



Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2024 – Sacramento, CA

Board Meeting

*California Natural Resources Agency – Auditorium – 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA
95814*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Oath of Office for New Boardmembers

Board Chair, Terry O'Brien, welcomed four new Boardmembers and administered the Oath of Office to Northeast Subregion representative, Modoc County Supervisor, Elizabeth Cavasso; South Central Subregion representative, Calaveras County Supervisor, Jack Garamendi; Southwest Subregion representative, Tulare County Supervisor, Dennis Townsend; and, U.S. Secretary of Interior's Appointee, Cicely Muldoon.

Boardmember Victoria Rome arrived at 10:02 a.m.

3. Roll Call

Present:

- Terry O'Brien
- Heather Bernikoff
- John Brissenden
- Elizabeth Cavasso
- Lisa Lien-Mager
- Jack Garamendi
- Cindy Gustafson
- Michele Perrault
- Victoria Rome
- Dennis Townsend

- Ed Valenzuela
- Cicely Muldoon
- Elizabeth Berger
- Jeff Griffiths (arrived at 12:53)

Absent:

- Jeff Griffiths
- Bob Johnston
- Christopher Heppe

4. Approval of December 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Cindy Gustafson seconded a motion to approve the December 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –11, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

5. Board Chair's Report (ACTION)

Board chair, Terry O'Brien read Resolution 03-24-01 into the record. Boardmember Elizabeth Cavasso moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to adopt SNC Resolution Number 03-24-01: Honoring Senator John Laird, Senator Brian Dahle, Jim Branham, Angela Avery, and Regional champions for their efforts in the creation and ongoing support of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC).

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

Board Chair Terry O'Brien expressed his personal thanks to all mentioned in the resolution for their work.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Executive Officer Update

Executive Officer, Angela Avery, welcomed the Board to Sacramento, California. Avery began her report by thanking and complimenting the work of SNC Communications Team for developing the 20th Anniversary Impact Report. Avery highlighted statistics from the report, celebrating the impact of SNC grants and the SNC's positive Regional influence. Avery also acknowledged and recognized SNC's

partners and over 35 collaboratives who contributed to SNC's success. She shared her appreciation to SNC staff for its work in building SNC's reputation for effectiveness and collaboration.

Next, Avery updated the Board on the Governor's Jan. 10 budget, informing Boardmembers of the continued state budget shortfall. Avery expressed gratitude that grant funding for the meeting's proposed projects was not included in the budget solutions package. Avery stated that the SNC is watching to see what the May Revise includes and monitoring discussions about a potential bond initiative. Avery highlighted the previously received General Fund appropriations and the resulting project investments. Avery closed her report with the promise to provide updates to the Board on the SNC collaboratives and the developing California budget moving forward.

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff and Boardmember Lisa Lien-Mager remarked on the beautiful presentation of the Impact Report and the document's value in engaging communities through clear and visually engaging communication. Bernikoff voiced approval towards the increasing trend of tribal lead grant applicants and grant awards.

b. Administrative Update

- Attachment A: Annual Budget Report

Deputy Executive Officer, Administration, Amy Lussier, began the Administrative Update by announcing the departure of SNC employee, Regional Forester, Elliott Vander Kolk and thanking him for his contribution to the SNC. Lussier introduced Budget Analyst Amy Nelson to co-present the Annual Budget Report. Lussier summarized the purpose of the new annual, in-depth budget report versus the previous quarterly reports. Lussier moved to review the Administrative Staff Report and Annual Budget Report provided in the Board materials, which included a high-level breakdown of the SNC budget.

Lussier highlighted the recent increase in approved staff positions to accommodate increased grant work and corresponding administrative needs, and the considerations taken before requesting new positions. Lussier shared numbers from the Annual Budget Report on the \$297 million in local assistance funding received in the last 20 years and the efficiency of the SNC in administering over \$271 million of that total.

Boardmember John Brissenden asked how the percentage of funding granted to the Region compared to other local conservancies. Lussier and Policy & Outreach

Division Chief, Brittany Covich, provided further context regarding the numbers provided in the report.

