



Board Meeting Agenda
March 12 and 13, 2008

March 12, 2008
Field Trip

12:00 - 4:30 PM

Members of the Board and staff will participate in a field trip focusing on issues and activities relevant to the Conservancy's mission in the South Subregion. The field trip will begin at The Pines Resort, 5449 Road 432, Bass Lake, California at 12:00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to participate in the field trip but are responsible for their own lunch and transportation. Limited space on the bus may be available, please call (530) 823-4672 to determine availability. The public is welcome to attend a reception following the field trip at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, Red Bud Room, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

March 13, 2008

9:00AM

Board Meeting
The Pines Resort, [Lakeview Room A](#)
5449 Road 432
[Bass Lake](#), CA 93604

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Oath of Office for New Board Members**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. [Approval of December 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes](#)**
- V. Public Comments**
Provide an opportunity for the public to comment on non-agenda items.
- VI. Chairman's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. State Budget Update
- VII. Election of Vice Chair**
The Board will elect a Vice Chair for 2008.
- VIII. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**
 - a. [Budget/Staffing Update](#)
 - b. [Climate Change Update](#)
 - c. [Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Team](#)
 - d. [Permanent Headquarters Location Process](#)
 - e. [October Sierra Event](#)

IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

X. Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate (ACTION)

The Board will review and may take action on modifications to the license plate design and may provide direction to the Executive Officer on next steps.

XI. Strategic Opportunity Grants (ACTION)

The Board will review and may approve Strategic Opportunity Grants listed in Attachment A of this agenda.

XII. Competitive Grants (ACTION)

The Board will review and may approve Competitive Grants listed in Attachment B of this agenda.

XIII. Grant Guideline Revisions (INFORMATIONAL)

The Board will review and may provide direction to staff on potential modifications to the Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines for 2008-09.

XIV. Indicators and Performance Measures Project Update (INFORMATIONAL)

The Board will review and may provide direction to staff on a preliminary list of potential performance measures and indicators and the process proposed for finalizing them.

XV. Board Members' Comments

XVI. Public Comments

XVII. Adjournment

Meeting Materials are available on the SNC website at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. For additional information or to submit written comment on any agenda item, please contact Mrs. Burgess at (530) 823-4672 or tburgess@sierranevada.ca.gov. or 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205, Auburn CA 95603. If you need reasonable accommodations please contact Mrs. Burgess at least *five* working days in advance, including documents in alternative formats.

Closed Session: Following, or at any time during the meeting, the Conservancy may recess or adjourn to closed session to consider pending or potential litigation; property negotiations; or personnel-related matters. Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a), (c) (7), or (e).

**Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2007**

**Board of Supervisor's Chambers
Eric W. Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959**



I. Call to Order

Chairman Chrisman called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Louis Boitano, John Brissenden, Mike Chrisman, Brian Dahle, Byng Hunt, Allen Ishida, Bob Kirkwood, John Lloyd, BJ Kirwan, Byron Sher, Robert Weygandt, Kim Yamaguchi, Mike Chapel, Bill Haigh, and Steve Schackelton

Absent: Carol Whiteside

III. Approval of July 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes.

Action: Boardmember Boitano moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the July 26, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Boardmember Brissenden abstained from voting due to his absence from the July meeting.

IV. Public Comments (non-agenda items)

There were no public comments.

V. Chairman's Report

a. SNSIT

Chairman Mike Chrisman asked Executive Officer Jim Branham to update the board on recent SNSIT activities. Branham noted that as a follow up to the initial SNSIT meeting, SNC will be holding quarterly meetings with the Wildlife Conversation Board to discuss opportunities for project coordination and collaboration. He also indicated that the SNC is entering into an agreement with the Department of Fish and Game for detailed vegetation mapping for a portion of the Sierra foothill region.

b. Legislative Process

Chairman Chrisman explained that the legislative process is a clearly defined process for state agencies. He asked Branham to explain the process that the SNC follows relating to legislation, noting that Boardmembers Sher and Ishida

raised the issue at the previous meeting. Branham explained the process whereby the SNC coordinates positions on proposed legislation through the Resources Agency and that positions must be approved by the Governor's Office. Chairman Chrisman notes that Resources uses the process to resolve any conflicts between Resource Agency departments. Boardmember Sher asked for clarification on whether this is the process with all Conservancies statewide. Branham stated it is the current practice for the Coastal Conservancy and the Tahoe Conservancy. Chairman Chrisman stated Resources Agency encourages the conservancies to connect with the appropriate legislative staff and keep Agency aware of issues of concern. He indicated that if members of the Board wish for the Conservancy to take a position on legislation they should alert Branham so that it can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

c. Subregional Representatives

Chairman Chrisman stated three Boardmember terms expire on December 31, 2007 and SNC will need written notification of the newly appointed Boardmembers (North Central, South Central and South). Boardmember Yamaguchi stated that the North Central subregion should have a decision by mid-January.

VI. Climate Symposium

Chairman Chrisman commented on a great turnout and complimented staff on the organization of the event, noting the SNC has set a high bar on the types of conversation we need to have on the issue. Chrisman also stated it is a work in progress. With the Global Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) essentially mandating carbon levels, it is important to develop a plan to meet the levels. He noted that AB 32 strives to establish market mechanisms to encourage progress in meeting targets. Chrisman stated he thought starting the symposium off with a visit from John Muir (Lee Stetson) kicked it off on a good note.

Boardmember Kirwan stated she was also pleased with the turn out, asking for clarification on calling it 'climate change' and not global warming. Kirwan noted she thought the conference was set up extremely well, questions were asked by the panel chair and encouraged the audience to speak and she engaged them. In closing, Jim Branham did a fabulous job of chairing it and the staff did a great job pulling it together.

Boardmember Brissenden concurred with Chrisman and Kirwan noting the advance work was amazing and all around a very vibrant and exciting symposium to attend.

Boardmember Kirkwood, stated that panelists did well in staying within the timelines and rather than leading canned presentations, he was pleasantly surprised by the nature of the audience participation.

Public Comment:

Brett Storey, Placer County stated that he and others in attendance appreciated the opportunity to participate in the event and felt it was very informative and beneficial.

Izzy Martin, The Sierra Fund: thanked the SNC for tackling a difficult issue by creating a safe place for everyone to discuss climate change.

Addie Jacobson, Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solution and representing Ebbets Pass Forest Watch: thanked the SNC for “walking the walk” by using biodegradable cups, plates, napkins, and providing shuttles.

The Board discussed next steps with Chairman Chrisman noting that he will ask Deputy Secretary on Climate Change, Tony Brunello, to work with SNC staff to explore the feasibility of creating a climate change action plan for the Sierra Nevada.

VII. Executive Officer’s Report

a. Staff and Budget Update

Branham indicated that he anticipated that the Governor’s Budget would propose full funding for the SNC, including \$17 million in funding from Proposition 84. He stated that the State is facing serious budget challenges, but because the SNC does not have General Fund we have not been directly affected as yet.

Branham informed the Board that a number of new staff had been hired since the last Board meeting, including: Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager in the Mariposa Office; Julie Bear, Mt. Whitney Senior Area Representative, Bishop Office; and Brandon Sanders, Mt. Whitney Area Representative, Mariposa Office; Linda Hansen Mt. Lassen Senior Area Representative, Susanville Office; Joan Keegan, Assistant Executive Officer and Angela Avery, Program Coordinator, Auburn Headquarters Office.

Branham gave a brief overview of the status of the grant program, which will be presented in detail to the Board later in the agenda.

Branham indicated that the SNC had been approached by the Sierra Business Council regarding a joint meeting in Mammoth Lakes the first week of October. He recommended that the Board move the September meeting to October 2, 2008 and approve the meeting schedule with that change. A meeting schedule for 2008 was approved by the Board.

b. Permanent Headquarters

Branham discussed the staff report distributed in the board packets stating that staff will initiate the process to identify potential sites soon and anticipates providing the Board with a recommendation at the June Board meeting.

c. 2007-08 Action Plan

Assistant Executive Officer Keegan identified the changes since the July meeting: staff took two of the actions off of the Action Plan by incorporating them into one broad action and changes were made in regards to due dates. She pointed out that the implementation of the grant program had taken a great deal of time and effort, but staff remains committed to making progress on other key Action Plan items. Boardmember Kirkwood noted that the changes to the previously approved Action Plan should require approval by the Board.

Action: Boardmember Dahle moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the revised 2007-08 Action Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Indicators and Performance Measures

Keegan stated the contract for the project has been awarded and a kick off meeting with consultants will occur shortly. The plan is to bring a preliminary list draft measures and indicators to the Board in March with a public comment period to follow the March meeting. The final draft is anticipated to be presented to the Board in June. She indicated that interim measures have been developed for the projects before the Board today. These represent basic reporting requirements for all projects and some specific requirements for each project.

Boardmember Kirkwood expressed concern that the measurement of collaboration and cooperation seemed to have been an ancillary objective and does not recall it in strategic plan or legislation. Noting if it is selected as one of the four fundamental measures then we are saying is more important than our legislative established objectives. Also noting that improved capabilities was explicitly stated as a secondary objective in legislation and it appears this moves those second tier objectives to the first tier and gives them equal weight. Keegan stated these are by not criteria to award grants but things we would like to hear how or if the project touched any part of the established objectives and if it is not applicable then they would state that.

Boardmember Sher underscored how important the performance measures are because we will be judged by how well our funded projects go. He questioned what recourse the SNC has if requirements are not met after the funds are awarded. Branham indicated that much of the funding will be disbursed in the form of reimbursements, ensuring that work is being done. Where advances are used, the SNC will make every effort to ensure that the entity is capable of carrying out the work being funded.

Boardmember Kirkwood suggesting adding language that asks the grantee three questions 1) did you implement the project you described and 2) what were the benefits from it and 3) if you did not do what you said you were going to do, what did you learn that made you change the way you were doing the project. Other Boardmembers concurred and Keegan agreed to add this information per Kirkwood suggestion.

