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LOCAL NEWS | SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

# Supervisors hear about state conservancy bill



By *Nathan Solis* of the *Redding Record Searchlight*

Posted: *Yesterday 6:01 p.m.*

Shasta County's Board of Supervisors on Tuesday will hear a presentation on a proposed law to create a state conservancy in the North State.

Senate Bill 1396, the Inner Coast Range Conservancy Act, introduced in February, would establish a state conservancy that

would cover an area from Siskiyou County south to Napa County and would include portions of Solano, Tehama and Shasta County.

California currently has 10 conservancies, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, which includes portions of eastern Shasta County.



SB1396 proposes creating a conservancy to help the tourism and agriculture industries, while also protecting and improving water supply and air quality. The conservancy would cooperate with local agencies seeking grant funding or provide loans to public agencies, nonprofit or tribal organizations.

An 11 member board would oversee the conservancy, including the Secretary of Natural Resources, three public members appointed by the Governor, one public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one public member appointed by the Senate Rules Committee. One member for each of the four subregions would also be part of the board, and that could include the Shasta County supervisor whose district includes the western region.

Currently that supervisor is Leonard Moty who requested the presentation be made to the board on Tuesday. Moty understands the non-regulatory body would allow the region to access funds that may otherwise not be available.

"It's going to give the region access to fund their projects that the stakeholders want to do, and not what the government wants to do," said Moty.

Other areas mentioned in the senate bill include projects to reduce wildfire risk and conserving the region's resources, but the specifics of those goals is not included in the documents.

The conservancy would not regulate land use issues, but could act as a mediator on behalf of a land owner, and that interest could extend to land conservation easements.

Much of the proposed conservancy is modeled after the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and would share similar geographical locations, like the Cascades and other rural mountain areas.

Brittany Covich, communications manager with the conservancy, said the Sierra Nevada agency has awarded over \$51 million for projects to improve watershed health in the region, which includes a regional strategy. Other projects include the Great Sierra River Cleanup and forest management.

The conservancy proposal will be presented to the board on Tuesday, where they can ask about what shape the conservancy would take in the area. Already the Lake County Board of Supervisors has show support for the proposed conservancy.

Three additional presentations to the board will be on the agenda, including recognition of volunteers with the Shasta County Sheriff's Office and an update on the Riverland Signature Park and Farm project in Redding.

The last presentation will come from Children's Services Branch Director Dianna Wagner, who will discuss the process of reporting child abuse or neglect in Shasta County. The presentation will describe steps an investigator could take and how many referrals were received earlier this year that resulted in law enforcement or county intervention.

## If You Go

**What:** Shasta County Board of Supervisors meeting.

**When:** 9 a.m., Tuesday.

**Where:** Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1450 Court St. in Redding.



### About Nathan Solis

Multimedia reporter Nathan Solis has been telling stories through articles and photographs for 9 years as both a freelance writer and beat reporter in Los Angeles. Most recently he has relocated to Northern California where he reports on county issues for the Record Searchlight/Redding.com. He engages the general Shasta County community through social media, video, photographs and articles.

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