

Final Score: 77.95

PROJECT SCOPE

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over El Dorado County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas.

The Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) program operated by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will work directly with landowners through the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) will be prescribed and if needed projects will be designed using the FFF templates and working with the owner. This project will complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000 acres up to a maximum of 5000 acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments.

Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor.

CLSI will enroll up to 111 agricultural and ranching properties in the FFF program and will complete land owner agreements/enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued.

Additional funding for this project has been provided by National Resources Conservation Services and in-kind services are being provided by CLSI.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete First Year Site Enrollment	June 2013
Conduct First Year BMP Training	June 2013
Conduct First Year Site Assessments	August 2013
Issue Certifications	September 2013
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2013
Complete Second Year Site Enrollment	January 2014
Conduct Second Year BMP Training	January 2014
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	June 2014
Conduct Second Year Site Assessments	August 2014
Issue Certifications	September 2014
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2014
Complete Third Year Site Enrollment	January 2015
Conduct Third Year BMP Training	January 2015
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	June 2015
Conduct Third Year Site Assessments	August 2015
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2015
Issue Certifications	February 2016
Finalize Data Collection and Pesticide Use Revision	March 2016
Complete Project Designs	March 2016
Completed and submit Final Report	March 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 30, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$66,500.00
Indirect**	\$1,000.00
Administrative***	\$7,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$75,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPPOSITION

- Support
 - None
- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming – Phase II Project (SNC 734)

Project Location – Specific:

The project includes an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of various farm and ranch lands in the central Sierra within El Dorado County, California.

Project Location – City: Pollock Pines, Kyburz, Coloma, Placerville, Emerald Bay

Project Location – County: El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis and a site assessment on 15 linear feet of creek/river corridor per acre of farm in order to provide appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the area. The assessment would cover an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of agricultural and rangelands (including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments and revegetation designs for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor) throughout El Dorado County. The project includes conducting an assessment of soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats, and agricultural land management practices. BMPs would be prescribed to reduce pollutants in runoff and create additional habitat on farms and rangeland and are focused on reducing erosion and bacterial pollution in waterways, creek restoration, and sustainable livestock operations. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs that are fish friendly. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare site-specific BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: El Dorado County Resource Conservation District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Fish Friendly Farming – Phase II Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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

Applicant: California Land Stewardship Institute

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching – Placer County

Subregion: Central

County: Placer

SNC Funding: \$ 75,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$134,000.00

Application Number: 737

Final Score: 77.95

PROJECT SCOPE

Nonpoint source pollutants consisting of sediment, pesticides, fertilizers, and bacterial pathogens are derived from farms and ranches distributed over Placer County. These private lands contain significant fish and wildlife habitats and stream areas.

The Fish Friendly Farming/Fish Friendly Ranching (FFF/FFR) program operated by the nonprofit California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) will work directly with landowners to complete a comprehensive assessment of all soil erosion sources, chemical use, stream network, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats and agricultural land management practices.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) will be prescribed and if needed projects will be designed using the FFF/FFR templates and working with the owner. This project will complete these assessments on a minimum of 3000-acres up to a maximum of 5000-acres including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments.

Revegetation designs will be completed for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor.

CLSI will enroll up to 45 agricultural and ranching properties in the FFF/ FFR program and will complete land owner agreements /enrollment forms before the SNC contract is issued. CLSI is also providing in-kind services which further leverages SNC's award.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Complete First Year Site Enrollment	June 2013
Conduct First Year BMP Training	June 2013
Conduct First Year Site Assessments	August 2013
Issue Certifications	September 2013
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2013
Complete Second Year Site Enrollment	January 2014
Conduct Second Year BMP Training	January 2014
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	June 2014
Conduct Second Year Site Assessments	August 2014
Issue Certifications	September 2014
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2014
Complete Third Year Site Enrollment	January 2015
Conduct Third Year BMP Training	January 2015
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	June 2015
Conduct Third Year Site Assessments	August 2015
Completed and submit 6-month Progress Report	December 2015
Issue Certifications	February 2016
Finalize Data Collection and Pesticide Use Revision	March 2016
Complete Project Designs	March 2016
Completed and submit Final Report	March 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	March 30, 2016

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	\$63,000.00
Indirect**	\$4,500.00
Administrative***	\$7,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$75,000.00

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
 - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Pine Hill Orchard
 - Placer County Resource Conservation District

- Oppose
 - None

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Number of People Reached.
- Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada.
- Number and Type of Jobs Created.
- Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities.
- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments.
- Percent of Pre-Project Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation.
- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior.