Boardmember Brissenden asked whether staff had consulted with other conservancies or departments in development of the interim measures. Keegan indicated no, but will do so in the development of permanent measures.

Action: Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to approve the Interim Indicators and Performance Measures with noted changes. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Sierra Nevada Conservancy License Plate Update

Branham informed the Board that staff continues to work with The Sierra Fund In developing a marketing plan for the license plate. The Sierra Fund has hired Velocity 7 as consultants to develop a plan. Izzy Martin, CEO of The Sierra Fund, stated there will be a marketing plan distributed at the March Board meeting. Branham noted the discussions with DMV have been positive and timely.

f. Information Technology Needs Assessment

Bob Kingman informed the Board that the consultant has provided the SNC with the result of their assessment. Staff is currently reviewing the information provided and will be indentifying actions that can be taken. The Board will be updated at a future meeting.

VIII. Deputy Attorney Generals Report:

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul informed the Board that conflict of interest statements will need to be filed early next year. Most are due on April 1st, with county supervisors' statements due on March 1. Theresa Grace will send information to the Board in January, 2008.

IX. Education and Communications Plan:

AEO Keegan described the development of a 5-year plan and how the Conservancy can increase the understanding of the importance of the Sierra Nevada within the Region and throughout the state. Noting the plan highlights include three primary audiences: inside the Sierra Region; outside the Sierra Region; and Local state and federal decision makers. A consistent set of core messages is included in the plan to be reflected across all program areas and audiences. The plan also outlines specific strategies and tools for each of the three major audiences.

Keegan stated that staff recommends approval of the plan as presented.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve the Education and Communication Plan with noted changes. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Strategic Opportunity Grants

Branham informed the Board that staff had received 82 applications for \$8,507,774 worth of funding. He indicated that projects which best meet the SNC's mission and the goals of Proposition 84 represent what is being recommended by the staff. Branham commended SNC staff for the hard work and the constant effort to assist applicants.

Branham introduced Bob Sleppy of the Department of General Services who provided the Board with an overview of the CEQA process.

Branham introduced Bob Kingman, Kerri Timmer, and Kim Carr to present the Board with the recommended projects (Board approved project list attached).

Boardmember Kirkwood pointed out that there were a large number of interpretive, educational, visitor center, guidebook publication, and signage projects and has difficulty seeing the relationship to water. He expressed concern about the proportion of these grants versus grants for on the ground work, noting that in some subregions about one-half of their million dollars is going to these types of projects. He pointed out that by June, when we are reviewing our third round of applications, we could find ourselves in a difficult situation.

Kingman pointed out that this first round of Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs) included a large number of projects that do not include "on the ground" activities, primarily because of the tight timelines. However, he added that the Competitive Grants will all be used exclusively for on the ground projects and Round 2 of SOGs will likely include a number of such projects.

Kirkwood stated he just wanted to be certain that staff had been thinking about the distribution of funds to cover education type of projects as well as on the ground work.

Boardmember Ishida stated that some of the board members will not be here when the final grant awards are made in 2008. He urged that Board to give the subregions that did not have a large number of projects some time to bring projects forward. He suggested that if a subregion does not receive \$1 million of funding in this year, the funds should "roll over."

Kingman stated that funds not encumbered this fiscal year would need to be reappropriated, so staff is recommending that all available funds are encumbered

by June 30. Branham stated that there could be an adjustment in next year's allocations if necessary to address this issue.

Exhibit A to this document is the list of approved projects.

Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve Strategic Opportunity Grants as proposed in Attachment A to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Public Comment:

Izzy Martin, Sierra Fund: Ms. Martin thanked the Board and the SNC staff and stated that in her 25 years of grant writing she has never encountered such a friendly, open, and simple, but effective process.

Laurie Oberholtzer, Sierra County Land Trust: offered thanks for the grant they received for appraisals and stated there will be acquisitions coming in as a result of the grant.

Stevee Duber, High Sierra Rural Alliance: thanked the SNC staff for all of their assistance and thanked the Board for their consideration.

John Vanderveen: thanked the SNC staff and stated this was by far the most rewarding grant process he had been involved in. He also indicated that the staff was helpful and provided guidance through the process.

Don Ryberg, Chair, Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribal Council: thanked the Board for the opportunity for the tribe to share some of their knowledge and culture.

Tom Esgate, Lassen County Fire Safe Council: thanked the board and staff for their support. He indicated that he knew it had been particularly challenging and that he was sort of the guinea pig for the on the ground work. He thanked staff for overcoming the challenges.

Valerie Klinefelter - Representing CHIPS Project in Calaveras County and Sierra Nevada Alliance: thanked the board for the grant and indicated that training of the chipping crews will begin immediately with the result begin a healthy forest.

Mary Herdegen, Placer County: thanked the staff for the assistance and direction provided.

Steve Kistler, Tuolumne County RCD: thanked the staff and Board stating the funding will help in the continued effort to monitor the Stanislaus and Tuolumne county watersheds.

Nita Vail, CA Rangeland Trust: commended the Board and staff for starting from scratch and creating a grant process that was the most straightforward her staff has been through. She congratulated everyone on a job well done.

XII. Boardmember Comments

Boardmember Kirkwood distributed information relating to an upper watershed natural storage project. Chairman Chrisman asked what the timeline for the project was and Mr. Kirkwood noted that by the next meeting the SNC should see some funding requests.

Chairman Chrisman thanked Boardmembers Ishida and Boitano for their service on the Board and presented them with a resolution. He asked if they had any comments.

Boardmember Ishida stated that the two years had gone by quickly and that he is pleased to have been a part of approving this first round of Proposition 84 grants. He thanked his fellow boardmembers and staff and indicated that the experience has been very educational. He stated he hoped to stay involved as Tulare County's liaison.

Boardmember Boitano also stated that the time on the Board seemed short and he had enjoyed his service. He appreciated making some good friends and thanked the staff for their efforts.

XIII. Adjournment

Chairman Chrisman adjourned the meeting at 1:10 PM.

December 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes Attachment A
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATIONS

Fund Category	Sub-Region	Reference #	County	Project Title	Grantee Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommend	
Region Wide SOG \$2m	Region Wide	SNC 070019	Multi-County	Engaging Sierra Participation in California Water Plan Update 2009	Sierra Nevada Alliance	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	
		SNC 070020	Multi-County	Sierra Nevada Alliance: Land and Water Project	Sierra Nevada Alliance	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	
		SNC 070071	Multi-County	CSFC Block II Fuel Treatment Monitoring and Educational Publication	University of California Davis	\$ 55,620	\$ 55,620	
		SNC 070098	Multi-County	Sierra Nevada Science Institute: Development of a Timeline and Business Plan	Friends of Deer Creek	\$ 49,500	\$ 32,500	
		SNC 070102	Multi-County	Stewardship Contracting Workshops	Sierra Business Council	\$ 48,027	\$ 46,440	
		SNC 070137	Multi-County	Comprehensive Interpretive Plan - Yosemite National Park and Surrounding Communities	Yosemite National Park	\$ 23,250	\$ 23,250	
		SNC 070143	Multi-County	Biomass Removal on National Forest System Lands	Placer County	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	
		SNC 070148	Multi-County	Environmental Benefits of Grazing Educational Tour and Video	Nevada County RCD	\$ 71,344	\$ 68,000	
		SNC 070162	Multi-County	Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project	University of California, Berkeley, Center for Forestry	\$ 383,836	\$ 123,000	
		SNC 070171	Multi-County	Sierra Water Trust: Building Capacity in the Sierra Nevada to Assess and Fulfill Critical Flow Augmentation Needs	American Rivers	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
		SNC 070173	Multi-County	California Rangeland Trust Sierra Nevada Rangeland Assessment Project	California Rangeland Trust	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	
Region Wide Total						\$ 1,015,577	\$ 682,810	
Region Wide SOG \$2m Total						\$ 1,015,577	\$ 682,810	
Specific Region \$1m ea	North	SNC 070144	Lassen	South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	\$ 51,720	\$ 51,720	
		SNC 070146	Lassen	South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project/Ash Valley	Lassen County Fire Safe Council	\$ 99,999	\$ 99,999	
		SNC 070152	Lassen	McBride Springs/Willow Creek Restoration Planning and Development Project	Pit RCD	\$ 33,100	\$ 33,100	
		SNC 070155	Lassen	Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative	BLM	\$ 98,500	\$ 98,500	
		SNC 070161	Multi-County	Pit River Planning and Development Project	Pit RCD	\$ 137,300	\$ 137,300	
		SNC 070180	Lassen	Buffalo-Skedaddle Landscape Management and Restoration Initiative - Project Coordinator	Bureau of Land Management	\$ 48,400	\$ 48,400	
	North Total						\$ 469,019	\$ 469,019
	North Central	SNC 070104	Plumas	Plumas Co. FSC Educational and Publication Development Project	Plumas Corp.	\$ 27,000	\$ 27,000	
		SNC 070149	Multi-County	Sierra Valley Sub-Basin Modeling Project	High Sierra Rural Alliance	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	
		SNC 070167	Sierra	Filippini Ranch Riparian Restoration	Resources for Humanity	\$ 92,000	\$ 92,000	
		SNC 070168	Plumas	Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization Demonstration Project Environmental Review	Plumas Corp., Feather River Coordination Resource Management	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	
		SNC 070169	Plumas	Sulphur/Barry Creek Confluence Restoration Project Environmental Review	Plumas Corp., Feather River Coordination Resource Management	\$ 19,530	\$ 19,530	
	North Central Total						\$ 175,030	\$ 175,030
	Central	SNC 070012	Multi-County	Yuba River Wildlife and Recreation Area; Conservation and Acquisition Program Phase 1	The Sierra Fund	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
		SNC 070065	Nevada	(CFSC Block Grant 1) FSCNC Defensible Space Advisory	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	\$ 10,632	\$ 10,632	
		SNC 070072	Yuba	CFSC Block II Inventory and Geographic Reference of Firefighting Water	Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council	\$ 64,900	\$ 64,900	
SNC 070127		Nevada	Nevada County (FIRST) Defensible Space Education & Compliance	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500		
SNC 070136		Placer	Phase 2, Lower Squaw Creek Restoration	Truckee River Watershed Council	\$ 49,900	\$ 49,900		
SNC 070138		Placer	Eastern Placer Creek Signage	Placer County Planning Department	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000		

