



Board Meeting Minutes March 5, 2020 – Sacramento, CA

California Department of Food & Agriculture – Auditorium
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Oath of Office for New Board Members

Board Chair Terry O'Brien administered the Oath of Office to the South Central Subregion Board Representative, Mariposa County Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe.

3. Roll Call

Present:

- Terry O'Brien
- Jennifer Montgomery
- Mary Rickert
- Bob Johnston
- Richard Anderson
- Stacy Corless
- Paul Roen
- Tom Wheeler
- John Brissenden
- Rosemarie Smallcombe
- Barnie Gyant
- Christopher Heppe
- Jim Richardson

Absent:

- Gayle Miller
- Susana Reyes

4. Approval of December 12, 2019, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen moved, and Boardmember Tom Wheeler seconded, a motion to approve the December 12, 2019, meeting minutes. Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery abstained from the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Board Chair's Report

Board Chair Terry O'Brien acknowledged the success of the sixth annual Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) Summit.

6. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Executive Officer Update

Executive Officer Angela Avery thanked staff for the successful WIP Summit that took place the previous day.

Avery told Boardmembers that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) will have reached a milestone of awarding over \$102 million in state funds today, after all grants have been approved. The funds that make up this total are bond funding, timber regulation forest restoration funding, and the regional forest and fire capacity funding. If federal dollars are added in, it brings the total to over \$108 million.

Avery discussed Senate Bill 989 (Dahle), which would add a portion of Siskiyou and a small bit of Shasta County to the SNC boundary. Avery referred the Board to a map of the proposed boundary change and a copy of the legislation in the Board materials.

Avery provided background on AB 2551 legislation that passed in 2018 and said that this legislation requires the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to implement watershed restoration planning in the AB 2551 area, and the legislation also creates a watershed restoration fund in the General Fund. To speak further about this legislation, Avery introduced Jessica Morse, Deputy Secretary for Forest Resource Management at CNRA.

Morse addressed the Board to highlight AB 2551, noting that the legislation may be a vehicle to build on the work already being done by the SNC. Morse said this may be the right opportunity to take the technological collaboration, the data analytics, and the level of community and cross-partnership collaboration, to use as a model for future work in the Sierra.

Morse thanked the Board for its work related to the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) and all of the SNC projects that look at "the big picture" and define long-term resiliency.

Avery summarized by saying that most of the watersheds called out in AB 2551 would fall within the boundary expansion areas proposed in SB 989.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around collaboration, tools, and outcomes related to the legislation that Avery and Morse summarized. Boardmembers agreed that collaborative work and tool development for managing watersheds for resilience could provide a great benefit, not only to the Sierra, but perhaps the entire state. The Board directed SNC to further explore and report back with a plan for how such work might be replicated throughout the Sierra Nevada Region.

b. Administrative Update

Administrative Services Division Chief Amy Lussier provided the administrative update to the Board.

Lussier informed the Board that the organizational chart has been removed from the Board packet in order to comply with ADA legislation. Lussier also announced the implementation of iPads for Board materials and pointed out that six iPads are being used at the meeting today. The plan is to replace the hard copy materials for those Board members who do not specifically request it.

Lussier provided the Board with an HR update telling the Board that Bob Kingman has returned as a retired annuitant and Michele Bonk has been hired to support the work of the Executive Office.

Lussier announced the continuity plan for SNC has been updated to include Wildfires and Pandemics. Lussier assured the Board that we have a plan in place and feel confident that we can implement it quickly.

Lussier also announced the Executive Officer review is planned for the June Board meeting. Chair O'Brien provided the Board with a brief highlight of the process, which includes feedback from the Board prior to the June Board meeting.

c. Policy and Outreach Update

Policy and Outreach Branch Manager Brittany Covich provided the Board with a brief presentation which included state and federal policy highlights and WIP Summit highlights.

Covich provided a brief update on the legislation that SNC is tracking, and Boardmembers engaged in conversation around funding, current legislation, and the efforts being made in the Region to plan and prepare for a changing climate.