Nelson recapped the SNC's funding sources, process of reimbursement agreements and sub-agreements, and the increase in reimbursement dollars and number of agreements managed since 2015. Nelson emphasized the team effort needed to manage these agreements. Nelson briefly summarized the SNC's budget-tracking and reconciliation process, breaking down the total dollars and funds used to support the SNC, as described in the tables in Attachment A. Nelson emphasized that the SNC strives to thoughtfully manage the budget with a five-year financial plan.

Boardmembers engaged in discussion about the annual budget funds and five-year financial plan.

Lussier described the negative impact that budget reductions and/or loss of reimbursements could have on the SNC to support the department and provide grant funding to the Region. She stated the SNC continues to diversify funding and explore innovative ways to support the agency's mission while working around budget challenges.

Board Chair, O'Brien, asked if federal funding factors into future projections and budget decisions. Lussier responded that only executed federal funding is used for projections and that the SNC is working hard to find additional federal funding. Avery spoke on the SNC's use of funding partnerships with the federal government, like the Landscape Grant Pilot Program (LGPP), to fund staff positions. Avery reiterated that reimbursement agreements are a model that works for the SNC and help protect SNC's base fund by absorbing some salaries. Avery complimented Lussier, Nelson, and Lisa Primeaux for their forward-thinking approach to budgeting and commended their hard work. Avery requested feedback on the new version of the budget report. Boardmembers unanimously supported the change.

c. Policy & Outreach Update

Policy & Outreach Division Chief, Brittany Covich, recognized and complimented the Policy and Outreach team for their hard work. Covich provided supplemental updates to the Policy & Outreach Update staff report provided in the Board materials. Covich started with a legislative update reviewing important bills and deadlines that are being watched by the SNC, including bond bills AB 1567 and SB 867, equity bill AB 2465, tribal bill AB 1284, and a prescribed fire bill, SB 1101. Covich stated that CEQA and administrative bills are also being tracked by the SNC.

Board Chair O'Brien asked if any bills pertained to the removal of common barriers the SNC faces addressing critical forest-health issues.

Covich announced the SNC's 20-Year Anniversary and released the SNC's new logo. Covich reminded Boardmembers of the 2024 WIP Summit being hosted the following day March 8, 2024. Covich introduced the Impact Brief to the Board and unveiled the soon-to-be-released *SNC Digital Magazine: 20 Years of Impact*. Lastly, Covich shared quotes from partners describing the impact the SNC's funding has had on the Region.

Boardmember Brissenden and Chair O'Brien expressed concerns about the new logo's lack of forest and water symbolism.

Board Chair O'Brien suggested including in the Digital Magazine highlights on projects like forest thinning near Paradise and its effect on reducing the impact of the Camp Fire and the Caples Creek Ecological Restoration Project minimizing Caldor Fire impacts. He recommended collecting and displaying how the SNC's work has protected citizens and their property.

7. Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) Update (INFORMATIONAL)

Partnerships & Community Support Manager, Alex Vance, and Regional Scientist, Sarah Campe, provided the Board with an update on the status of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) block grant and deliverables outlined in the Board Materials. Vance informed the Board of the major themes of the assessments conducted by SNC on projects and verified that overall, partners approved of the assessment process. Vance thanked Boardmember Bernikoff for her viewpoint on topics regarding tribal affairs and its invaluable application for the RFFCP. Vance also thanked the Department of Conservation for being a collaborative partner.

Vance introduced Sarah Campe to speak on the Regional Priority Plan (RPP). Campe defined the RPP and its overall goals. Campe reviewed the components of partnership "readiness" that were developed for the Landscape Grant Pilot Program noting that all partners may not be interested in landscape-scale projects and how SNC recognizes that smaller, individual projects are important for protecting local values and can still be Regionally impactful. Campe emphasized the value of "tailored support" for collaborative groups that SNC is able to provide through the RFFCP. Campe also showed how the RPP can be used to examine the intersection of high-capacity, or "ready" partnerships and landscape characteristics, like biodiversity, carbon, or fire risk. Campe explained how the SNC could use the RPP

to identify where there are gaps in capacity across the Region. Boardmember Bernikoff expressed excitement in the future use of heat maps and gap analysis by the SNC. Bernikoff inquired about identifying underserved and overserved Regional communities using GIS layering devices. Boardmember Bernikoff conveyed appreciation for the SNC's devotion to developing program equity. Boardmember Muldoon seconded Bernikoff's excitement.

