

Background

In June 2013, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board (Board) approved Grant Guidelines for the 2013-14 Grant Round. This will be the SNC's final grant round using funding from Proposition 84, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. Staff released public notification of the SNC 2013-14 Grant Round on June 27, 2013. Estimated funding available for this grant round is approximately \$2.9 million.

This grant round has no final application due date. Projects that have provided a complete grant application and that receive a minimum score of 85 out of 100 may be presented to the Board for approval.

At the December 2013 Board meeting, the Board authorized one (1) grant in the amount of \$250,000. At the March 2014 Board meeting, four (4) projects totaling \$1.2 million were authorized. At the June 2014 meeting, two (2) projects totaling \$143,590 were authorized. For the September 2014 meeting, six (6) projects totaling \$963,276 are being recommended to the Board for approval. Staff expects that the remainder of funds, approximately \$400,000, will be recommended for authorization at the December 2014 Board meeting (this does not include the \$1 million allocated for the Rim Fire Restoration effort).

Current Status

Staff has completed review of the following six (6) projects and has found that they meet or exceed the threshold scoring level of 85 points:

Abandoned Mine Lands Remediation (Three (3) projects totaling \$492,191)

- Project [775](#), Providence Mine Remediation Project
- Project [805](#), Environs Mining Legacy Assessment Project
- Project [806](#), Robinson Mine Project

Healthy Forests (Three (3) projects totaling \$471,085)

- Project [802](#), Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project
- Project [794](#), Lily Gap Forest Health Project, Phase II
- Project [798](#), Alpine County Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Healthy Watershed Project

Staff is recommending Board approval of these six (6) projects totaling \$963,276. Project specific information including project descriptions, maps and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation is provided in the attached Exhibit A to this item.

Attachments:

Exhibit A, Project Descriptions, Maps and CEQA Documentation

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board (a) make findings that there is no substantial evidence that the Lily Gap Forest Health Project, Phase II (SNC 794), with mitigation measures, may have a significant effect on the environment and adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for this project; (b) make findings that there is no substantial evidence that the Providence Mine Remediation Project (SNC 775), with mitigation measures, may have a significant effect on the environment and adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and the related Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for this project; (c) authorize the Executive Officer to file Notices of Exemption for the Alpine County Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Healthy Watershed Project (SNC 798); the Upper Stevens Meadow Restoration Project (SNC802); the Environs Mining Legacy Assessment Project (SNC 805); the Robinson Mine Project (SNC 806); and (d) authorize a grant award to each of the above listed projects for the amounts recommended by staff, and further authorize staff to enter into the necessary agreements for the recommended projects.