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching Program - Placer County Project (SNC 737)

Project Location – Specific:

The project includes an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of privately-held agricultural and range lands in the central Sierra within Placer County, California.

Project Location – City: Tahoe City, Kings Beach, Foresthill, Colfax, Applegate

Project Location – County: Placer

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) is requesting \$75,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program to complete the environmental analysis and site assessment on 15 linear feet of creek/river corridor per acre of farm in order to provide appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the area. The assessments would cover an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 acres of land (including 45,000 to 75,000 linear feet of creek assessments and revegetation designs for up to 20,000 linear feet of creek corridor). The site assessments would examine soil erosion, chemical use, stream networks, water use, grazing operations, fish and wildlife habitats, and agricultural land management practices. Activities under this project include data collection, resource evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs. The purpose of this project is to gather the information necessary to prepare site-specific BMPs for farming/ranching practices that are fish friendly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Land Stewardship Institute

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306,
"Information Collection"
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Fish Friendly Farming and Fish Friendly Ranching Program - Placer County Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, Class 6, which permits basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The project consists of data collection, resource

evaluation, and identification of appropriate BMPs that are fish friendly. No significant adverse impacts to natural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005

Background

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Staff has been working to increase awareness among decision-makers (legislators, legislative staff, sister agencies and other partners with statewide influence) about the importance of the Sierra Nevada to the State's long-term health and well-being. Our intent is to gain support for the watershed, forest health and community sustainability work being conducted by the SNC and our partners throughout the Region, which is especially important in light of the imminent conclusion of the local assistance SNC Proposition 84 grant program.

Current outreach efforts build on immediate opportunities presented by the convergence of a number of statewide funding and policy initiatives, including, but not limited to:

- 2014 water bond and/or other water bonds being introduced;
- AB 32 (Nunes, Chapter 488 Stats. 2006) and greenhouse gas (GHG) cap-and-trade auction revenue discussions;
- SB 1122 (Rubio, Chapter 612 Stats. 2012), requiring purchase of power from forest sector biomass facilities;
- U.S. Forest Service Leadership Intent to increase the pace and scale of forest management treatments;
- California Bioenergy Action Plan and the role identified for the SNC;
- Delta water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration called for in the Delta Plan;
- Department of Water Resources (DWR) Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) strategic planning; and,
- California Water Plan Update, 2013.

Initial goals for our outreach efforts include the following:

- Water Bond – retention of at least existing levels of Sierra and SNC funding in the 2014 water bond or other statewide funding vehicle;
- Cap & Trade – application of revenues generated by greenhouse gas cap-and-trade auction program to forest sector projects in the Sierra;
- DWR IRWMP Program – provision of financial and technical support to IRWMP groups in the Sierra to assist in project identification, planning and implementation and work with DWR to ensure that upper watershed projects in the Sierra Nevada are considered appropriately in the process;
- Water Quality/Public Health – improvement of water quality and public health by addressing legacy issues of mercury in Sierra watersheds;
- Delta – dedication of funding for upper watershed water quality/supply/reliability work from the various Delta efforts in recognition of the importance of the Sierra as a major water source for the Delta.

