Sierra Nevada Conservancy NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will hold its next Board meeting on October 4 and 5 in Bishop, California. The meeting will begin with a field tour of the lower Owens Valley beginning at noon on October 4 (the tour departs from the Creekside Inn in Bishop). The meeting will continue on October 5 with a Board business meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds Home Economics Building in Bishop.

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. The Conservancy will provide funding, technical assistance, information and other community assistance in order to achieve its mission. The agency will coordinate and cooperate with local governments and other partners in developing and implementing its programs across 25 million acres from the Oregon border to Kern County (about 25% of the state). The region includes all or part of 22 counties and more than 200 communities.

Secretary for Resources and SNC Chair Mike Chrisman is encouraging area residents to attend the meeting and participate in the process. "We hold the board meetings in different areas of the SNC Region so that the Board can better understand local issues, needs and concerns," Chrisman stated. "Public attendance and participation is a critical part of this process and we urge local citizens to take advantage of our visit to the magnificent Eastern Sierra."

This Board meeting is being held in the Eastern Sub Region, which includes Alpine, Inyo and Mono Counties. Inyo County Supervisor Linda Arcularius currently serves as the East Sub Region's representative.

At the October 5 meeting, the Board will consider action on the creation of a Sierra Nevada License Plate (legislation by Assemblyman Tim Leslie providing this opportunity was recently signed by the Governor). The Board will also consider criteria and a process to establish regional offices and will receive briefings on progress in carrying out the 2006-07 Action Plan, among other matters.

Information about the Conservancy, including a copy of its Strategic Plan and Action Plan, can be found at www.sierranevada.ca.gov.

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