Executive Officer, Angela Avery, thanked Alex Vance, Sarah Campe and their teams for the hard work and emphasized how their work helps support clear community communication.

Chair O'Brien complimented the program for its ability to build capacity and its potential to help increase the pace and scale, as well as future funding. Chair O'Brien thanked Vance and Campe for their work.

8. Strategic Plan Update (INFORMATIONAL)

- Attachment A: Draft 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

Chief Deputy Executive Officer, Julie Alvis, presented the status of the Draft 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, providing the Board with an opportunity to discuss the working draft, which has been made available for formal public comment.

Alvis recapped the past Strategic Plan, staff annual action plans, and the timeline for the release of the final draft for Board consideration. Alvis then gave an update of the status of plan revisions, an outline overview, and described the public comment process used for receiving comments on the plan.

Boardmembers engaged in discussion regarding the public comment process and timeline of the Strategic Plan feedback.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The Board Meeting adjourned for lunch recess at 12:00 p.m.

Boardmember Jeff Griffiths arrived at 12:53 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened at 12:56 p.m.

9. Consent Agenda

Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations

Executive Officer, Angela Avery, and Field Operations & Grants Division, Chief Andy Fristensky, provided the Board with an overview of the project criteria for a Consent Agenda. Boardmembers clarified the qualifications. Board Chair O'Brien requested Fristensky read aloud the Directed Grant Cycle Recommendations staff report provided in the March meeting materials. The Board Chair reminded Boardmembers that any item removed from the Consent Agenda would be moved to Agenda Item 10. O'Brien invited Boardmembers to remove projects from the Consent Agenda. No removal requested.

a. #1645

North Vegetation Assessment, Data Development and project NEPA in Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, and Tehama counties in the amount of \$3,580,500 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

b. #1646

Forest Projects Plan - Phase Two Environmental Planning project in El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Alpine counties in the amount of \$723,542 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

c. #1669

Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning project in Tehama County in the amount of \$641,920 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

d. #1672

Long Canyon Watershed Protection project in Placer County in the amount of \$657,500 to the Placer County Water Agency with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

e. #1678

Boca/Hobart Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration project in Nevada County in the amount of \$168,820 to the Truckee River Watershed Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

f. #1679

Bungalow Resilience and Fuels Reduction Planning project in Fresno County in the amount of \$2,902,715 to the National Forest Foundation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

g. #1682

Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Land Use Plan project in Tuolumne County in the amount of \$920,000 to the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

h. #1688

Upper Middle Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration NEPA Planning project in Sierra and Nevada counties in the amount of \$386,100 to the Nevada Irrigation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action

Boardmember Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Cavasso seconded a motion to:

- a) Authorize the Executive Officer to file Notices of Exemption for the North Vegetation Assessment, Data Development and project NEPA (1645); Forest Projects Plan - Phase Two Environmental Planning project (1646); Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning project (1669); Long Canyon Watershed Protection project (1672); Boca/Hobart Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration project (1678); Bungalow Resilience and Fuels Reduction Planning project (1679); Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Land Use Plan project (1682); Upper Middle Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration: NEPA Planning project (1688); and
- b) Authorize a grant award to each of the projects listed above for the amounts recommended by staff; and
- c) Authorize the staff to enter into the agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

10. Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief, Andy Fristensky, provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation that included a brief background and the grant criteria guidelines, followed by a review of the project summaries and staff recommendations for each grant provided in the Board Materials. Staff recommended eight Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program projects totaling \$17,526,851.

a. #1632

Claremont Forest Resiliency project in Plumas County in the amount of \$1,787,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment

Chris Daunt, Conservation Forester, Mule Deer Foundation, addressed the Board in support of project #1632. As the forester implementing the project, Daunt thanked the Board for the grant. Daunt emphasized this project being time sensitive to the community and his hopes for a continued working relationship with the SNC that lasts well beyond this project.

Boardmember Bernikoff asked Daunt what tribal outreach was implemented for the project. Daunt replied that the Mule Deer Foundation outreached to tribes in the area during the planning grant process but did not receive responses. He explained that the geographically closest tribal entity in the town of Quincy disbanded so were unable to provide opinions. While Greenville Rancheria was the next closest, its offices burned down in the Dixie Fire.