Current Status

Staff is developing outreach and communications materials to advance understanding of the Sierra-Delta connection – identifying the Sierra as the primary source of California's water; explaining forest and Bioenergy benefits; strengthening the link between healthy forests and communities; and beginning discussions about the need to remediate legacy mining impacts. Staff identified legislators, state agencies and

departments, local elected officials, and a variety of allies as key audiences to work with or help us communicate the following messages:

- The Sierra Nevada Region plays a critical role in California's water supply and hydrological system. Over 60 percent of California's water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada.
- The Sierra Nevada provides 40 to 50 percent of total water flowing into the Delta.
- Restoring Sierra forests to ecological health decreases California's risk for catastrophic wildfires that can result in serious statewide consequences, including impacts to water reliability, utility infrastructure and habitat, as well as greenhouse gas emissions and loss of stored carbon.
- Production of energy from biomass removed from the forest as part of restoration activities provides an opportunity to assist in meeting California's renewable energy goals and to create economic activity in communities throughout the Region.
- Efforts to remove and stabilize mercury and other contaminants that are a result of historic mining in the Sierra will directly benefit the Delta and other downstream beneficiaries.

By the time of the March 7 Board meeting, we expect to have met with up to 30 legislators (freshmen and veteran legislators from key committees), the California Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Water Resources, CALFIRE, the Department of Conservation and a number of non-governmental allies and partners with the goal of deepening their understanding of the Sierra's importance to the state, building or strengthening relationships, and exploring the best pathways to achieving the goals identified above.

Next Steps

Next steps will include continued meetings with primary audiences and continued engagement with sister agencies and allies who can speak to the importance of the Region in their own outreach efforts. We will conduct tours with legislative staff to showcase actual projects and talk about their impact on forest and watershed health and local community development. We will continue to participate in working groups, such as the Forest Sector Cap-and-Trade working group and the Bioenergy working group, and to staff interagency efforts, such as updating the California Water Plan and sitting on the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Strategic Plan Focus Group, as a means of raising awareness about the Sierra's role in these critical issues. We will also continue to develop materials, such as the SNC Annual Report, a Fire Season Report, and a Proposition 84 Investment Report, and other outreach vehicles with the goal of clearly communicating the value and importance of the Sierra to the rest of the State and with the aim of championing and obtaining support for further watershed, forest health and community sustainability work within our Region.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to take appropriate actions to achieve the desired goals and outcomes described above and report back to the Board on an ongoing basis.

Background

Since 2007, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has conducted a number of grant rounds. For the first 3 rounds, the process provided that any project that met the requirements of Proposition 84 and the SNC statutory authority, submitted by an eligible entity, was eligible. These rounds also allocated a minimum amount to be awarded for each Subregion. The last two rounds have focused on Healthy Forests and Preserving Ranches and Agricultural Lands, and further did not allow fee title acquisition projects. SNC staff has worked with potential applicants up to the time of submittal and has used a formal evaluation and scoring process to rank projects.

It is anticipated after today's Board meeting, that approximately \$2.3 million will be available for awards to support new projects. This amount will likely grow by a small amount due to the probability of additional returns of unused grant funds in the future. All of the funds currently available to the SNC for award would need to be encumbered by June 30, 2015 and invoiced by June 30, 2017 to be compliant with current fiscal appropriations.

Current Status

At its December 2012 meeting, the Governing Board directed staff to prepare a recommendation for the expenditure of the remaining Proposition 84 funds allocated to the SNC. The direction supported staff's recommendation to award the remaining funds to projects focused on a SNC initiative such as Forest Health. In addition, the Board also requested that consideration be given to support the efforts of remediating the effects of abandoned mine lands in the SNC Region. The Board concurred with the staff recommendation that the formal competitive evaluation process, which is time consuming for both applicants and the SNC, was not appropriate given the amount of funding available.

Next Steps

Staff recommends that the following criteria and processes be applied to this final grant cycle:

Proposed Grant Funding Criteria

Beginning in July 2013, the SNC Proposition 84 grant program will be available for projects that meet the following criteria:

- Projects that meet the requirements of Proposition 84, (projects that protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources);
- Projects that result in 1) on-the-ground outcomes, or 2) necessary activities that will lead to on-the-ground implementation that have identified implementation funding (for example, completing environmental documentation for projects);
- Projects that improve the health of the forest, including reducing the risk of large damaging fires and improving forest stand and habitat conditions, **and/or** result in the utilization of forest biomass removed as a part of restoration activities.

