

### **Background**

As the Sierra Nevada Conservancy continues to assess priorities and identify opportunities to protect and meet the needs of the Sierra, it has become clear that getting the word out on the important work that needs to be done, and helping decision-makers to understand how investments in the Sierra meet key statewide policy objectives, have become increasingly critical activities. We took the first step toward increasing our capacity to address these important communication and outreach activities when we formed the Regional Policy and Programs Division (RPPD). We have recently moved our media program out of the Administrative Services Division and into the RPPD, uniting our media and outreach efforts and further focusing staffing resources to ensure that the Sierra is not left out of critical statewide policy and funding discussions.

### **Current Status – Grants Administration**

Staff continues to support the final Proposition 84 grant cycle by coordinating and implementing application intake, evaluation and site visit processes, through the identification, hiring and training of the evaluator teams, by tracking and reporting on applications received and processed, and in preparing reports and coordinating final management team and staff recommendations for awards. In response to Board comments related to conservation easement acquisitions, staff has hired a planning expert as part of the evaluation team, to research and present additional information on these projects to assist in consideration of land use issues.

Staff is also working with grantees and processing grant agreements for the 2011-12 Healthy Forests grant cycle. Finally, we are happy to report that the Department of General Services has completed its final appraisal review for the Campstool conservation easement acquisition, conditionally approved by the Board in September, and we have been able to move that grant forward.

### **Current Status – Budget**

As part of the budget building process for FY 2013-14 staff is considering the potential for securing funding from the state's Cap and Trade Auction Revenue. Staff is working with a variety of stakeholders and the U.S. Forest Service to identify important roles that the SNC and the Sierra can play in protecting forest-based carbon sequestration, meeting Bioenergy and low-carbon fuel goals, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Budget staff has also responded to all requests for information on the Department of Finance audit of the Environmental License Plate Fund, and await the release of the final report.

### **Current Status – Facilities**

Staff has continued to work with the Department of General Services on the completion of tenant improvement plans and execution of the lease for the new downtown Mariposa office, anticipated to be ready for occupancy in early spring.

**Recommendation**

**This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.**

2012-13 SNC EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES					
As of October 25, 2012					
<b>State Operations</b>					
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
SALARIES AND WAGES	1,931,326	601,805	1,329,521	31%	
STAFF BENEFITS	583,430	224,933	358,497	39%	
<b>Personal Services, Totals</b>	<b>\$2,514,756</b>	<b>\$826,738</b>	<b>\$1,688,018</b>	<b>33%</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses &amp; Equipment</b>					
<i>Operating Expenses &amp; Equipment</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
GENERAL EXPENSE	292,462	41,205	251,257	14%	
TRAVEL - IS	55,000	12,098	42,902	22%	
TRAVEL - OS	5,590	-	5,590	0%	
TRAINING	47,500	11,236	36,264	24%	
FACILITIES	287,025	79,633	207,393	28%	
UTILITIES	21,480	5,477	16,003	25%	
CONTRACTS- INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT	992,171	453,506	538,665	46%	
CONTRACTS- EXTERNAL	85,000	50,000	35,000	59%	
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	95,173	5,110	90,063	5%	
CONSOLIDATED DATA CENTER	-	-	-	0%	
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	0%	
OTHER ITEMS OF EXPENSE	21,124	6,015	15,109	28%	
PRO RATA (control agency costs)	161,517	40,379	121,138	25%	
<b>Operating Expenses &amp; Equipment, Totals</b>	<b>\$2,064,042</b>	<b>\$704,659</b>	<b>\$1,359,383</b>	<b>34%</b>	
<b>Local Assistance</b>					
<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
2007 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	17,000,000	0	100%	
2008 Original Appropriation (reapprop 11/12)	17,000,000	14,538,350	2,461,650	86%	
2009 Original Appropriation (reapprop 12/13)	15,448,000	9,059,388	6,388,612	59%	
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Expended</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	
<b>State Operations</b>	<b>4,578,799</b>	<b>1,531,397</b>	<b>3,047,401</b>	<b>33%</b>	
<b>Local Assistance *</b>	<b>49,448,000</b>	<b>40,597,738</b>	<b>8,850,262</b>	<b>82%</b>	
<b>SNC EXPENDITURES, TOTALS</b>	<b>\$54,026,799</b>	<b>\$42,129,135</b>	<b>\$11,897,663</b>	<b>78%</b>	

\* The balance does not include encumbrances for Sept awards totaling \$2,545,140. If all of this amount is encumbered, the balance available for 12/13 and future awards is \$6,305,122.