

NEWS RELEASE

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Legislators Support Great Sierra River Cleanup, Sept. 17 *2011 event continues to grow, adding more sites and more volunteers*

(Auburn) – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s (SNC) third annual Great Sierra River Cleanup received a boost from the State Capitol today as seven members of the State Legislature signed on as honorary co-chairs for the volunteer event, which will be held at more than 90 locations throughout the Sierra Nevada Sept. 17.

Legislative support comes from 1st District Senator Ted Gaines and 4th District Senator Doug LaMalfa, and Assembly Members Connie Conway, 34th District; Beth Gaines, 4th District; Jim Nielsen, 2nd District; Alyson Huber, 10th District; and Bob Wieckowski, 20th District.

“It means a lot to have the support and recognition from our Legislature for the Great Sierra River Cleanup each year,” said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. “Sierra watersheds provide water for over 20 million Californians, and this event is an opportunity to demonstrate good stewardship of this important resource.”

The cleanup typically entails light duty trash removal from the shores of rivers, lakes and streams around the Sierra Nevada. Sometimes large appliances, TV sets and automobile parts are also removed. Some locations use scuba divers, rafters, and even a helicopter. Every major watershed in the Sierra now has at least one cleanup location, and some have several. Last year 4,034 volunteers removed over 140 tons of trash and recyclable items, along 265 river miles of shoreline.

This year the number of participating organizations has jumped from 35 to 50, as the event continues to grow. To register for a Great Sierra River Cleanup event, interested persons can log on to www.SierraNevada.ca.gov, click on the event logo, and select a location from an interactive map. The SNC has produced a two-minute [video](#) which further describes the event.

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About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. In its first five years, the SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded approximately \$40 million in grants for projects including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.

The Sierra Nevada region spans 25 million acres and encompasses all or part of 22 counties from the Oregon border to southeast of Bakersfield.

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