- Projects that contribute to improved water quality and reliability through the removal or prevention of toxins in waters and waterways that are a result of historic mining operations

Other factors that will be considered in selecting projects to be funded under this program include the following:

- Projects that leverage resources of other agencies and funding sources, to maximize benefits and outcomes;
- Projects that build on existing partnerships where SNC has a history of involvement, including grant awards and other activities; and,
- The geographic distribution of projects (taking into account distribution from previous SNC grants).

Based on the limited funding that is available, the following project types will not be eligible for funding under this program:

- Fee title acquisitions or activities leading to fee title acquisition.
- Conservation easements or activities leading to conservation easement.

Grants of up to \$350,000 for Category 1 (on-the-ground projects) and up to \$75,000 for Category 2 (necessary activities that will lead to on-the-ground projects) will be made by the SNC to eligible federal, state, and local governments, 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Tribes, for projects meeting the criteria described above. Projects that result in direct on-the-ground outcomes will be given preference.

Guidelines Development

Based on Board input and direction at this meeting, SNC staff will develop a set of Draft Grant Guidelines and make them available for public review and comment. Staff will consult with the Board committee comprised of Supervisor Tom Wheeler and Bob Kirkwood on any comments received from the public, with a goal of presenting final recommended Guidelines to the SNC Board at the June, 2013 meeting. This schedule allows the 2013-14 program to begin in July. The final adopted set of Grant Guidelines will be posted on the SNC Web site and will remain active as long as there are funds available for making grants.

Grant Development and Selection Process

Project development and evaluation will be conducted somewhat differently than in past grant rounds. Staff anticipates working directly and more closely with potential grantees, once a determination is made that a project is eligible and will result in significant benefits. Steps to be followed in this grant cycle include:

- Notification of available funding and Grant Guidelines will be made available via the SNC Web site. Staff will directly notify potential grantees with whom the

SNC has been actively involved and who are engaged in activities aligned with the criteria established for this grant cycle.

- Potential grantees may submit a completed pre-application checklist to their respective SNC Area Representative to initiate discussion and analysis of a potential future grant.
- The pre-application checklist will be reviewed by the SNC Management team and technical experts to confirm project eligibility and to evaluate benefits, project design and readiness. If the proposed project demonstrates a high probability of success and strongly supports the focus areas described in the guidelines, the applicant may be invited to work with SNC staff to develop a full application.
- When an application is complete, it will be reviewed again by SNC Management, in consultation with appropriate technical experts, as needed.
- The recommendation(s) will be placed on the Board meeting agenda as an action item at the direction of the Executive Officer after all application requirements are completed (land tenure, permits, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), public agency consultation and cooperation requirements, etc.).
- The Board will act on the staff recommendation for awarding funding.

Schedule

The expenditure of SNC Proposition 84 funds under these guidelines will continue on a rolling basis until all remaining funds have been exhausted. Grant recommendations will be presented to the Board on an on-going basis subject to project readiness and completion of pre-project requirements at the regular meetings quarterly meetings of the Board.

Executive Officer Authorization

In July 2007, the Board delegated authority to the Executive Officer of the SNC to award grants and enter into grant agreements for purposes other than the acquisition or improvement of land, consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation and the grant and program guidelines adopted by the Conservancy Board; provided that, the total amount granted under any such grant or grants to any grantee, for a specific purpose or project, shall not exceed \$50,000; and provided further, that the Conservancy Board shall be notified of each such grant by the next Conservancy Board meeting. Staff is recommending that this authority be available for projects that have a legitimate time sensitive nature (where waiting for Board approval would render the project infeasible). Staff also recommends that this authority be exercised for no more than three projects between Board meetings.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed criteria and processes for awarding the final Proposition 84 funds and direct staff to prepare appropriate Grant Guidelines, providing for public comment and bring the Grant Guidelines forward for Board action at the June 2013 Board meeting.

Background

At the December 2012 Governing Board meeting, a schedule was proposed for meeting dates for 2013. Staff was asked to consider an alternative meeting date for September, in order to ensure that either the Chair or Vice Chair will be in attendance.

