



# SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY LAUNCHES INAUGURAL GRANT PROGRAM**

***Grants Guidelines are available on the SNC Web site;  
Applications will be accepted beginning today***

**Auburn** – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) today launches its first-ever grant funding program for eligible public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada Region. 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.<sup>1</sup> The SNC will distribute a total of \$17 million dollars in grants in fiscal year 2007-08.

“This is an important and exciting action for the Sierra Nevada Region and the people of California,” Secretary for Resources and SNC Board Chair Mike Chrisman said. “We are very pleased to be able to support the good work of local governments, nonprofit organizations and tribal organizations in the Sierra Nevada.”

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.

The SNC will begin accepting Strategic Opportunity Grant applications today, August 6, for a variety of activities consistent with the SNC mission and Proposition 84. Actual awarding of grants will not occur until after the state budget is adopted and successful grant applications have been determined.

“We look forward to receiving grant applications from throughout our Region and getting badly needed funds into Sierra communities,” said Jim Branham, SNC’s Executive Officer. “The first phase of grants will assist communities and organizations with such things as educational efforts, critical research and planning activities and increasing the capabilities of local governments and organizations.”

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<sup>1</sup> 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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“Our second phase, to begin this fall, will include funding for activities such as reducing fire risk, protecting and restoring natural resources, preserving working landscapes such as ranches, farms and forests, improving habitat and promoting sustainable economic activity,” Branham added.

The SNC will offer two types of Proposition 84 grants: (a) Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) and (b) Competitive Grants, described in more detail below:

**Strategic Opportunity Grants** are intended to provide the SNC flexibility to address various needs and time-sensitive opportunities for all project types in all program areas consistent with Proposition 84. They are divided into three categories based on project type and size and are available on an ongoing basis subject to available funding. Detailed information on the various categories is available on the SNC Web site. These grants are available through an ongoing application process beginning today, with awards expected throughout the state’s fiscal year.

**Competitive Grants** will be offered this fall as part of a more formal annual review cycle and are designed for larger acquisition, site improvement or restoration projects between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000. Awards for competitive grants are expected in March 2008.

“We know that organizations in the Region have been looking forward to this day, as have we,” said Secretary Chrisman. “We are grateful to the voters of California, Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature for providing this much-needed investment in the Region that provides us so many benefits, including nearly two-thirds of our state’s water.”

All background materials and grant application forms are available on the SNC’s Web site ([www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov)).

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