

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **13 California Legislators Join in as Co-Chairs for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Sierra River Cleanup, Sept. 21**

**(Auburn)** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Sierra River Cleanup just got a major boost in support at the state Capitol as 13 legislators have signed on as co-chairs of the Sept. 21 event, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) announced today.

“We are thrilled to have the support of these members of our Legislature, and we know they will help us get the word out about the importance of the Sierra Nevada watersheds to the rest of the state,” said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. “We appreciate their commitment and support.”

The following 13 members have signed on to the Great Sierra River Cleanup:

### **Senators**

- Jean Fuller (R – Bakersfield)
- Ted Gaines (R – Rocklin)
- Fran Pavley (D – Agoura Hills)
- Lois Wolk (D – Davis)

### **Assembly Members**

- Luis Alejo (D-Salinas)
- Connie Conway (R – Tulare)
- Beth Gaines (R – Roseville)
- Richard Gordon (D – Menlo Park)
- Adam Gray (D – Merced)
- Jim Patterson (R – Fresno)
- Henry Perea (D – Fresno)
- Ken Cooley (D – Rancho Cordova)
- Kristin Olsen (R – Modesto)

As co-chairs, these representatives are communicating to their constituents about the event and promoting the importance of clean watersheds. Sierra watersheds are the source of more than 60% of the state’s developed water supply and provide up to half of the fresh water flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Great Sierra River Cleanup is the largest, one-day volunteer effort in the Sierra Nevada region. During the first four years of the event more than 14,700 volunteers have joined together to remove more than 550 tons of trash and recyclables from

watersheds throughout the Sierra Nevada. Hundreds of community groups have spread across 22 counties and 1,280 river miles to pull appliances, cigarette butts, beverage cans, baby diapers, tires, furniture, and other items from rivers and streams. This effort, in partnership with the California Coastal Cleanup Day, serves to promote good stewardship on all of our waterways, from the source to the sea.

Persons wishing to join the cleanup effort this year can find an event near them by clicking on an interactive map on the SNC web site: [www.SierraNevada.ca.gov](http://www.SierraNevada.ca.gov).

### ***About the Sierra Nevada Conservancy***

*Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. In its first five years, the SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded approximately \$50 million for projects including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.*

*The Sierra Nevada region, which spans 25 million acres, encompasses all or part of 22 counties and runs from the Oregon border on the north, to southeast of Bakersfield.*

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