Covich provided a follow-up to the Board's request to document project successes. Covich informed the Board that staff completed a careful review of the Grant Guidelines which require grantees to share project photos, videos, and promotional materials. Covich told the Board that grantees may not necessarily have the equipment and resources to produce videos. Therefore, SNC will continue to play a role in producing videos that inform SNC's target audiences by working with grantees to document project successes.

Covich addressed another Board request made at the December meeting and presented updated photos of work that has been done in the Rim Fire Area under the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) grant.

d. Field Operations & Grants Update

Field Operations and Grants Branch Manager Andy Fristensky addressed questions raised at the December Board Meeting by providing the Board with the Grant Guideline Scoring criteria and an overview of the grant program and application process. Criteria for each of the grant categories was provided in the Board materials.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around the scoring criteria and guidelines.

7. Board Receptions (ACTION)

Executive Officer Angela Avery provided an overview of the suggested Board Receptions policy changes submitted to the Board in the Board materials.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember John Brissenden moved, and Boardmember Mary Rickert seconded, a motion to approve the changes to the Board Reception Policy and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Plumas National Forest Good Neighbor Agreement Moonlight Fire Area Restoration Project (ACTION)

Reimbursements Program Coordinator Andrea Williams provided the Board with a brief overview and status of the Plumas National Forest Good Neighbor Agreement. Williams summarized the action before the Board by outlining the modifications proposed to the existing agreement.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Moonlight Wheeler Fires Restoration Project (Moonlight Fire Area Restoration Project Grant Agreement #FPNFMFSF001) and direct staff to take the necessary actions for its successful implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Forest Health Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations and Grants Branch Manager Andy Fristensky and Field Operations Manager Luke Hunt provided a brief background presentation and summary of recommended projects for the Forest Health Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 Grant Award Recommendations. Staff recommended 17 Forest Health projects totaling over \$6 million.

9a: #1205 the *Ishi Fire Restoration Project*

#1205 the Ishi Fire Restoration Project in Tehama County in the amount of \$100,000 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Jon Barrett, RCD of Tehama County, provided thanks to the Board for considering this project. Barrett addressed Boardmember Montgomery's question regarding tribal engagement by stating that they work collaboratively with SNC and the local tribes. Barrett also addressed the USFS Boardmember question regarding both CEQA and NEPA exemptions for property on Federal lands.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery moved, and Boardmember Mary Rickert seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Ishi Fire Restoration Project (1205), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$100,000 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9b: #1210 the *Improving Landscape and Watershed Health through Restoring Fire Regimes*

#1210 the Improving Landscape and Watershed Health through Restoring Fire Regimes in Lassen Volcanic National Park: Phase Two project in Lassen and Plumas Counties in the

amount of \$874,699 to the Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Jonathan Kusel, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, addressed the Board to clarify the outlined administrative cost portion of the grant budget. Kusel also spoke to the SNC process of the grant application process and told the board the process put in place is “extraordinarily useful.”

Kusel highlighted some of the project benefits and said that while this project is planned on Federal land, it involves the collaboration of over 25 groups and involves an 850,000-acre landscape. Kusel also noted that these grant dollars would help to leverage additional funding.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Richard Anderson seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Improving Landscape and Watershed Health through Restoring Fire Regimes in Lassen Volcanic National Park: Phase Two (1210) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$874,699 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9c: #1220 the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project

#1220 the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project in Nevada County in the amount of \$100,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Chris Friedel, Executive Director of the Yuba Watershed Institute, provided a brief background on the Yuba Watershed Institute and thanked the Board for project consideration. Friedel highlighted benefits of the project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Richard Anderson moved, and Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Round Mountain Landscape Resilience Project (1220), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$100,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9d: #1221 the Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Project

#1221 the Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Project in Nevada County in the amount of \$75,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Stacy Corless seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience Project (1221), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$75,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9e: #1222 the *'Inimim Forest Restoration Project – Phase 2*

#1222 the 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project – Phase 2 in Nevada County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Chris Friedel, Executive Director of the Yuba Watershed Institute was asked to provide the Board with answers to mapping questions and project location in relation to public and private lands and housing structures.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Richard Anderson moved, and Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project – Phase 2 (1222), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Yuba Watershed Institute, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9f: #1224 the *Little Grass Valley Reservoir Watershed Protection II Project*

