



SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

NEWS RELEASE

January 10, 2007

For Immediate Release

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Governor Proposes Grant Funds for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Auburn, Calif. -Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed 2007-08 State Budget includes \$17.5 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for grants and other activities to further its mission. The SNC initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.

The Conservancy was created through legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September of 2004. Through collaboration and cooperation with local governments and a variety of other partners, the Conservancy will develop and implement its programs across the region. The region consists of more than 25 million acres from the Oregon border to Kern County (about 25 percent of the state), including all or part of 22 counties and more than 200 communities.

SNC Executive Officer, Jim Branham called the proposed funding critical. "This funding will allow us to take a significant step toward the Governor's vision when he signed the legislation creating the Conservancy. Our programs are designed to ensure that environmental protection and community sustainability are achieved in a complimentary manner."

The Governor's proposed funding is a result of the voters' passage of Proposition 84 last November. That measure, championed by the governor, contained a total of \$54 million for the SNC. This year's proposed funding accounts for about one-third of those available funds. The Governor's proposal now goes to the Legislature for consideration, where if passed, will become available July 1, 2007.

In July 2006 the Conservancy Board approved a strategic plan that provides guidance in identifying projects and activities that will be supported by the SNC. During the spring of this year, a series of public workshops will be held throughout the region to gather input on community priorities and specific guidelines for the expenditure of the grant funds.

Information regarding the Conservancy and updates on the upcoming public workshops can be found at www.sierranevada.ca.gov.

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