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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
INITIATES PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS SEARCH
Focus is communities within 30 minutes of Auburn**

Auburn -- The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has initiated a search for potential locations for its permanent headquarters office. Since June 2006, the state agency has been headquartered in Auburn at the Creekside Business Park. At the time the site was selected the SNC Board directed the Executive Officer to continue to explore options for a permanent location.

"The Auburn office generally meets our needs and presents a positive work environment," Executive Officer Jim Branham stated. "This location has proven to provide good access for staff to the major transportation corridors and generally meets the criteria established. The question we are asking at this time is, does an opportunity exist that would more fully meet our needs?"

The SNC was created by legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September of 2004. Its mission is to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California. It covers 25 million acres and includes all or part of 22 counties.

Earlier this year, the SNC also opened and staffed its offices in Mariposa, Susanville and Bishop. According to Branham, while the offices will allow the SNC to more effectively cover the area within the Region, their presence does not significantly affect the criteria previously established for the headquarters office.

"Consistent with the Board's direction, we are now initiating a process to identify options for a permanent office location. We are interested in identifying potential locations that will most fully meet our needs, including 'green building' objectives and greater opportunities for educational and interpretative activities," Branham added.

An initial expression of interest has been requested by the SNC by February 28. Based on this preliminary feedback, a decision will be made whether to proceed with more formal request for proposal process. Branham indicates that he expects the SNC Board to determine the future course on the issue at its June Board meeting.

Information regarding this process can be found on the SNC Web site at www.sierranevada.ca.gov.

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