

Daley, Matthew@SNC

From: Liz Peterson <EPeterson@co.tuolumne.ca.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:29 PM
To: Parsley, Theresa@SNC
Cc: Sherri Brennan; Randy Hanvelt
Subject: SNC Strategic Goals Comments

Good Afternoon Theresa,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Strategic Goals. These comments come informally from members of the County's Natural Resources Committee. We plan to remain involved in this process and anticipate the Board of Supervisors sending formal comments as the Strategic Plan further develops. We have 3 main points we would like to see incorporated into the SNC's Strategic Goals:

1. The Healthy Watershed and Forest goal should be the top priority for SNC because without health watersheds and forests, the SNC's other 4 goals will be irrelevant and in most cases impossible. Equal attention should not be given to all 5. Instead, the first goal should be the SNC's main priority.
2. As health watersheds and forests are pursued through the SNC's strategies, we want to ensure actions such as grazing, logging, hunting and fishing are included as some of the mechanisms to move toward a healthy forest and are therefore activities that are protected in pursuing healthy watersheds and forests. These activities all play a role in the health and resilience of forests and its ecosystems and we believe they should specifically be mentioned as such in the SNC's goals.
3. We are very concerned about prioritizing funding for land conservations and elevating land conservations to the same level of importance as pursuing healthy watersheds and forests. Trying to conserve lands yet restore watersheds and forests are often contradicting endeavors. Lands that are under conservation easements are typically restricted in their use and management activities, which has been the main reason for the lack of health of our watersheds and forests.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions. As I mentioned, the County looks forward to remaining engaged in this process and we are grateful for the work and advocacy of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Thanks.

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