



For Immediate Release:
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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUMS ON DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Public Input Encouraged During Six Public Meetings on Conservancy's Future

Sacramento - A series of six public forums have been scheduled during April and May to gather input on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's draft strategic plan. The first two meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tues., April 25 at the Jackson Rancheria Conference Center, Jackson and Wed., April 26 at the Exeter Memorial Building, Exeter.

"One of the greatest assets we have is input from people who live in the communities we serve," said Sierra Nevada Executive Officer Jim Branham. "Our commitment to the people of this region is paramount and having their ideas and opinions as part of our process is critical to their future and to ours."

The strategic plan will guide the conservancy's operations over the next five years to achieve its objectives, including:

- Increasing opportunities for tourism and recreation;
- Protecting, conserving, and restoring the region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources;
- Aiding in the preservation of working landscapes, such as farms, ranches and forests;
- Reducing the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires;
- Protecting and improving water and air quality;
- Assisting the growth of the regional economy; and
- Enhancing use and recreation at public lands.

According to Tulare County Supervisor Allen Ishida, "The conservancy forum in Exeter is an important opportunity for our community to be heard at the state level regarding our views as to the future of our economy, environment, and quality of life in the region."

Ishida serves as a sub-regional representative on the Conservancy Board of Directors.

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The conservancy was created in 2004 to work with all levels of government in preserving and protecting the environment and local economies of the Sierra Nevada mountain region. The region constitutes approximately 25 percent of California's land and provides about 60 percent of the state's water supply for residential, agricultural, and environmental use. The conservancy covers 25 million acres of land stretching from the Oregon border to Kern County.

The Sierra Nevada mountain region includes land in part or all of 22 California counties: Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Butte, Plumas, Sierra, Tehama, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Yuba, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Alpine, Inyo, Mono, Fresno, Kern, Madera, and Tulare.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board will consider the Strategic Plan for adoption in July 2006.

The schedule of public meetings, which all begin at 6:00 p.m., is as follows:

Tuesday, April 25

Jackson Rancheria Conference Center
New York Ranch Road
Jackson, CA 95642
(800) 822-9466

Thursday, May 11

Paradise Elks Lodge – Charter Room
1100 Elk Lane
Paradise, CA 95969
(530) 877-3977

Wednesday, April 26

Exeter Veterans Memorial Building
324 N. Kaweah Ave
Exeter, CA 93221
(559) 592-2263

Tuesday, May 23

Mammoth Mountain Resort
Mountainside Conference Center
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 934-2571

Wednesday, May 10

Miners Foundry Cultural Center
325 Spring Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-5040

Thursday, May 25

Sacred Heart Parish Hall
507 E 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-6400

A copy of the draft strategic plan will be posted on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy website at www.sierranevada.ca.gov by 5 p.m. today. A map of the affected areas will be available for download, as well. Copies can also be requested at public meetings, or through written requests to the following address:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
1416 9th Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95819