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June 19, 2018

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Strategy Review Comments
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603
Attn: Theresa Parsley

Dear Theresa,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Regional Goal Strategies for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's 5-Year Strategic Plan. As has been shared, The Trust for Public Land is grateful to see the inclusion of the Regional Goal of Strategic Lands Conserved. We appreciate this recognition of the important role of land conservation in achieving the specific activities identified in the statute creating the SNC.

We would like to comment that while it is valuable to see Lands Conserved as an identified goal, the overall document does not reflect that land conservation is a tool that contributes meaningfully to each of the Regional Goals. Land conservation is not an ends in itself but an important tool in the toolbox of achieving SNC's mission. As such, we believe that the utility and importance of land conservation should be integrated into other strategies within other Regional Goals.

To demonstrate this thinking, please see the below suggested revisions. The revised text is shown in underlined and bolded text.

Under Regional Goal: Healthy Watersheds and Forests, Funding and Investments Strategy 10: Distribute new bond funds for watershed restoration in a timely and strategic manner to achieve maximum positive impact, coordinating with other state and federal funding agencies. **Ensure the durability of these investments by encouraging and funding conservation easements (preferred) or long term management agreements for restored lands.**

Under Regional Goal: Vibrant Recreation and Tourism, Funding and Investments Strategy 4: Advocate for and secure increased funding for sustainable recreation, tourism development, **and access to public lands** in the Region, including funding for the SNC and other agencies and organizations

Under Regional Goal: Strategic Lands Conserved, Funding and Investments **New Strategy: Fund land conservation activities, such as the acquisition of fee interest and conservation easements, that benefit of healthy forests, wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, recreation, carbon storage/sequestration, and economic benefits including job creation.**

No edits are recommended within the last two Regional Goal, however, we are supportive of the references within that text that connect the success of those two goals to a healthy, intact Sierra landscape. We too recognize that "as the climate changes in the Sierra Nevada, the need to recognize resilient watersheds and forests and their value will become even more critical, and connecting the health of the

natural landscapes of the Sierra Nevada to the recreation and tourism experiences they provide, and the communities they sustain, will be important.”

We celebrate the ongoing partnership with SNC and the important work SNC is doing as a representative of the Sierra landscape and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Markley Bavinger". The script is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Markley Bavinger
Sierra Program Manager