

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

*Sierra Nevada Conservancy Resilient Communities Grant Program*

*California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection,  
and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68)*

**SNC ID Number:** RC001

**Applicant:** Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council

**Project Title:** Strategic Conservation Action Plan

**SNC Subregion:** Region-wide

**County(ies):** All Counties

**Funding Amount Requested:** \$163,405

**Funding Amount Recommended:** \$163,405

**Total Project Cost:** \$193,412

## **PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION**

The Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council (SCLTC), based in Nevada City, will coordinate the development of a prioritization tool to identify local conservation gaps and prioritize high value projects for directed funding programs. The tool will provide regional land trusts, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), other state agencies, and funders of land conservation with a strategic means to focus investments on private land conservation.

The Strategic Conservation Action Plan will utilize a collaborative planning framework to build capacity and provide technical support for creating a process that will prioritize and coordinate conservation actions on a regional basis. Specifically, the project will 1) assess the private land footprint of conservation impacts; 2) perform a gap analysis by seeking feedback from funding agencies and local partners; and 3) provide strategic conservation recommendations and a prioritization process for conservation projects. The data will provide a means to create a standard for high benefit projects that will strengthen economic vitality of the region, contribute to creating a landscape that is more fire resilient and support successful species adaptation to climate change by protecting critical habitat continuity. The collaboration will include public agencies, local government and restoration partners.

The project will provide a framework for the Region's land trusts to reference before applying for conservation funding, emphasizing projects that are the best fit and highest

benefit for a particular funding source. Projects will be strategic, and the prioritization tool will help eliminate “random acts of conservation” that are often not currently coordinated. Many SCLTC members have received past funding from the SNC for acquisition and watershed health projects.

The SCLTC is a collaboration of 17 land trusts acting as a collective voice in a diverse region to support the pace, scale and permanence of land conservation actions to protect the natural, historic, and agricultural resources for the future.

The Council will be working with its own member organizations as well as organizations who are engaged with similar work and goals in the Region. The project includes outreach to local governments and restoration partners, such as resource conservation districts and fire safe councils, as well as state agencies. The prioritization tool will result in projects that are stronger, fully vetted and better aligned with regional goals that are brought forward for public funding. The Council is in the process of securing \$30,011 in match.

The SNC Strategic Conservation Action Plan supports multiple components of SNC’s Strategic Plan’s Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities objectives:

- *Strategy 4: Build capacity and greater community resilience in local governments, communities, organizations, and tribes throughout the Region by providing direct capacity support that will enable technical consultants to work with land trusts on complex mapping projects.*
- *Strategy 5: Distribute available funds in a timely and strategic manner to achieve maximum positive impact and multiple co-benefits and leverage other state and federal funding agencies to improve community resiliency throughout the Region by accelerating the pace and scale of strategic, prioritized, and pre-qualified land conservation and restoration projects, engaging funding agencies to streamline and coordinate the directed grant process.*

The project also correlates with multiple SNC Strategic Lands Conserved objectives:

- *Strategy 1: Assess the land conservation priorities of other agencies and partners, climate vulnerability assessments, and existing funding programs to identify the highest priority SNC activities to support strategic land conservation by generating a final report and tool that will represent the assessment, gap analysis, and recommendations for prioritized investments.*
- *Strategy 5: Work with SNC County Board members to identify opportunities to improve the cooperation and consultation process and explore utilization of land use planning tools for conservation purposes by actively engaging local county agencies such as planning departments to ensure support for open space elements of county general plans.*

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Current Private Land Footprint Assessment – Data Development, Land Trust Workshop, Technical Support/Mapping, Background Writing	May – July 2019
Gap Analysis – Agency Workshop, Survey Local Agencies, Technical Support/Mapping	August – October 2019
Strategic Conservation Action Recommendations – Land Trust/Agency Collaborative Retreat, Technical Support/Mapping, Final Report Writing and Tool Creation	November 2019 – April 2020
Six-month progress reports	Every six months from execution of agreement
<b>Estimated Project Completion Date</b>	<b>April 30, 2020</b>

**PROJECT COSTS**

<b>BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>SNC FUNDING</b>
<b>Project Costs:</b>	
Project Management/Coordination	\$11,250
Data Development	\$17,500
Technical Support/Mapping, Capacity Support, Training	\$40,500
Workshops, Agency Meetings	\$55,300
Reporting, Recommendations	\$24,000
<b>Administrative:</b>	
Administrative Costs	\$14,855
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$163,405</b>

**PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION**

- N/A

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

*There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.*

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

## **CEQA Documentation**

**SNC #:** RC001

**Project Title:** Strategic Conservation Action Plan

**Applicant:** Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council

### **CEQA Compliance:**

The project is Statutorily Exempt under Section 15262. Feasibility and Planning Studies and Categorically Exempt under Class 6 Section 15306. Information Collection.

- **Notice of Exemption:** See Below

Notice of Exemption

Form D

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk
County of

(Address)

Project Title: Strategic Conservation Action Plan (SNC #RC001)

Project Location - Specific:

The Strategic Conservation Action Plan will cover the entire Sierra Nevada Region - including all or portions of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Plumas, Sierra, Yuba, Nevada, Placer El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tholumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Alpine, Mono, and Inyo counties.

Project Location - City: NA Project Location - County: See description above

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding in the amount of \$163,405 to the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council to develop a prioritization tool and collaborative planning framework to identify local conservation gaps and prioritize high value land conservation projects for directed funding programs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15306, "Information Collection"
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15262, "Feasibility and Planning Studies"

Reasons why project is exempt:

This is a planning project to identify and prioritize potential future projects. It does not involve physical alterations to the environment. The completion of these plans will not have a legally binding effect on future activities.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4689

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Date: Title:

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR:
Signed by Applicant

Revised 2005