



SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grants Applications are being accepted now

Auburn – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) today announced that it is accepting grant applications for a variety of projects that will result in improving watershed health and protecting natural resources in the region. Public agencies, eligible nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada Region are encouraged to consider submitting a grant application. 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 2006.¹ The SNC will distribute a total of \$17 million dollars in grants in fiscal year 2007-08.

“By investing in the Sierra Nevada Region, the people of California are recognizing this region’s importance to our state,” Secretary for Resources and SNC Board Chair Mike Chrisman said. “The SNC has worked aggressively over the past couple of years to develop a strong foundation in order to undertake this grant program, it is an exciting time.”

The SNC was created by legislation signed into law in 2004 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The organization covers 25 million acres in all or part of 22 California counties and 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.

“This phase of grant making includes funding for activities such as reducing fire risk, protecting and restoring watersheds, preserving working landscapes such as ranches, farms and forests, improving habitat and promoting sustainable economic activity consistent with those objectives,” said Jim Branham, SNC’s Executive Officer. “These on-the-ground projects will result in tangible benefits for communities and watersheds throughout our region.”

¹ Proposition 84 added Section 75050 to the Public Resources Code (PRC), authorizing the Legislature to appropriate funds for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. \$54 million of these funds are allocated to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for distribution to eligible projects in the Region.

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The SNC is currently accepting applications for the following types of grants:

Competitive Grants are designed for larger acquisition, site improvement or restoration projects between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000.

The deadline for submission of Competitive Grants is **November 15, 2007**. Awards for competitive grants are expected to be made by the SNC Board in March 2008.

Strategic Opportunity Category I Grants are designed for acquisition, site improvement or restoration projects up to \$100,000.

Strategic Opportunity Category II and III Grants are designed for activities that do not include acquisition, site improvement or restoration projects, including educational efforts, important research and planning activities, as well as increasing the capabilities of local governments and organizations.

Strategic Opportunity Grant applications may be submitted to the SNC at any time during the year. Grant awards will be made on an ongoing basis, subject to fund availability, based on the following application submission schedule:

- **October 1, 2007**, to be considered for the **December 2007 Board meeting**;
- **December 30, 2007**, to be considered for **March 2008 Board meeting**;
- **February 29, 2008**, to be considered for **May 2008 Board meeting**.

All background materials, guidelines and grant application forms are available on the SNC's Web site (www.sierranevada.ca.gov). Members of the public may also contact the Conservancy at geninfo@sierranevada.ca.gov or by calling (530) 823-4670.

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