December 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes Attachment A
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATIONS

Fund Category	Sub-Region	Reference #	County	Project Title	Grantee Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommend	
Specific Region	Central	SNC 070139	Placer	Esoteric Fraternity Property - Due Diligence Studies	Placer County Department of Facility Services	\$ 40,000	\$ 38,000	
		SNC 070141	Placer	Low Impact Development Guidebook	Placer County Community Development Resource Agency	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
		SNC 070151	Placer	American River Educational Outreach Publications	Protect American River Canyons	\$ 48,500	\$ 48,500	
		SNC 070160	El Dorado	South Fork American river (SFAR) Water Quality and Recreation Study	El Dorado Irrigation District	\$ 118,236	\$ 118,236	
		SNC 070175	Nevada	Assessing and Restoring Deer Creek Watershed	The Sierra Fund	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	
	Central Total						\$ 561,668	\$ 559,668
	South Central	SNC 070050	Calaveras	(CSFC Block Grant 1) Defensible Space Inspection Program	Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council	\$ 19,625	\$ 19,625	
		SNC 070052	Amador	CFSC Block II 2007, Pioneer / Volcano Planning Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Amador Fire Safe Council	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
		SNC 070053	Amador	CFSC Block II 2007, Pine Grove Planning Unit, Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Amador Fire Safe Council	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
		SNC 070055	Mariposa	CFSC Block II CWPP, Planning, Coordination and Education Expenses	Mariposa County Fire Safe Council	\$ 69,911	\$ 69,911	
		SNC 070109	Mariposa	Oakvale Ranch	American Land Conservancy	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	
		SNC 070156	Tuolumne	Tuolumne County Water Quality Plan Coordinated Watershed Management Program	Tuolumne County RCD	\$ 48,500	\$ 48,500	
		SNC 070157	Calaveras	Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions Project (CHIPS)	Central Sierra RC&D	\$ 48,629	\$ 48,629	
		SNC 070176	Amador	Amador County Watershed Stewardship Project	Amador Community Foundation	\$ 173,780	\$ 173,780	
	South Central Total						\$ 467,945	\$ 467,945
	South	SNC 070031	Fresno	(CSFC Block Grant 1) Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council	\$ 1,617	\$ 1,617	
		SNC 070032	Fresno	(CFSC Block Grant 1) Prevention/Education Program and Council Development	Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
		SNC 070034	Tulare	CFSC Block II Southern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Tulare County Resource Conservation District-Sequoia Fire Safe Council	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	
		SNC 070035	Tulare	CFSC Block II Northern Tulare County-Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Tulare County Resource Conservation District-Sequoia Fire Safe Council	\$ 59,000	\$ 59,000	
		SNC 070178	Kern	Audubon California Kern River Preserve Visitor Facility Planning Project	Audubon California Kern River Preserve	\$ 152,000	\$ 152,000	
	South Total						\$ 276,617	\$ 276,617
	East	SNC 070163	Mono	(MLTPA CAMP) Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Concept and Master Planning	Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation	\$ 120,099	\$ 120,099	
		SNC 070164	Multi-County	Eastern Sierra Citizen Watershed Assessments	Friends of the Inyo	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
	East Total						\$ 165,099	\$ 165,099
	Specific Region \$1m ea Total						\$ 2,115,378	\$ 2,113,378
Grand Total						\$ 3,130,955	\$ 2,796,188	

Background

Budget

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's base budget consists of funding from the California Environmental License Plate Fund. Commencing with the 2007-08 fiscal year, funding for the implementation of the Conservancy's programs is also provided from Proposition 84 bond funds. Proposition 84 allocates \$54 million to the Conservancy, \$17 million of which was appropriated in the 2007 Budget Act for local assistance grants, and \$500,000 to fund five positions and related expenses. At its December Board meeting, the Board approved \$2.8 million to fund various Proposition 84 projects.

Operating expenditures for the current year are generally under budget projections, due primarily to some delay in staff hiring during the fiscal year. The Conservancy has expended \$1.6 million—or 37 percent—of its \$4.5 million operating budget through January of this year. The rate of expenditure will increase during the remainder of the fiscal year due to full staffing and large one-time project costs. However, it is anticipated that there will be a reversion of some funds to the Environmental License Plate Fund (the source of SNC's base budget).

Expenditures of Proposition 84 funds are proceeding as budgeted and it is staff's intent to avoid the need for reappropriation of Proposition 84 funds from the current fiscal year.

A detailed summary of expenditures will be provided prior to the Board meeting.

Staffing

The SNC is nearly fully staffed at this time. We continue to use part-time Legal Counsel and we are currently exploring the possibility of a full-time position for legal services. We will also continue to use retired annuitants, consultants and interagency agreements to meet specialized needs.

Current Status

Budget

The Governor's Budget for 2008-09 proposes roughly the current level of funding, including another \$17 million from Proposition 84 for local assistance grants. In an effort to deal with the State's significant General Fund shortfall, the Governor issued Executive Order S-01-08, declaring a fiscal emergency and calling for serious fiscal constraints on State General Fund agencies. At this time, the SNC is not directly affected by the Executive Order as we do not receive any General Fund support. However, future actions dealing with the state's budget crisis could have an impact on us and we are preparing plans in the event this occurs. In the meantime, we will continue to be diligent in expending our budgeted funds.

Staffing

Two positions in the Mariposa Office are currently being filled by contract employees. The SNC is currently initiating the process that will lead to permanent state employees in those positions. As mentioned above, we will continue to explore options for meeting legal services.

Recommendation

No action by the Board is needed at this time. Staff will keep the Board updated on any budget developments.

Background

The SNC held its first annual symposium on December 5, 2007 focused on climate change and the Sierra Nevada. The event was attended by more than 300 individuals representing a wide range of perspectives and organizations. Speakers and panelists presented information addressing issues specific to the potential effects of climate change on the Sierra Nevada, how the Region may contribute positively to reducing the impacts and how communities and individuals can adapt.

Current Status

Since the Symposium and the Board meeting the following day, staff has taken a number of steps consistent with the Board discussion:

- Information from the Symposium has been posted on the SNC Web site. In addition, a number of climate change links have been added to the SNC Web site;
- The SNC has joined with the Resources Agency, the California Tahoe Conservancy and the US Forest Service in securing the services of Steve Eubanks (former Forest Supervisor on the Tahoe National Forest) to identify an approach for creation of a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Action Plan. Mr. Eubanks will work with all of us, other state and federal agencies and key stakeholders in identifying options and opportunities for creating such a plan (a copy of the work plan for this project is included with this agenda item);
- Members of the Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Team have identified climate change liaisons to interact with the SNC, other state and federal agencies and stakeholders to coordinate actions that can be taken to address climate change-related issues in the Sierra. For example, we have discussed with a number of other state agencies the need to develop climate change-related “filters” to be used in the evaluation of projects being considered for funding;
- Kerri Timmer represented the SNC as a panelist on local cable television program titled “Climate Changes,” with plans to contribute information to and participate in future shows;
- The SNC is on the Planning Committee for the UC Davis Sustainability Conference, hosted by the Center for the Study of Regional Change, to be held May 5-7, 2008, in conjunction with the Great Valley Center annual conference;
- Staff is also in the process of developing modifications to the Strategic Plan to more accurately reflect the SNC’s goals and objectives relating to climate change.

Recommendation

No action is needed from the Board; however the Chair may wish to appoint a committee of the Board to assist staff in development of a Sierra Nevada Climate Action Plan. Staff also welcomes any suggestions or recommendations from the Board relative to our ongoing activities described above.

-- DRAFT --
2/28/2008

Sierra Nevada Climate Change Center

Background:

Following the Sierra Nevada Conservancy-sponsored symposium on climate change in December, 2007, there were discussions about creating a climate change initiative that would help deal with the predicted effects of climate change in a proactive way.

General Concept:

- Establish a central “clearing house” related to climate change information. The Climate Change Center would be initially established and coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the California Tahoe Conservancy, in cooperation with state and federal agencies and regional stakeholders. It is anticipated that the Center could eventually evolve into an operation involving multiple partners and would be responsible for the following:
 - Assist in the development of a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Action Plan.
 - Provide basic networking and coordination for climate change information and climate change-related activities occurring in the Sierra Nevada area.
 - Provide advocacy for activities dealing with climate change, including the identification of funding and investment opportunities in the region.
 - Publicize successful activities dealing with climate change.
 - Be a “convening organization” that would create forums for sharing information on a broader scale, particularly sharing among researchers/scientists, practitioners, and communities of interest.

Next Steps:

While the general concept of a climate center has been discussed and there is enthusiasm for the potential benefits of such a center, there are still questions about details, particularly what should be the scope of a climate change center operation. To further develop the concept, facilitated discussions will be held with key contacts and stakeholders. Outcomes from the discussions will include the following:

- Role(s) of the Climate Center. In more detail, what specifically will the Climate Center do? It is recognized that there are many entities involved in the general arena of climate change so a Sierra Nevada Climate Change Center must provide some kind of added value in order to be justified.
- Scope of work for the Climate Center. Given the importance and growing priority of climate change, the scope of a new climate center’s activities can be almost any level, from small to quite large. It will be important to decide early-on what level is desired.
- Development of an initial Climate Action Plan. Based on the role and scope, what are the key areas of focus for the Climate Center for the next several years? This would include times, responsibilities and opportunities for collaboration.