Daunt assured that tribal input was invited during the planning stage, but no response was received.

Action

Boardmember Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Perrault seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Claremont Forest Resiliency project (1632), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,787,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

b. #1636

Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B project in Amador County in the amount of \$4,739,056 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Board Chair O'Brien commented that this project's proximity to Highway 88 was useful in reducing accidental wildfire caused by individuals on roads and in vehicles.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action

Boardmember Brissenden moved and Boardmember Garamendi seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B project (1636), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$4,739,056 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

c. #1639

Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project in Tulare County in the amount of \$1,709,130 to the Tule River Indian Tribe with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Board Chair O'Brien commented that he has been encouraging projects in the southern Sierra and is excited to see two projects in the iconic sequoia groves and with the Tule River Indian Tribe.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action

Boardmember Townsend moved and Boardmember Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience project (1639), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,709,130 to the Tule River Indian Tribe, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

d. #1641

Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility project in Placer County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Northstar Community Services District and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

Boardmember Gustafson commended the project moving forward and encouraged the pursuit of additional biomass facilities in the Region.

Boardmember Bernikoff questioned if the facility would help reduce the cost of electricity to the community. Fristensky confirmed the plant would generate electricity for the shared community buildings within the village, but not private homes at this time.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action

Board Chair O'Brien certified that the Governing Board independently reviewed and concurs with the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum. Boardmember Gustafson moved and Boardmember Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility project (1641), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Northstar Community Services District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

e. #1644

Soldier Mountain WUI project in Shasta County in the amount of \$1,686,100 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Bernikoff expressed appreciation toward the organization for working with tribal communities from the project beginning and co-sharing a vision.

Public Comment

Todd Sloat, Project Manager, Fall River Resource Conservation District addressed the Board in support of project #1644. Sloat thanked federal and private partners for their involvement. Sloat also emphasized thanks to the McConnell Foundation and Burney-Hat Creek Collaborative.

Boardmember Bernikoff asked Sloat if there were any tribal members on their board. Sloat responded that the seven members were non-tribal, but he welcomes anyone with a passion for the work onto the board.

Board Chair O'Brien commented on the project as another example where the SNC is building capacity. He stressed the importance of having people on the ground in the community to build local connections.

Action

Boardmember Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Gustafson seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Soldier Mountain WUI project (1644), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,686,100 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

f. #1647

Taylorville Community Defense Zone Implementation project in Plumas County in the amount of \$751,665 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Bernikoff voiced admiration for the project, its meaningful engagement with tribal communities, and the use of resources for communities with limited means.

Public Comment

Vincent Vitale, Rural Community Outreach Coordinator, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, addressed the board in support of project #1647. Vitale expressed gratitude on behalf of the community in Taylorville, Taylorville Firewise Committee, and the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment.

Action

Boardmember Cavasso moved and Boardmember Valenzuela seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation project (1647), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$751,665 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

g. #1654

South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience project in Siskiyou County in the amount of \$3,628,600 to the U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Board Vice-Chair, Siskiyou County Supervisor, Ed Valenzuela commented on the tourism and overgrowth impacting the project area and expressed support for the project.

Boardmember Rome asked for background on the cross funding of SNC and federal projects. Fristensky and Non-Voting Board Liaison for the United States Forest Service (USFS), Elizabeth Berger, explained that since fire has no boundaries, and both organizations are tasked with protecting forest land, it is not uncommon for the USFS and the SNC to be applicants for each other's funding and partners in grant projects.

Board Chair O'Brien asked Angela Avery how much money comes to the SNC from the USFS. Avery summarized collaborative funding projects between the USFS and the SNC. Amy Lussier shared that on page 25 of the Administrative Report, that the totals are listed.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around the funding of USFS projects and USFS funds received by the SNC.

Public Comment

Board Chair O'Brien announced that several written public comments have been submitted for this agenda item. Boardmembers were provided a copy of all written public comments. The email that provided the link to these comments also included examples of the overall comments and relevant information. A copy of the public comments and the cover memo were made available to the public at the sign-in table. Board Chair O'Brien then opened the floor for in person public comment.

