



LOCAL NEWS | SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Potential conservancy presented to Shasta supervisors



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

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The Shasta County Board of Supervisors learned more about a proposed conservancy that would include portions of counties from Siskiyou down to Napa.

Jeff Morris, consultant with the firm Tuleyome, said Senate Bill 1396, introduced in February, would create the Inner Coast Range Conservancy, a protected swath of land that would include parts of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Solano and Napa counties.

Morris said the proposed conservancy is modeled after the Sierra

Nevada Conservancy, which includes a portion of eastern Shasta County.

Creating the conservancy would allow the region to tap into state funds for local projects, Morris said.



He added that the conservancy would increase the pace and scale of needed activity in the region, while also creating jobs, though the specifics of any of those goals were not addressed on Tuesday.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy covers 22 counties and 25 million acres. On Tuesday Morris said the boundary lines of the proposed Inner Coast Range Conservancy would touch into western Shasta County.

Supervisor Leonard Moty, who's district would include a part of the conservancy, said property owners who find themselves in the conservancy boundary can opt-in to any projects.

However, Morris said that property owners would not be notified whether their land falls into the conservancy, but the projects are optional.

Board Chairwoman Pam Giacomini, who represents the county with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, said landowners who do participate in the projects could help benefit the economy.

"Getting the right people on the ground is important to help grow the local economy," said Giacomini.

While landowners can opt out of projects, the county would not be able to veto projects associated with the conservancy, Morris said.

Such a conservancy can provide leverage for the region to secure funding for projects individual counties may not be able to get on their own, Morris said.

Supervisors also heard from Health and Human Services Director Dianna Wagner about child abuse in Shasta County.

She said in January, there were 257 referrals, with 54 that warranted an immediate response from the Children's Services Branch team. There were 76 reports that warranted a response within 10 days and 124 needed either no follow up with Children Services or another agency.

Supervisor Leonard Moty requested the presentation to understand the protocols in place in Shasta County, and how they differ from Monterey County, because two children involved in numerous reports to Child Services in that county were found dead in a Redding storage unit in December.

The guardian of those children was charged in Monterey County on murder, torture and other charges.

"What happens if there are multiple reports in other counties? What would happen if a case comes in that there are previous reports from other counties?" Moty asked.

Wagner said she did not want to go into a case from another county, but said Shasta County differs in its approach to responding to reports of child abuse or neglect.

Shasta County has a team of specialized professionals who respond to multiple reports from the same location within 24

hours.



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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