Current Status

Moving the Board meeting date back one additional week to September 11-12 would accommodate the schedule of Vice Chair Wheeler. Boardmembers have been informed of the potential schedule change.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board modify the remaining 2013 schedule as follows:

**June 5 & 6 (North)
September 11 & 12 (South)
December 4 & 5 (North Central)**

Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) launched the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) over two years ago. This Initiative fosters local and Regional collaboration to support a cohesive, economically viable, and sustainable approach to reducing fire risk, creating jobs, and protecting our valuable forest and watershed resources. SNC Staff work closely with the diverse participants of regional, statewide, and local collaborative, including local governments, environmentalists, community, and economic development representatives, industry, and Tribal entities to help achieve these goals.

The SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council focuses on regional and statewide issues that can influence the achievement of the objectives of the Initiative. The Coordinating Council also serves as a forum for issues arising in local forest collaborative efforts to be discussed and addressed. Members include representatives from the wood products industry, local government, environmental and conservation organizations, community groups, and water interests. The primary federal land managers, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) participate in an advisory role.

Current Status

In August, the State of California released the 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan, which outlines strategies, goals, objectives, and actions that state agencies will take to increase bioenergy development in California. This plan assigns SNC responsibility over several actions related to the expansion of forest bioenergy. The very involved scope of this project, along with the keen interest throughout the Sierra of exploring bioenergy opportunities, necessitated shifting Kim Carr from her general SNFCI coordination focus to more specific oversight of the Bioenergy Action Plan. Mandy Vance has assumed the role of overall SNFCI coordination, and is currently working to improve SNC's internal and external SNFCI communications; update the SNC Web site in order to better engage SNFCI stakeholders; and compile current information on all of SNC's current and potential SNFCI projects in order to promote stronger messaging and strategic planning for the initiative.

The SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council continues to meet quarterly. The primary focus of recent meetings has been identifying major barriers to forest treatment project implementation and addressing these as a group. In their most recent meeting, the Coordinating Council discussed ways to support adaptive management across the range of issues considered by the Coordinating Council, and also reviewed the socioeconomic indicators section of the Leadership Intent Implementation Plan, which was developed in partnership with the USFS and a subcommittee of the Coordinating Council. They discussed how these indicators will be used in the forest plan updates moving forward, as well as possible applications for making them a practical tool that can be used on the ground throughout the Sierra. The Coordinating Council also devoted significant time to identifying additional ideas, tools and Coordinating Council actions that could increase pace and scale while keeping benefit in local communities, as well as opportunities to redirect resources more effectively to increase pace and scale.

SNC Staff is also playing an active role in an effort to aggregate key pieces of information in terms of biology and policy to create a conservation strategy for Pacific Fishers in the

southern Sierra Nevada. This is a southern Sierra species that is proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. While strong foundational pieces have been developed for the West Coast Fisher Distinct Population Segment, there is a critical need to specifically address the conservation of the Pacific Fisher in the southern Sierra Nevada. The goal of this effort is to produce a final, geographically specific, "all lands" conservation strategy by the end of 2013. It is anticipated that the conservation strategy will establish the foundation for a Candidate Conservation Agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, targeted for completion in early 2014. This process will include representation of agencies, organizations, and individuals with an interest in the Pacific Fisher. The Fisher Teams leading the effort will reach out to and communicate regularly with others with an interest in the Pacific Fisher in the southern Sierra, and provide different ways for them to get involved in the development of the strategy. The SNC is also establishing an inter-agency agreement with the USFS in order to support the development of the conservation strategy. Initial meetings began in February. More updates will be provided to the Board as this effort progresses.

SNC staff, in conjunction with the USFS, Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, is also hard at work producing a Sierra Nevada fire season summary report that will tell the story of what happened in the Sierra Nevada in the 2012 fire season in order to better quantify and communicate the connection between upstream forest and watershed management and the local and statewide effects of catastrophic fire. The report will look at a number of fire impacts and consequences that often receive little attention, including green house gas (GHG) emissions, the loss of carbon storage, the loss of wildlife habitat, impacts to recreation use, and others. By identifying these impacts, along with the more traditional measures like acres burned and fire intensity, the report will help decision-makers better understand the up- and downstream implications and consequences of forest management (or lack thereof), water management, and climate change in the Region. The overall goal of the report is to communicate with key policy-makers, media and other target audiences about specific policy, research and funding needs related to forest and watershed health, biomass utilization and the need for upstream investment to protect the critical ecosystem services provided by the Sierra.