Ben Sundal, Acting District Ranger, USFS, addressed the Board in support of project #1654. Sundal shared that this proposal is in response to the California Forest Resilience Action Plan, with the goal of increasing pace and scale of forest health with fuels reduction. He explained that this project would strengthen the protection of the communities of Mt. Shasta, Dunsmuir, and the I-5 Corridor which reside in two high-risk fire sheds. Sundal described the impact this project would have on the critical roadways, infrastructure, and desirable recreational facilities in the area. Sundal also mentioned the project's alignment with the Wildland Crisis Strategy.

Boardmember Bernikoff acknowledged the over 100 public comments received for the project and had several questions as a result of reviewing the electronically submitted public comment package. Ben Sundal, Shasta Trinity National Forest Supervisor, Rachel Birkey and District Ranger Joe Rodarme from the USFS addressed the Board and provided answers to Boardmembers' questions about the public comments received.

Boardmember Bernikoff thanked all the public commenters. Bernikoff then commented from an Indigenous standpoint that she supports the public being actively involved with forest management. Bernikoff thanked her colleagues on the Board for allowing her space to make comments and ask questions.

Board Vice Chair Valenzuela commented that projects of this nature receive serious scrutiny and spoke to a lack of media in the area, limiting the education to the public on the current state of the region. Board Vice Chair Valenzuela expressed

confidence in the USFS funding process and the project. Lastly, Valenzuela expressed thanks to the speakers from the USFS for answering questions regarding the project.

Boardmember Berger reiterated that the USFS seriously considers every public comment and ensured each is reviewed, analyzed, and discussed, adjusting a project's planning accordingly. Boardmember Berger thanked Birkey, Sundal, and Rodarme for their time, travel, and answers.

Boardmember Rome asked what the SNC's requirements were regarding virtual public comments.

Executive Officer Avery advised the SNC follows California's Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, not the Brown Act. Avery explained that public comment is always taken, but technology and limiting factors can prevent virtual public comment during the day of the meeting.

Boardmember Rome asked if further public opposition had been sent in since the public comment packet was submitted to the Board. Avery responded that no further public comment was submitted. Board Liaison, Tristyn Armstrong, informed the Board there is a cutoff period for written comments to provide the Board with information in a timely manner for review.

Board Chair O'Brien thanked the USFS staff for making the effort to come to Sacramento, provide public comment, and answer questions.

Action

Board Vice Chair Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Griffiths seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience project (1654), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$3,628,600 to the USFS, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

h. #1666

Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two project in Tulare County in the amount of \$2,225,300 to the Save the Redwoods League with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Townsend shared his excitement for the project and the Save the Redwoods League involvement. Townsend reflected on the devastating fires in back-to-back years, where 20 percent of giant sequoias were lost, and encouraged the support of this active management project.

Boardmember Cicely Muldoon, announced this type of work saved Yosemite redwoods during the Washburn Fire. Muldoon stated this work moves the needle on saving the iconic California trees.

Public Comment

Ben Friedman, Public Grants Officer, Save the Redwoods League (League), addressed the Board in support of project #1666. Friedman expressed his thanks to the Board for consideration. He stated the League, in partnership with tribes and local and federal government, will continue to protect giant sequoias. Friedman thanked the Board for the Alder Creek Project and Ben Barry as the SNC Area Representative for his help in the application process.

Board Chair O'Brien thanked SNC staff for its work on these projects. He echoed Boardmember Muldoon's excitement for this project and its momentum in saving further iconic California trees.

Action

Boardmember Townsend moved and Boardmember Cavasso seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two project (1666), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,225,300 to the Save the Redwoods League, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

11. Boardmembers' Comments

Chair O'Brien recognized Bernikoff for her time on the Board and announced her departure. O'Brien stressed the importance of Bernikoff's tribal perspective and her part in establishing stronger tribal connections to improve the SNC and its projects. Executive Officer, Angela Avery, thanked Bernikoff on behalf of the SNC staff.

Boardmember Bernikoff conveyed her appreciation for her time on the Board and enthusiasm for the trend towards more tribal support in grant applications and an

increase of tribal grant applicants. Bernikoff concluded by thanking SNC's staff for its work.

12. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Additional Board Materials

- Key Meetings and Presentations
- Letters of Support
- [Sierra Spotlight](#)