- Possible development of linkages with similar climate change-related activities in Europe, including potential interaction with a climate change center addressing issues in the Alps.

Specific Products to Be Completed:

- A report describing Role(s) and Scope of Work of the Climate Center. This paper will be completed through facilitated discussions with key partners and stakeholders.
- Climate Action Plan. The action plan will outline priorities or areas of focus for the Climate Center for the next 2-5 years. Again, the development of the Climate Action Plan will involve facilitated discussions with key partners and stakeholders. The possible development of linkages with climate change-related activities in Europe or elsewhere will be included in the action plan discussions.
- An outline of duties for management/leadership of the Climate Center. Once the role(s), scope of work and action plan are completed, it will be possible to determine the appropriate management structure needed to operate the Climate Center.

*-- DRAFT --
2/28/2008*

Background

In August of 2007, Secretary Chrisman convened the Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Team, made up of departments within the Resources Agency. The purpose of the group is to “facilitate coordination of the State of California’s investment in the Sierra Nevada Region to achieve maximum sustainable environmental and economic benefits for the area. “ The group is further directed to coordinate activities, consistent with the SNC Strategic Plan.

The group met in August of last year and in January of this year.

Current Status

SNSIT agencies continue to coordinate on a number of issues, including grant programs, climate change and a variety of other initiatives. Quarterly meetings will occur between SNC staff and the staff of the Wildlife Conservation Board in order to coordinate investments in the Region to the extent possible. Ongoing discussions with the Department of Fish and Game, Cal Fire and Parks and Recreation are also occurring. In addition, the SNC is working with the Resources Agency, the Tahoe Conservancy and our federal partners in the development of a Sierra Nevada Climate Action Plan (more information in contained in a separate agenda item).

Next Steps

SNC staff will continue to work with other agencies to gather the information necessary for preparation of an annual report on Sierra Nevada investments, as directed by Secretary Chrisman.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time.

Background

In December 2005, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board approved a process for the selection of a Headquarters Office. A set of specific criteria was approved and a committee of the Board was appointed to work with staff and the Department of General Services in developing a recommendation to the full Board. In February 2006, the SNC Board selected Auburn as the location for the interim Headquarters Office. At that time, the Board directed the Executive Officer to continue to explore options for a permanent Headquarters Office within roughly a 30 minute drive of Auburn.

Since June 2006, SNC staff has been housed at Creekside Business Park in Auburn. The Auburn office generally meets the organization's needs and presents a positive work environment. The location has proven to provide good access to the major transportation corridors and generally meets the criteria established. The current lease extends through May 2009.

Last year, the SNC opened and staffed its offices in Mariposa, Susanville and Bishop. While these offices will allow the SNC to more effectively cover the area within the Region, their presence does not significantly affect the criteria established for the headquarters office.

Current Status

Consistent with the Board's direction, we are now initiating a process to identify options for a permanent office location. We are interested in identifying potential specific locations that will fully meet our needs. A decision to relocate from our current location will be based on an opportunity to improve organizational efficiency and more fully meet the selection criteria, including the items described below:

Minimum Requirements

- Located within a 30 minute drive of Auburn;
- Provides a minimum of 8,000 – 10,000 square feet of usable office space;
- Meet all state office-building requirements (ADA, etc.);
- Access to high speed internet.

Preferences

- Access to major north-south and east-west transportation corridors (I-5, Hwy 99, Hwy 395, I-80, Hwy 99 and Hwy 49);
- Access to meeting facilities for SNC meetings beyond conference room capacity;
- Convenient access for employees to schools, affordable housing, alternative transportation and other services;
- Opportunity for the SNC to contribute to the economic well-being of the community;
- Availability of permanent office space by no later than June 1, 2009;

- The opportunity for a “green building” that is in keeping with the State’s efforts to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generally reduce the impact on the environment;
- The opportunity to utilize the facility for Regional educational and interpretive activities, consistent with our mission;
- The opportunity for the SNC to contribute to the local community through public use of the SNC facility.

A number of parties have submitted a SNC Headquarters Office Preliminary Proposal form to the SNC. Staff is currently reviewing the proposals and will further investigate the feasibility of all proposals that meet minimum requirements. Based on that review, staff will provide a recommendation for next steps to the Board at the June meeting. If the decision is made to pursue alternatives, a more formal Request for Proposal process in consultation with the Department of General Services will occur following the June meeting.

Recommendation

No Board action is needed at this time. Staff anticipates presenting the Board with a specific course of action at the June Board meeting.

Background

As discussed at the December 2007 meeting, the SNC is involved in planning a Sierra Nevada event for the first week of October of this year at Mammoth Mountain Resort. The SNC was approached by Sierra Business Council (SBC) regarding interest in coordinating with the SBC and other Sierra organizations to sponsor this conference.

Current Status

We will hold our October Board meeting at this location on Thursday, October 2 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We are currently discussing the agenda for other activities with the SBC. It is anticipated that we will consult with a number of other organizations in development of the agenda. Additional discussions have identified an interest in addressing issues relating to climate change, tools for use in land use planning and focusing on the involvement of youth, particularly urban youth in the activities.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work with partners in the planning of this event. It is anticipated that a more detailed agenda will be provided to the Board at the June Board meeting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time. The Chair may wish to appoint a Board Committee to work with staff on this matter.

Background

At the October 2006 Board Meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to take the actions necessary to apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a specialized license plate and appointed a Board committee consisting of Boardmembers Sher and Yamaguchi to provide guidance to staff.

At the December 2006 Board Meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Officer to take actions necessary, in consultation with the Board committee, to produce a license plate design to be presented to the Board for approval at the February 2007 Board Meeting. In addition, staff was directed to work with interested parties to explore options for the creation of a non-profit entity to oversee the license plate effort and meet the fiduciary responsibilities of collecting funds and transferring them to the SNC.

At the February 2007 Board Meeting, the Board provided general direction to the Committee and staff regarding design elements including a representation of water, snow-capped mountains, native vegetation, and/or native wildlife. The Board also provided direction to the Executive Officer to work with The Sierra Fund in the development of a marketing campaign.

At the May 2007 Board Meeting, the Board was updated on development of the plate design and consultations with DMV and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) regarding design guidelines, production methods, and timelines for production. Discussion also occurred regarding consistency with SNC logo. The Board directed staff to continue developing a variety of design alternatives and to provide the Board with a preferred design at the July 2007 meeting.

At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved a license plate design, allowing for minor modifications as necessary. The Board also directed staff to continue coordination on the development and implementation of a license plate marketing campaign with The Sierra Fund and other partners.

Current Status

The Sierra Fund, in consultation with the SNC, has engaged Velocity 7 to develop a marketing campaign for the SNC license plate. [A copy of the draft plan is attached.](#) Staff consulted with The Sierra Fund and Velocity 7 in refining the design of the plate, in order to maximize appeal from a marketing perspective. The revised design included as a part of this agenda item was produced by Velocity 7 and generally reflects refinements to the design approved by the Board. It also includes a change from the term "California's Watershed" to "Sierra Nevada" at the bottom of the plate. This change is recommended based on concerns that a failure to include the words "Sierra Nevada" and the potential confusion relative to the term "California's Watershed" could create marketing difficulties. The DMV and CHP have provided preliminary approval of the design.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the final design, direct staff to submit it to the DMV for formal approval and continue to work with The Sierra Fund in initiating and fully implementing the marketing plan.



California



R S I E R R A

S I E R R A N E V A D A

Background

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, which included an allocation of \$54 million of bond funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). In January 2007, the Governor proposed and the legislature approved \$17 million in grant funds for the SNC for Fiscal Year 2007-08. It is anticipated that the additional bond funds will be appropriated over the next two fiscal years.

During the first half of 2007 the SNC held a series of workshops to assist in the development of Program and Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines. At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved final guidelines that define eligible project and grant types, grant size limits, availability of funds, selection criteria and how to apply for funding.

The Board also approved a plan to allocate the grant funds as follows: \$9 million has been allocated for a Competitive Grants Program and \$8 million for Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs). Of the \$8 million in SOG funding, \$1 million has been allocated to each of the six SNC subregions, and \$2 million for region-wide projects. In August the SNC publicly announced the availability of Proposition 84 SOG funding and invited eligible entities to submit applications for projects.

At the December 2007 meeting, the Board approved awarding of 39 grants for a total of \$2,756,188. The available funds remaining in each of the subregional allocations as of February 29, 2008, are shown in the table below. The amounts reflect the sum of all grants authorized by the Board in December 2007 and five grants authorized by the Executive Officer. Of the total, \$44,530 was authorized by the Executive Officer from the region-wide allocation to augment (by 10%) two previously awarded grants to the California Fire Safe Council to pay for administrative costs accidentally omitted in original authorization. A total of \$199,275 has been awarded in the five Executive Authorizations and one administrative augmentation to date bringing the total amount authorized to date to \$2,955,463.

Table 1 as of Feb. 29, 2008

Subregion	Allocation	Total Authorized to date	Total Remaining
Region-Wide	\$2 Million	707,340	1,292,660
North	\$1 Million	508,109	491,891
North Central	\$1 Million	216,030	783,970
Central	\$1 Million	559,668	440,332
South Central	\$1 Million	492,945	507,055
South	\$1 Million	306,272	693,728
East	\$1 Million	165,099	834,901
TOTAL	\$8 Million	2,955,463	5,044,537

Current Status

Project Development and Evaluation Process

The SNC Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines encourage potential applicants to consult with SNC staff prior to submitting applications. Many applicants have taken advantage of this consultation and report that it has been very helpful in developing their projects and applications. The consultations have also been beneficial for SNC staff by providing them with a better understanding of potential projects and increasing the likelihood that applications address the purpose of Proposition 84 and the mission of the SNC.