Next Steps

The Coordinating Council will continue to work with the USFS to identify ways to increase the pace and scale of forest treatment within the Region, including providing input on the Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan, particularly in the area of the practical application of socioeconomic indicators and adaptive management. SNC Staff will continue to work with ongoing collaborative efforts, including the Southern Sierra Fisher Conservation Strategy and the Fire Report. Staff will also continue to support local forest collaborative efforts, focusing on the CFLR projects and efforts supported by SNC grants.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.

Major land acquisition in Sierra announced

(Note: Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded \$1M to this project through its Prop. 84 grant program.)

TRUCKEE, Calif.—About 3,000 acres of scenic backcountry in the Sierra Nevada north of Truckee will be permanently protected under a deal announced by two conservation groups. Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows, located at the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, will be opened to the public for the first time in more than 100 years under the agreement.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust and Trust for Public Land, acting together as the Northern Sierra Partnership, bought the land for \$8 million from Clifton and Barbara Johnson. Barbara Johnson, whose family had owned the land for about a century and once used Lacey Meadows for summer sheep grazing, hailed the acquisition.

"Our wishes have been fulfilled, and the legacy of our family will be remembered," she said in a statement. "The beautiful lands we have worked on and care for are, at long last, protected for future generations to enjoy forever."

The two conservation groups say the property is rich in history and natural beauty. It includes 260-acre natural Webber Lake, the historic Webber Lake Hotel, unspoiled, wildflower-dotted meadows and critical habitat for wildlife.

Heness Pass Road, one of the most heavily traveled emigrant routes across the Sierra in the 19th century, runs past the lake. The hotel is the only remaining stagecoach hotel along the route. "This property has it all," said Perry Norris, executive director of the Truckee Donner Land Trust. Norris' land trust will own and manage the property, which will open to the public in the spring. Its short-term plans include new trailheads providing non-motorized access to Lacey Meadows. A fishing campground will remain in private hands for four years, then a public campground is planned.

"This will provide exceptional recreational opportunities for people who visit and live in the northern Sierra," said Dave Sutton, northern California director of the Trust for Public Land. The California Wildlife Conservation Board, **Sierra Nevada Conservancy** and Northern Sierra Partnership joined many individuals in provided significant funding for the purchase.

It's the latest in a series of acquisitions by the Northern Sierra Partnership to conserve the Little Truckee River watershed. Since its launch five years ago, the partnership has helped conserve over 14,000 acres in the watershed, including Independence Lake, Perazzo Meadows, Webber Falls and the Mt. Lola Trail.

"The Little Truckee watershed is a hidden treasure, little known to the general public," said Lucy Blake, president of the partnership. "Go there and you won't be disappointed."

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Grass Valley

TheUnion.com
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Sierra Streams awarded \$187K in grants

Nevada City-based watershed science group Sierra Streams Institute has been awarded two fire-safe planning and restoration grants for a total of \$187,932 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The awards were authorized at the Sierra Nevada Conservancy board meeting Sept. 6.

Funding for the grants comes from Proposition 84: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. In one of the two funded projects, Sierra Streams Institute is teaming up with Nevada City and Bear Yuba Land Trust to develop a brush and ladder fuels reduction plan for the city-owned 85-acre property.

Opinion

Sierra Nevada geotourism map a boost to Nevada County

Geotourism: "Tourism that sustains or enhances the place — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents." One of the many enjoyable projects I was involved with as the director of the Nevada County Conference & Visitors Bureau for two-and-one-half years was being on the Sierra Nevada Geotourism council.

I felt this was important to our area, and it turned out to be very educational and fun. This geotourism is produced by National Geographic and sponsored in this region by the Sierra Business Council and Sierra Nevada Conservancy. ...