

NEWS RELEASE

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Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement Project Completed

5,000 Acres of Shasta County Ranchland Preserved

(Auburn) – Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Executive Officer Jim Branham today announced the completion of a conservation easement that will preserve more than 5,000 acres of ranchland in Shasta County east of Redding. The conservation easement is the result of a coordinated effort by the owners of the Rickert Brothers Ranch, the Shasta Land Trust, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, The Trust for Public Land, and the California Department of Transportation.

Through a competitive grant application process, the SNC awarded the Shasta Land Trust \$1 million of the \$2.3 million needed for the project. SNC's funding was provided from its Proposition 84 (Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 2006) grant program. The SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded nearly \$30 million in Proposition 84 grant funding for eligible projects, including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration.

“The Rickert Ranch conservation easement ensures that this land will be preserved for ranching and rangeland for generations to come,” Branham said. “This conservation easement will protect valuable natural resources. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy commends the landowners for their commitment to sound stewardship, as well as the Shasta Land Trust for its strong leadership.”

The land includes more than eight miles of creeks, including Little Cow Creek, French Creek, and Swede Creek, as well as vast expanses of blue oak woodlands and hundreds of acres of vernal pools. It also features examples of traditional Shasta County “ranchsteads,” with stretches of irrigated pasture and historic farm buildings visible from Highway 299.

The property will remain in private ownership and may be sold or passed down to heirs, but will remain under the restrictions of the conservation easement forever. The ranch will continue to support the local ranching economy, provide important wildlife habitat, help provide clean water to the Cow Creek watershed and the Sacramento River, and offer scenic views of its natural expanses.

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