Immediately following the December 31st submittal deadline, program staff began reviewing all applications for completeness and applicant eligibility.

Upon determining that an application was complete and eligible for funding, the SNC provided local governments and water agencies with summaries of proposed projects, consistent with SNC guidelines. The Subregional representatives on the SNC Board were also notified at this time, providing an opportunity for them to communicate with the affected entities as well.

SNC program staff consulted with experts in a number of state agencies to review technical aspects of project proposals. Representatives from the Department of General Services (DGS) Environmental Services Branch and the office of the State Attorney General were consulted relative to CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) compliance and real estate appraisals. This review resulted in a number of projects being found ineligible for consideration at this time.

For those projects found to be eligible, SNC program staff evaluated project applications using the evaluation criteria contained in the Guidelines:

1. Contribution to the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources (Proposition 84);
2. How the project addresses one or more of the SNC program goals;
3. Demonstrated cooperation, community support and leveraging.

All applications were required to provide evidence of their ability to implement the project and meet environmental requirements. Through the course of the evaluation, staff interacted with numerous applicants to gather additional information and resolve outstanding issues. Project proposals were reviewed with the Board's Subregional committees in late February regarding Subregional priorities and any issues or concerns related to specific projects.

Summary of Applications Reviewed

As part of the second round of application solicitations, the SNC established December 31st as the last day an application could be submitted and still have the potential to be considered at the March meeting. The SNC received a total 79 eligible new applications by that date. These were added to 29 eligible applications that were deferred from the first round of SOGs, for a total of 108 applications reviewed by staff. The total dollar amount requested for all projects in the second round of SOGs was \$12,985,089.

Each of the six subregions produced applications for a broad spectrum of local projects, and several applications were submitted for projects of region-wide significance. Funding requests from subregions varied substantially and reflected a strong interest in the SNC program. Indications are that many more applications are being prepared by entities in all subregions for consideration in the future.

A number of projects are not being recommended for funding at this time. In many instances, these projects lack adequate environmental documentation or may need additional information/refinement. Staff will continue providing feedback to applicants to help improve project ideas for future applications. As previously mentioned, the SNC Grants Guidelines are in the process of being revised to help clarify requirements and streamline application and review processes. A more detailed description of the guideline revision process is described in materials prepared for Agenda Item XIII.

Projects Recommended for Funding

Exhibit A to this report includes both a spreadsheet showing project-specific information as well as individual project summaries for projects being recommended for Board approval at this meeting.

In some cases the recommended grant amount is less than the amount requested. This is primarily the result of some proposed expenditures being ineligible or elements of the projects needing additional refinement before being funded.

Together, the recommended projects directly leverage more than \$6 million in additional funding and in-kind contributions being committed by applicants and others.

The recommended projects most strongly meet the evaluation criteria described above, are able to be implemented on a timely basis, and meet all environmental review and documentation requirements. The 58 projects recommended for funding in this round of Strategic Opportunity Grants will contribute to the completion of three acquisition projects, implementation of 13 site improvement projects, and numerous projects to complete environmental review, pre-project planning, and education. The projects specifically include 35 acres of land to be acquired for habitat and resource protection, due diligence work to acquire up to 10 conservation easements protecting 3,856 acres

of working landscapes, planning and restoration activities to protect 36 miles of streams, and treatment of 3,275 acres of forested land for fire prevention.

Table 2 Staff Recommendations

Subregion	Recommended Projects	Total Recommended	Total Remaining
Region-Wide	11	1,252,589	40,071
East	9	731,796	103,105
South	8	536,992	156,736
South Central	8	507,055	0
Central	6	428,967	11,365
North	5	444,095	47,796
North Central	11	673,826	110,144
TOTAL	58	4,575,320	469,217

Region-Wide Significance: \$1,252,589

Eleven projects are being recommended for funding as projects with Region-wide significance. Projects recommended for funding under this category will complete research, assessments, appraisals, educational efforts, and publications for much or all of the SNC jurisdictional area.

East Subregion: \$731,796

Nine projects are being recommended for funding in the East Subregion. Projects would provide fuels treatment, watershed assessments, water quality monitoring, and implementation of projects to prevent soil erosion and restore public trails. Projects would provide environmental education to school children and the general public and build awareness to encourage participation in volunteer activities. Projects would also complete a recreation plan and support a land tenure planning process. Proposed projects are located in Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties. Full funding of these projects will leave \$103,105 of the \$1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. It is anticipated that additional projects already submitted to the SNC may be presented to the Board in June 2008 to fully expend these funds.

South Subregion: \$536,992

Eight projects are being recommended for funding in the South Subregion. Two of the project would provide visitor access and education plans for two different preserves. Other projects would provide watershed restoration, revegetation, and river clean-up efforts. The projects would also complete the required environmental review process for future site improvement projects and fund environmental education in school classrooms. Finally, projects would conduct agri-tourism workshops and develop and distribute educational resources to support local economic development. Project locations are proposed in Madera, Fresno, and Tulare counties. Full funding of these projects will leave \$156,736 of the \$1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. Staff recommends that additional

applications be accepted in the South Subregion to ensure that there is an adequate number of projects to recommend during the June meeting to expend the remainder of the funds. In order to meet timeline requirements, applications would be accepted until March 21.

South Central Subregion \$507,055

Eight projects are being recommended for funding in the South Central Subregion. Projects would provide for fuels treatment, watershed planning and restoration, pre-acquisition work, resource assessments and a native demonstration garden and education center. Project locations are proposed in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. Full funding of the recommended projects will expend the \$1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion.

Central Subregion: \$428,967

Six projects are being recommended for funding in the Central Subregion. Projects would provide outdoor education on watershed and forest health issues for high school students, research on potential mechanisms for mitigation of mercury in our watersheds, floodplain and stream restoration design, fire-safe education, and trail alignment work in the Subregion. Projects are located in El Dorado County, Nevada County, and Placer County. Full funding of the recommended projects would leave \$11,365 of the \$1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion.

North Subregion: \$444,095

Five projects are being recommended for funding in the North Subregion. Projects would provide for fuels treatments, watershed restoration, restoration planning, and a how-to guide for considering reuse of mill/mine sites. Projects are located in Lassen County, Modoc County, and one project that covers both Lassen and Modoc. Full funding of the recommended projects will leave \$47,796 of the \$1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. It is anticipated that additional projects already submitted to the SNC may be presented to the Board in June 2008 to fully expend these funds.

North-Central Subregion: \$673,826

Eleven projects are being recommended for funding in the North-Central Subregion to complete appraisal work, fuels reduction, water management planning, hatchery aquaculture and wastewater improvements, noxious weed mitigation, watershed education, and acquisitions of important watershed lands in the Subregion. Projects are located in Butte County, Plumas County, Sierra County, and one project covers all four counties in this Subregion. Full funding of these projects will leave \$110,144 of the \$1,000,000 allocated for this Subregion. It is anticipated that additional projects already submitted to the SNC may be presented to the Board in June 2008 to fully expend these funds.

Reporting of Executive Authorizations: \$88,745

The SNC received three applications requesting Executive Officer approval since the last Board meeting. Consistent with the SNC Board Resolution 2007-001 and the Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines, projects in Table 3 were authorized grant funding by the Executive Officer based on the time-sensitive nature of the projects.

Table 3 Executive Officer Authorizations

Project Name	Project #	Grantee	Description	Dollar Amount
Modoc Line Land Acquisition Evaluation and Management Plan	070252	Lassen Land and Trails Trust	Complete pre-acquisition activities necessary for the purchase of the Modoc Rail Line to maintain the corridor in single ownership and provide environmental, water quality, recreational and other benefits within the 15 watersheds traversed by the rail line.	\$39,090
Smart Growth Conference	070001	Central Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.	Produce the First Regional Smart Growth Conference, a two-day, educational event for the South Central and Eastern Sierra Nevada regions.	\$20,000
Big Meadows Post-Project Monitoring and Technique Training	070181	Fly Fishers for Conservation	Conduct post-project monitoring in Big Meadows within Giant Sequoia National Monument.	\$29,655
TOTAL				\$88,745

All of the subregions, except the South, have received enough eligible, quality project proposals to expend the virtually all of the remainder of their allocation by the June meeting. Additional CEQA review and processing will clear these pending projects for possible consideration in June. Pending approval of this recommendation, additional applications for SOG grants will only be accepted for the South subregion for funding up to \$156,000. Since all funds from the SNC's current budget must be encumbered by June 30 of this year, staff is seeking Board authorization to consider that any remaining

funds in subregional allocations, along with funds from the SOG Regionwide and Competitive Grant allocation be eligible for funding grants from any subregion subject to Board approval at its June meeting. Efforts will be made to keep funding in the subregion where originally allocated.

CEQA Compliance

A total of 38 projects being recommended do not require CEQA documentation due to the nature of the actions being recommended and have been included in a memo prepared for the Conservancy.

Twenty projects being recommended require the Conservancy to complete a Notice of Exemption and file with the State Clearinghouse. Notices of Exemption have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval.

Addendum 1 to the Board packet contains all notices referenced above.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board authorize [Strategic Opportunity Grants listed in Exhibit A](#), and further authorize staff to enter into all necessary agreements and file the appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse for all projects.

In order to ensure full encumbrance of SNC's FY 07-08 Proposition 84 funds by June 30, staff further recommends that the Board authorize the pooling of remaining funds from the individual Subregional and Regionwide SOG allocations to be used to fund grants in any category or subregion, subject to Board approval at its June meeting. To the extent possible, staff will recommend projects in the subregion where the remaining funds were originally allocated.

