

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Theresa Burgess (530) 823-4672
theresa.burgess@sierranevada.ca.gov



Six tons of trash removed today during ninth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup

(AUBURN, Calif.) – Today, 900 volunteers worked together to remove nearly six tons of trash from the rivers, lakes, and streams of the Sierra Nevada region as part of the ninth annual Great Sierra River Cleanup. This event, coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and held in partnership with California Coastal Cleanup Day, serves to promote good stewardship throughout the state's watersheds, from the Sierra to the sea.

"More than 60 percent of California's drinking and irrigation water originates in the Sierra Nevada Region," said Jim Branham, Executive Officer for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. "We want to thank the volunteers who came out today to help keep California's primary water source clean."

Some of the items collected today include beverage containers, washing machines, light bulbs, tires, and more. A prom dress, an unopened vinyl album of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and a Monopoly hotel were some of the more unusual items discovered.

"Today, volunteers from across California came out to show their support for clean water and healthy environments," said California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird. "Coastal Cleanup Day and the Great Sierra River Cleanup are wonderful events that remind us all to be good stewards of our natural treasures."

The Great Sierra River Cleanup kicks off Sierra Nevada Watershed Protection Week, established in 2015 (ACR 22, Dahle) to highlight the importance of the Sierra Nevada region to the entire state.

The Great Sierra River Cleanup would not be possible without the hard work of dozens of local community groups, our partners at the California Coastal Commission, and our sponsor, Pacific Gas & Electric.

Results from this year's event, a list of participating organizations, and additional event information are available at www.sierranevada.ca.gov. Photos will be shared on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

- more -

IMAGE 1:



Volunteers at Incline Village General Improvement District's Lake Tahoe cleanup site.
Photo Credit: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

- more -

IMAGE 2:



RiverTree Volunteers collecting trash along the San Joaquin River.
Photo Credit: RiverTree Volunteers

About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The SNC has awarded nearly \$60 million in grants for projects that protect and enhance the health of California's primary watersheds by improving forest health, remediating mercury contamination from abandoned mines, protecting critical natural resources, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Funding for these projects came from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006 and Proposition 1 passed by voters in 2014.

The Sierra Nevada Region spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties, and runs from the Oregon border on the north to Kern County on the south. The Region is the origin of more than 60 percent of California's developed water supply.

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