



**SIERRA NEVADA**  
CONSERVANCY

## NEWS RELEASE

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March 17, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY AWARDS \$11.1 MILLION FOR PROJECTS IN THE SIERRA NEVADA**

#### ***The Conservancy Board Awards Proposition 84 Funds for Watershed Health Projects in the Sierra Nevada***

**Auburn** – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board met on March 13 at Bass Lake in Madera County and awarded \$11.1 million in funding for 69 projects located throughout the Sierra Nevada region (see attached list of projects).

“Today we have substantially realized the goal of getting the first year’s funding allocation into the hands of local governments and organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada for projects that will contribute to the protection and restoration of Sierra watersheds and natural resources,” said Secretary for Resources and SNC Board Chair Mike Chrisman.

This year’s state budget includes \$17 million in grant funding for the SNC to distribute by June of 2008. Along with the \$2.8 million awarded in the first round in December, the SNC has now awarded more than \$13.9 million to date for 117 projects. The remaining funds will be awarded at the June Board meeting.

The funding for the grants comes from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act passed by California voters in November 2006. Proposition 84 included \$54 million for the SNC to provide grants to eligible organizations, \$17 million of which is available in the current fiscal year.

“We’ve received a tremendous number of outstanding grant applications,” reported Jim Branham, Executive Officer for the SNC. “We are very pleased to be providing support to such a large number of diverse projects that add value across the Sierra Nevada region and help achieve the goals of both Proposition 84 and the SNC.”

Projects approved for funding include watershed restoration, reduction of fire risk, the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners, acquisition of lands by eligible organizations to protect habitat and natural resources, and educational, planning and pre-

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project activities. Public agencies, qualified non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribal organizations are eligible to receive funding from the SNC.

The SNC was created by legislation signed into law in 2004 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The organization covers an area of 25 million acres in all or part of 22 California counties. It 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. Information regarding the SNC and its grants program can be found at its Web site, [www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov).

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