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**Proposition 84
Grants Guidelines**

FY 07-08 - \$17 million*

**Other Future
Grant Guidelines**

(None available at this time)

**Competitive Grants
[Section II]**

- \$9 million for entire SNC Region
- Annual application deadline
- For grants between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000
- Authorized by SNC Board
- Eligible project types:
 - o Acquisition
 - o Site Improvements/Restoration

**Strategic Opportunity Grants
(SOGs)
[Section III]**

- \$1 million per Sub-Region (\$6 million total)
- \$2 million for regionwide projects
- Applications accepted any time
- All project types eligible
- Authorizations and grant amounts differ by SOG Category (see below)

SOG Category 1

- For grants of less than \$50,000
- For acquisition and site improvement projects only
- Authorized by SNC Board

SOG Category 2

- For grants of less than \$50,000
- For all project types except acquisition and site improvement
- Authorized by SNC Board or Executive Officer, depending on timing needs

SOG Category 3

- For grants of \$50,000 or more (no upper limit)
- For all project types except acquisition and site improvement
- Authorized by SNC Board

Background

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, which included an allocation of \$54 million of bond funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). In January 2007, the Governor proposed and the legislature approved \$17 million in grant funds for the SNC for Fiscal Year 2007-08. It is anticipated that the additional bond funds will be appropriated over the next two fiscal years.

During the first half of 2007 the SNC held a series of workshops to assist in the development of Program and Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines. At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved final guidelines that define eligible project and grant types, grant size limits, availability of funds, selection criteria and how to apply for funding.

The Board also approved a plan to allocate the grant funds as follows: \$9 million has been allocated for a Competitive Grants Program and \$8 million for Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs).

In August, the SNC publicly announced the availability of Proposition 84 Competitive funding and invited eligible entities to submit applications for projects. As part of the grants solicitation, the SNC established November 15th as the final filing date for Competitive Grant applications. The SNC received 42 applications requesting a total of \$24,266,474 in funding. Of the applications received, four were not reviewed, including two that were withdrawn, one that was found ineligible, and one that was received after the deadline. The total dollar amount of the applications that were not reviewed is \$4,547,700.

Current Status

Project Development and Evaluation Process

The SNC Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines encourage potential applicants to consult with SNC staff prior to submitting applications. Many applicants have taken advantage of this consultation and report that it has been very helpful in developing their projects and applications. The consultations have also been beneficial to SNC staff by providing them with a better understanding of potential projects and increasing the likelihood that applications address the purpose of Proposition 84 and the mission of the SNC. However, in the case of Competitive Grants, staff maintained a policy of not consulting with applicants after the submission deadline except to seek clarification or obtain additional information necessary for technical review.

Immediately following the November 15, 2007 submittal deadline, program staff began reviewing all applications for completeness and applicant eligibility. Most applications were complete and well presented.

Upon determining that an application was complete and eligible for funding, the SNC scored proposals based on the criteria contained in Competitive Grants Guidelines. Proposals were scored on the following criteria:

- A. Land And Water Benefits (25 points)
- B. SNC Program Goals (25 points)
- C. Ability to Implement Project / Timeliness (15 points)
- D. Cooperation and Community Support (10 points)
- E. Project Management and Adequacy of Design (10 points)
- F. Sustainability, Long-Term Management, and Maintenance (10 points)
- G. Model Project Values (5 points)

Reviews of technical aspects, environmental documentation, and real estate appraisals were performed by experts in the Department of General Services, other state agencies and consultants.

As required by statute, the SNC consulted with city and county officials and appropriate water agencies regarding project proposals within their jurisdictions.

Following receipt of all technical review, projects were assigned a final score by SNC staff. The highest ranked projects are being recommended for approval by the Board at this time (Exhibit A).

Summary of Applications Reviewed

A total of 32 applications requesting \$17,647,268 million were determined to be eligible for Proposition 84 Competitive Grant funding and were reviewed by staff.

Six Competitive Grant applications contained project elements that were more suitable to be evaluated as Strategic Opportunity Grants, and were moved into that category. This resulted in a reduction of funds requested for these grants to be consistent with SOG grant limits. The total requested amount moved to SOG category is \$1,821,506.

Applications were received from throughout the Sierra Nevada Region, although not equally from all subregions. A number of applications for high quality projects on federal lands were received with completed NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) documentation, but were unable to be further considered because CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) documentation was not complete. In future grant cycles, staff will be working with prospective applicants to recommend completing joint NEPA/CEQA documentation for projects likely to seek SNC funding.

Due to the tight timelines involved with this first round of Competitive Grant funding, necessary reviews have not been completed for one project. Since this situation exists

through no fault of the applicant, staff is recommending that approximately \$1,160,000 be reserved from the Competitive allocation to allow for the review to be completed. Following that review, staff will evaluate remaining projects and bring forward a recommendation to expend the funds at the June meeting.

Projects Recommended for Funding

A spreadsheet showing project specific information and individual project summaries for projects being recommended for Board approval are included as a part of this report as Exhibit A.

The total amount being recommended for funding in this cycle is \$7,831,922, resulting in a balance of \$1,168,078 from the available \$9 million allocation. Authorization of additional projects in June could still result in a small balance of funds in the Competitive allocation. In order to fully encumber SNC's FY 07-08 Proposition 84 funds by June 30, staff recommends that the Board authorize the use of any remaining funds from the Competitive Grant allocation for SOG projects, subject to Board approval at the June meeting.

The recommended projects (Exhibit A) received the highest scores and most strongly meet the evaluation criteria described above, are able to be implemented on a timely basis, and meet all environmental review and documentation requirements. The 14 projects recommended for funding in this round of Competitive Grants will contribute to the completion of seven acquisition projects and implementation of seven site improvement projects. The projects specifically include: 4,449 acres of land to be acquired for habitat and resource protection; three conservation easements protecting 1,640 acres of working landscapes; treatment of 19,206 acres of habitat for removal of invasive weeds; restoration or protection of 17.37 miles of streams; treatment of 278 acres of forested land for fire prevention and habitat protection.

The projects directly leverage over \$23 million being committed in funds and in-kind contributions by applicants and others.

CEQA Compliance

One project being recommended does not require CEQA documentation due to the nature of the action being recommended and has been included in a memo prepared for the Conservancy.

Eleven projects being recommended require the Conservancy to complete a Notice of Exemption, to be filed with the State Clearinghouse. Notices of Exemption have been prepared for review and will be filed upon Board approval.

Two projects being recommended have associated environmental documents previously adopted or certified by a public agency. Staff has reviewed these documents and recommends that the Board concur with findings stated in these documents.

Copies of all documents have been distributed to the Board for review and will remain available for review at the Conservancy's main office in Auburn, California. In each case, a Notice of Determination has been prepared and will be filed with the State Clearinghouse upon Board approval.

Addendum 2 to the Board packet contains all notices referenced above.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board authorize [Competitive Grants listed in Exhibit A](#), and further authorize staff to enter into all necessary agreements and file the appropriate CEQA documentation included in Addendum 2 with the State Clearinghouse for all projects.

In order to ensure full encumbrance of the SNC's FY 2007-08 Proposition 84 funds by June 30, staff further recommends that the Board authorize the use of any remaining funds from the Competitive Grant allocation for funding grants in any category, subject to Board approval at its June meeting.

Background

SNC staff has had almost one year of experience administering the initial Proposition 84 Grants. We have learned a great deal in the process and have received numerous comments and suggestions from applicants and others to improve both the process and instructions to applicants. In addition, our own observations have led to a number of policy modification and process improvement suggestions. In response to these comments and suggestions, we will be proposing changes to the Grants Guidelines for 2008-09 Proposition 84 Grants. Because several potential changes involve key policy-level issues, we have presented proposed changes in this report and invite direction from the Board before drafting revised guidelines for public review. We will also be including a number of potential process and administrative changes in the Guidelines and Grant Application Package, with the goal of the grants program becoming streamlined, better understood and providing a higher degree of "user friendliness." Final draft Grants Guidelines will be brought to the Board for review and approval in June.

Current Status

Staff has begun collecting data, organizing materials, and drafting selected policy modification language for potential changes. The policies that appear to hold the highest need or desire for modification include the following:

Grant Categories

Based on our experience this year, staff recommends that modifications to grant category funding levels be made as follows:

- The Competitive Grant category would be modified to include projects between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000. Current funding limits are \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.
- Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOG) categories would be modified as follows:
 - SOG 1 -- Acquisitions and site improvements/restoration projects between \$5,000 and \$250,000. Currently projects have no minimum limit and an upper limit of \$100,000.
 - SOG 2 -- All projects that are not acquisition or site improvement /restoration up to \$500,000. Currently, these projects are divided into two SOG categories (SOG 2 and SOG 3) and have no upper limit.

Grant Cycles

We have established a goal of maintaining flexibility in our grant program in order to address the Region's needs in a timely fashion. At the same time, there are important workload considerations relating to processing and evaluating grant applications in an effective and efficient manner. In the current year, staff was responsible for processing

and evaluating Competitive and SOG applications at the same time. This included a great deal of interaction with applicants to ensure that the information needed for projects was received.

In light of this year's experience, staff proposes modifying grant cycles for 2008-09 to include two Strategic Opportunity Grant rounds, with grants being awarded at the December 2008 and June 2009 Board meetings. Competitive grants would continue to have one round with grants being awarded at the March 2009 Board meeting. This schedule will maintain a degree of flexibility while providing for a more manageable flow of workload.

Regulatory Compliance

It is proposed that the guidelines be modified to clearly state that grant funding may not be used to meet regulatory requirements or to address non-compliance of any law or regulation. Currently, there is no specific exclusion language in the SNC Grant Guidelines. We have received a few inquiries regarding this matter and it appears prudent to be clear in our guidelines on this subject.

NEPA/CEQA

SNC funding requires that all projects comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Project proposals on federal land or where a federal agency is the applicant must also meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. It is proposed that guideline language clarify the need for CEQA compliance in addition to NEPA compliance, in order to receive SNC funds. This issue has proven to be significant and a number of projects have not been recommended for approval because of it.

