

### **Background**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) held the first of the Tribal Forum (Forum) series the day before the June Board meeting in Susanville. These forums, scheduled the day before each of the rotating Subregional Board meetings, are designed to initiate discussions with tribes about the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) and the Region's current and future conditions. Two tribes and SNC Boardmembers Terrence O'Brien and Pam Giacomini, along with SNC staff, attended the first Forum. As intended, the Forum provided the opportunity for introductions and a springboard for future dialog. Topics of discussion included the WIP, tribal participation in SNC programs and governance, and the tribes' priorities in resource management and other concerns. Although tribal representation at the first meeting was not high, there was a significant level of exchange which has led to some follow-up action items:

- Exploration of tribal representation on the SNC Board
- Tribal review of the WIP watershed assessments in the Northern Subregion
- Exploration of grant application development under the SNC Proposition 1 grant program

### **Current Status**

At this writing, the second of the series of Tribal Forums is scheduled to take place Wednesday, September 7, prior to the Board tour. (Information from the Tribal Forum will be provided to the Board during the meeting.)

### **Next Steps**

SNC staff will continue to incorporate lessons learned from our conversations with tribal participants and begin planning the next Tribal Forum which will be held in December in Placer County. As appropriate, information gathered at these forums will be integrated into the assessment and implementation of the WIP in an ongoing manner.

### **Recommendation**

**This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.**