Next Steps

Following direction from the Board on the policy issues identified in this staff report, staff will prepare a public review draft of the 2008-09 Guidelines. We are currently planning to release the draft on April 9, 2008, accepting public comment for approximately 30 days. A number of public meetings including web conferences will be scheduled to gather input and staff will interact with various stakeholders during this time. A final draft set of Guidelines will be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time. Staff will prepare draft guidelines, conduct public comment process and prepare final draft guidelines to be considered by the Board in June. The Chair may wish to appoint a committee of the Board to provide guidance to staff on this matter.

Background

The SNC Strategic Plan identifies the need to develop Performance Measures and Indicators to measure the success of SNC projects and programs, as well as progress toward improving the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Region. At the July 2007 meeting, the Board approved a process for the development and use of such Indicators and Performance Measures at three levels:

- **System Indicators** to measure the well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. Examples might include per capita income of Sierra residents, measures of water turbidity or ppb of mercury, and percentage of home ownership within the Region. **Indices** are groups of Indicators.
- **Program Performance Measures** to track progress in achieving program goals and meeting the SNC's overall mission. Examples might include the total number of acres protected by SNC-funded conservation easements, recreational visitor days on public lands, and measures of increased collaboration resulting from SNC-funded projects.
- **Project Outcome Performance Measures** to track project efforts against the expected outcomes. Examples include miles of trails constructed, tons of carbon sequestered/avoided, and number of archeological sites protected as a result of a project.

At the December 2007 meeting, the Board approved an interim list of Performance Measures specifically for projects awarded during the 2007-08 grant cycle through Proposition 84 funding. This comprised the initial stage of the overall effort.

The process of developing Indicators and Performance Measures has now advanced to the next stage, involving the development of a set of recommended Indicators and Performance Measures—along with an implementation plan—for presentation to the Board at the June 2008 meeting. This stage is further described below.

Current Status

In January of 2008, the SNC engaged a team led by Propoint Technology and in collaboration with the Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment, Environmental Incentives, and the Sierra Business Council. The team is engaged to develop System Indicators and program and project outcome Performance Measures as defined above. SNC executives, managers, and staff work with and provide direction and support to the team. The project is organized around the following major tasks:

- **Project Planning:** Working in close collaboration with SNC staff, the project team developed a detailed project work plan and schedule, including a public input plan to involve various external entities and a stakeholder advisory group.

- **Development of Conceptual Lists:** The project team researched performance data currently being collected or developed by other entities at the local, state, and national levels and applied the team's extensive knowledge and experience related to performance measurement to develop initial conceptual lists of Measures and Indicators. These are included herein as Attachment A and B, respectively. The conceptual list of Project Outcome Measures has been embedded within the Program Performance Measures list; this reflects the emphasis in deriving, where applicable, project measures from program measures to help ensure that project activities link to program goals.
- **Development of Draft Performance Measures and Indicators:** During this task, the team will engage the public, grant recipients and other SNC stakeholders to get their feedback, input, and suggestions regarding appropriate performance measures and indicators. Based on this input and additional research and analysis, the team will prepare a final draft set of Performance Measures and Indicators for presentation to the Board in June. The team will also prepare a draft implementation and governance plan for presentation to the Board, which will describe the communications, systems and processes needed to gather and report performance information, integrate it into SNC decision-making, and make it available for use by others in the region.
- **Development of Final Performance Measures and Indicators:** Based on direction provided by the Board, the team will incorporate final revisions to the set of Performance Measures and Indicators as appropriate, as well as the implementation plan. This task is expected to be completed in July 2008.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, the team will obtain broad input and go through the process of developing a final recommended set of Performance Measures and Indicators to present to the Board in June. Upcoming activities include the following:

- **Obtain Broad Input:** A cornerstone of the project is to invite input from the public, grant recipients, and other stakeholders on potential Performance Measures and Indicators as well as the criteria the team will use to determine the final set of recommended measures. (Preliminary criteria are included in the attachments).
 - ✓ Subregional workshops and Web conferences
A public workshop will be held in each of the six sub-regions along with two additional workshops conducted via web conference. The subregional workshops and web conferences are open to anyone. Workshops will provide an overview of the project, an explanation of how Performance Measures and Indicators will be used by the SNC and how they might be put to use by other stakeholders, an introduction of Performance Measures and Indicators under consideration, a discussion of the process

for selecting Performance Measures and Indicators and an invitation to participate in the online survey (see below). Attendees will be asked for comment on the information presented.

✓ Stakeholder Advisory Group

A Stakeholder Advisory Group has been created to provide additional input at specific steps in the process. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group and a workshop will be held with the group to capture their perspectives on the process for selecting Performance Measures and Indicators, criteria used, and value of the individual Performance Measures and Indicators.

✓ Surveys

Stakeholder groups and the general public, including visitors to the SNC web site, will be invited to provide input on each of the Program Measures via the completion of an on-line survey designed to capture both the informational value of a Performance Measure, and its use for decision-making and program reporting. The survey is designed according to the criteria rating described in Appendix A.

- ***Evaluate and Select Indicators and Measures:*** The information collected from the public input process in combination with additional research and analysis performed by the project team will be used to develop a recommended set of draft System Indicators and Performance Measures. The selection process and measures will be structured to achieve the following:
 - ✓ Be informed by the wisdom of diverse stakeholders with a variety of perspectives;
 - ✓ Meaningfully engage stakeholders in their development and refinement;
 - ✓ Be concise and allow for clear reporting and use;
 - ✓ Be collected, used, and regularly reported by the SNC to advance learning, understanding of the region, and program improvement;
 - ✓ Be available and useful to stakeholders throughout the Sierra region;
 - ✓ Help understand how programs can contribute to improving economic, environmental, and social health.

The final recommended set of Performance Measures and Indicators will then be fully evaluated and documented, including capturing detailed operational information needed to implement the Indicator or Performance Measure. This analysis will inform the development of the implementation and governance plan (outlined below), and will also be presented to the Board at the June Board meeting. Following the Board meeting, adjustments will be incorporated into the final project deliverables.

- ***Develop Draft Implementation and Governance Plan:*** The implementation and governance plan will involve direct work with SNC to identify ways Indicators and Performance Measures will be systematically used, both internally and externally, for adaptive improvement. A plan will be developed to articulate the relationship of Performance Measures to program improvement and to future strategic planning processes. It will also define annual and five-year cycles of data collection and reporting.

Recommendation

No action is needed by the Board at this time, although input on the process and work to date is welcome. The final draft set of recommended Performance Measures and Indicators and implementation recommendations will be brought to the Board for review and approval at the June meeting. The Chair may wish to appoint a committee to provide guidance to the project team.

Attachment A Conceptual Performance Measures

This attachment includes an initial, conceptual list of Performance Measures (PM), which integrates both initial Program and Project Outcome Performance Measures. The team is compiling information related to each performance measure using a rating table. An excerpt from the table is included on page eight. For each candidate performance measure, the table will be populated with descriptive information and a rating of 1 to 5 relative to each of the seven proposed criteria. The specific information and rating criteria are outlined below along with information regarding how the 1 to 5 rating will be established for each criteria.

Performance Measure Description

This description provides additional insight into what the PM entails, need for the PM, and other key details that may be relevant to understanding the PM.

SNC Related Programs

SNC's Strategic Plan defines 7 program areas. This informational category indicates the program areas that could utilize this PM.

Level of Effort

- 5 Easy:** Requires less than \$1,000 and 40 hours of staff time annually, and no specialized expertise to collect, analyze and report;
- 3 Moderate:** Requires between \$1,000 and \$25,000 and 40 to 250 hours of staff time annually, and some specialized expertise to collect, analyze and report;
- 1 Difficult:** Requires more than \$50,000 and 500 hours of staff time annually, and significant specialized expertise to collect, analyze and report.

Connection to Social, Economic or Environmental System

- 5 Direct:** Directly agreeable to a potential System Indicator;
- 3 Strong:** Strongly related System status - i.e. may affect status directly or with well accepted assumptions;
- 1 Weak:** Very weakly or not related to System status - i.e. requires assumptions that are not well understood or not expected to result in a change of System Indicators.

Relationship to Other Efforts

- 5 Exact:** Exact match to reporting measures used by 3 or more other CA organizations;
- 3 Good:** Good match to reporting measures used by 1 or 2 other CA organizations;
- 1 None:** Not used by other CA organizations.

Rating Criteria for SNC Input

SNC management and staff will be asked to respond to each of the following rating categories in order to inform the selection of 10 to 20 Performance Measures that will be fully developed and evaluated in detail. SNC management and staff will also have the opportunity to answer the two additional questions targeted to a broader, stakeholder audience.

Ability to Fund

- 5 Guaranteed:** Sufficient, consistent funding is guaranteed to be available for SNC or through SNC partners for the data collection, management, analysis and reporting effort needed for this PM;
- 3 If Prioritized:** Supporting data collection, management, analysis and reporting is possible to support by SNC and partners as long as given moderate priority by management;
- 1 Very Unlikely:** It is very unlikely that there will be support for the data collection, management, analysis and reporting effort needed for this PM.

Meaningful for Management Decisions

- 5 Very Meaningful:** Easily and strongly related to funding and staffing allocations AND natural resource management decisions;
- 3 Moderately Meaningful:** Can relate to funding and staffing allocations OR natural resource management decisions;
- 1 Not Meaningful:** Not related to funding and staffing allocations AND natural resource management decisions.

Rating Criteria for Stakeholder Input

Stakeholders will be asked to respond to each of the following rating categories in order to inform the selection of 10 to 20 Performance Measures that will be fully developed and evaluated in detail.

Usability

- 5 Frequently Useful:** I or my organization will use information related to this measure frequently for reporting progress and making decisions;
- 3 Potentially Useful:** I or my organization will potentially refer to this information at times for reporting progress and making decisions;
- 1 Not Useful:** I do not foresee any use for this information by me or my organization.

Information Value to You

- 5 Clear:** This PM provides a clear and meaningful understanding of what is a good and bad result or trend;
- 3 Needs Explanation:** This PM is understandable and meaningful given some explanation and context;
- 1 No Value:** This PM means very little to me and is unlikely to be meaningful even with explanation.

Conceptual SNC Performance Measures (PMs) Rating Table

Please see the notes at the bottom of the table.		Related SNC Programs									
PM Name	PM Description	Tourism & Recreation	Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical, Living Resources	Working Landscapes	Natural Disaster Risks	Water & Air Quality	Regional Economy	Public Lands	Level of Effort	Connection to Social, Economic or Environmental System	Relationship to Other Efforts
(short and memorable)	(additional PM information)								(Rating & short rationale)	(Rating & short rationale)	(Rating & short rationale)
Acres of Land Easements	Area under development restriction with a focus on ecosystem health provides a measure of the extent of natural resource protection provided by SNC activities	Ω	Ω	Ω		Ω		Ω	5 Acquired through project reports and must be checked to ensure no double counting	4 If an indicator of land-use distribution is selected, this would directly aggregate.	5 Used by land trusts, state agencies and local communities
Acres of Land Acquired	Area of critical lands acquired to protect, conserve, or restore resources, characterized by purpose (protect, conserve, or restore physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, or living resources) and priority level	Ω	Ω	Ω		Ω		Ω	5 Relatively simple, assuming good project-level record-keeping; must take care to accurately describe extent of SNC's contribution	4 If an indicator of land-use distribution is selected, this would directly aggregate.	5 Most of them measure numbers or acres of restoration, enhancement, preservation, and acquisition projects
. . .Continues. See Conceptual List of Candidates on next page.											

Notes:

The three right-most columns contain information provided by the project team. Each column includes a numeric rating and a short rationale for the rating given

Higher ratings signify a PM's greater desirability in that category

Ω indicates that the PM is useful for measuring performance in the respective SNC program area, by column

Conceptual SNC Performance Measures (PMs) Candidate PMs

1. Acres of Land Easements
2. Acres of Land Acquired
3. Acres of Land Exchanged
4. Number of Event Days
5. Tons of Carbon Sequestered/Avoided
6. Number of New Recreation Access Points
7. Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed
8. Number of Trail Segments Connected
9. Size and Number of Informational Databases Created
10. Number of Technical Assistance Requests Met by SNC Staff
11. Number of Collaboratively Developed Project Prioritization Plans
12. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected
13. Acres of Wetland Restored or Improved
14. Stream Miles Opened to Migratory Fish
15. Number of Acres Under Best Management Practices
16. Percent Change in Fish Tissue Contaminants Index
17. Tons of Pollutant Reduced Per Year
18. Number of Projects
19. Funds Directly Distributed in the Sierra Nevada
20. Funds Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
21. Hours Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
22. Dollar Value of In-kind Equipment Leveraged
23. Number of Awards
24. Number of "Quality Enhancement Points"
25. Number of Awards
26. Number of "Quality Enhancement Points"
27. Number of People Reached
28. Hours of Curriculum Generated
29. Number of facilities Improved or Constructed
30. Internet Connection Capacity Gain
31. Acres Included in New or Updated Hazard Maps
32. Number of Priority catastrophic wildfire risk and hazard areas identified
33. Acres of Wildland Urban Interface Treated
34. Value of Area Protected
35. Number of Communities With Plans to Address Natural Hazards
36. Acres of wildfire risk reduction projects in high-priority areas
37. Number of Cultural, Historical, and Heritage sites Preserved
38. Number of best practices developed for working landscapes
39. Visitor Capacity Created
40. Number of Business Ventures and Organizations Created
41. Number of Jobs Created
42. Number of biomass utilization projects developed
43. Number of reports summarizing best available information on potential effects of climate change
44. Increased Knowledge and Changed Behavior
45. Number of agritourism & ecotourism development projects
46. Number of Fish In Restored Streams

*This represents a preliminary conceptual list of Performance Measure (PM) candidates.
The project team will refine and adjust the PMs and information provided.*

Attachment B Conceptual System Indicators

This attachment includes an initial, conceptual list of Sierra Nevada System Indicators. The System Indicator (SI) Rating Table will be populated with candidate SIs. An excerpt from the table is included on page twelve. For each SI, the table will include a brief description of the SI (including measurement units) and information regarding:

- What concept the SI measures;
- Spatial scale at which data can be collected;
- Frequency with which data can be collected;
- Source or sources of data;
- Identification of other entities that use the Indicator.

Indicators will be assessed using the selection criteria described below.

Criteria for Selecting Final Set of Indicators

Feasibility

Cost, time, and expertise required;

Temporal Sensitivity

Ability to detect and measure at a meaningful temporal scale;

Spatial Scale

Resolution allows for application at state, regional, sub-regional, and community levels;

Credible

Data is obtained from a reliable source and analytical methods are sound;

Intuitive

Common sense concept and easily understood by a broad audience;

Decision-useful

Clear relationship between system condition and management and policy decisions;

Comprehensive

Captures system complexity spanning multiple areas of interest or concern.

For each of the above criteria, we have developed several questions for discussion and comment that will be used to ultimately rank the Indicators.

Criteria for SNC Input

- Intuitive
- Decision-useful
- Comprehensive

Criteria for Stakeholder Advisory Group Input

- Temporal Sensitivity
- Spatial Scale
- Credible
- Decision-useful
- Comprehensive

Criteria for Public Input

- Spatial Scale
- Credible
- Intuitive
- Decision-useful

Conceptual SNC System Indicators (SIs) Rating Table

SI Name/Units	SI Description	Concept Measured	Spatial Scale of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Data Sources	Other Entities Using SI
(short and memorable)	(additional PM information)					
Economic						
Rate of job growth to population growth	Measures the rate at which jobs grew in the region and sub-regions to identify the disparity between job growth and population.	Productivity (Jobs:Base Year:Time)	Regional and Sub regional	annually	California Employment Development Department, California Department of Finance	Most Regional Indicators Projects
Gross Domestic Product (\$)	Measure the size of the economy as the total value of all goods, services over a given period of time	Productivity (consumption+gross investment+government spending+export-imports)	Regional and Subregional	annually	California Department of Finance	Most Regional Indicator Projects
. . .Continues. See Conceptual List of Candidates on next page.						

Conceptual SNC System Indicators (SIs)

Candidate SIs

Economic

1. Rate of job growth to population growth
2. Gross Domestic Product (\$)
3. Agricultural production
4. Farmland acreage
5. Number of farms selling directly to individuals
6. Cattle Production
7. Timber production
8. Earnings per job
9. Economic diversity index
10. Employment by sector
11. Ratio of transfer income to earned income
12. Travel and Tourism spending
13. Real value of ecosystem services
14. Payments captured for ecosystem services
15. Goods and services leakage
16. Locally owned businesses percentage
17. High speed internet access
18. Vehicle Miles Traveled in/out

Social

1. GINI coefficient
2. Population (People)
3. In-migration
4. Demographics of new residents
5. Relative/absolute % below the poverty line
6. Children in family receiving assistance

7. School's free or reduced lunch programs
8. Percentage of income devoted to housing
9. Percentage of renters/homeowners
10. Unemployment/Underemployment
11. Seasonal employment
12. National Register of Historic Places stats
13. Visitor Days
14. Educational Attainment
15. Public school funding
16. Community programs in place to promote general awareness of air, water, and climate issues
17. SI Index
18. Volunteer hours
19. Number of registered 501c3s
20. % voting in elections (primary, midterm, etc.)
21. Youth organizations
22. Medical professionals per capita
23. Average wait time to see provider
24. Access to care for underserved communities: clinics for the uninsured
25. % children covered, % of elderly covered
26. Advances in/access to telemedicine
27. # of people on medicare/medicaid
28. Community arts programs
29. Organizations focused around the arts
30. Asthma

*This represents a preliminary conceptual list of System Indicator (SI) candidates.
The project team will refine and adjust the SIs and information provided.*

Conceptual SNC System Indicators (SIs)

Candidate SIs (continued)

31. % violent crime per thousand
 32. Property crime per thousand
 33. Substance abuse arrests per thousand
 34. Incidents of family violence
 35. Public Transport funding
 36. Commuting to work out of area
 37. Transportation General Plan
 38. Institutions/projects in place addressing inequalities amongst race/class
 39. Feedback mechanisms in place for disenfranchised people
 40. Diversity in decision making processes
 41. Access to affordable food
- Environmental**
1. Ratio of Public to Private Land Ownership
 2. Acres of Fire Risk
 3. Residential, commercial, industrial, and open space
 4. Acres of conversion of forest and rangeland to urban uses
 5. Mixed use in downtown areas
 6. Farmland Acreage
 7. Acreage in private conservation easements
 8. Second Homes
 9. Acreage enrolled in Williamson Act
 10. Acreage in Timber Production Zone
 11. Snow pack/rainfall data
 12. Area in percent of ecosystem or land or affected by processes or agents beyond the historic range of historic variation
 13. Diversity of habitat type
 14. Population viability of state and federal threatened, endangered and candidate species
 15. % of habitat protected by indicator species
 16. Number of species that occupy a small portion of their former range
 17. Invasive species
 18. Particulates
 19. Ozone, Nox, Carbon
 20. Solid waste generated and disposed
 21. Point sources of toxins
 22. Total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool by forest type age class and successional stages
 23. Hydropower
 24. Biomass Co-gen plants
 25. Creative production of energy
 26. Electricity prices
 27. Groundwater
 28. Impaired Streams and Rivers
 29. Agricultural Production
 30. Organic farming
 31. Vehicle miles traveled on California state highways
 32. Personal vehicle use of gasoline per capita
 33. Diesel bus and truck use of fuel per capita

*This represents a preliminary conceptual list of System Indicator (SI) candidates.
The project team will refine and adjust the SIs and information provided.*