#1224 the Little Grass Valley Reservoir Watershed Protection II project in Plumas County in the amount of \$459,792 to the United States Forest Service, Plumas National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Determination.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination for the Little Grass Valley Reservoir Watershed Protection II (1224) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$459,792 to the USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9g: #1225 the *Cohasset Watershed Forest Resilience Project*

#1225 the Cohasset Watershed Forest Resilience Project in Butte County in the amount of \$100,000 to the Butte County Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Patricia Peterbaugh, representing the Butte County Fire Safe Council, addressed the Board to provide highlights and benefits of the project. Peterbaugh also expressed her appreciation for the Board consideration of this project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Mary Rickert moved, and Boardmember Stacy Corless seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Cohasset Watershed Forest Resilience Project (1225), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$100,000 to the Butte County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9h: #1226 the Fuels Reduction in Bummerville, Calaveras County Project

#1226 the Fuels Reduction in Bummerville, Calaveras County project in Calaveras County in the amount of \$55,660 to the Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Thurman Roberts, on behalf of Steve Wilensky and Regine Miller representing CHIPS, read a letter of project support submitted on behalf of Steve and Regine. Roberts also provided thanks to the Board for the direct impact the funding has had on him and his community.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember John Brissenden moved, and Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Fuels Reduction in Bummerville, Calaveras County (1226) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$55,660 to Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9i: #1227 the June Mountain Ski Area Vegetation Management Project

#1227 the June Mountain Ski Area Vegetation Management Project in Mono County in the amount of \$458,673 to California Trout with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Stacy Corless seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the June Mountain Ski Area Vegetation Management Project (1227), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$458,673 to California Trout, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9j: #1228 the UC Forestry Camp Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Demonstration Project

#1228 the UC Forestry Camp Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Demonstration Project in Plumas County in the amount of \$99,952 to the Regents of the University of California, Berkeley Forests with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

William Stewart, University of California Berkley, addressed the Board to thank the staff for recommending the project. Stewart highlighted some of the work and benefits of the work that will be done with the grant funds.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Bob Johnston moved, and Boardmember Mary Rickert seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the UC Forestry Camp Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Demonstration Project (1228), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$99,952 to the Regents of the University of California, Berkeley Forests, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9k: #1232 the Phase II Lakes Basin Forest Health Project

#1232 the Phase II Lakes Basin Forest Health project in Plumas County in the amount of \$999,997 to the Plumas County Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe moved, and Boardmember Richard Anderson seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Phase II Lakes Basin Forest Health Project (1232), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$999,997 to the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9l: #1234 the Independence Fuels Thinning and Forest Health Restoration Project

#1234 the Independence Fuels Thinning and Forest Health Restoration project in Sierra County in the amount of \$619,482 to the Truckee River Watershed Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Eben Swain, Truckee River Watershed Council, address the Board to provide thanks for consideration of this project. Swain told the Board that there are a number of private landowners adjacent and/or within the project boundary that either have or will be implementing forest health projects.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Paul Roen recused himself from this agenda item. Boardmember Bob Johnston moved, and Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Independence Fuels Thinning and Forest Health Restoration (1234) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$619,482 to the Truckee River Watershed Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9m: #1251 the AmCo Stewardship – Mokelumne Community Forest Project

#1251 the AmCo Stewardship-Mokelumne Community Forest project in Amador County in the amount of \$95,295 to the Amador Fire Safe Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Mary Rickert seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the AmCo Stewardship – Mokelumne Community Forest (1251) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$95,295 to the Amador Fire Safe Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9n: #1254 the Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project

#1254 the Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project in Nevada County in the amount of \$99,990 to American Rivers with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember John Brissenden moved, and Boardmember Richard Anderson seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of

Exemption for the Hoyt-Purdon Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Project (1254), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$99,990 to American Rivers, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9o: #1257 the *Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Project*

#1257 the Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration project in Calaveras County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the United States Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Beth Martinez, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest, and Dawn Coultrap, the acting district ranger for the Calaveras Ranger District addressed the Board to answer funding questions and highlight project benefits.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Bob Johnston seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration (1257) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the USDA Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9p: #1263 the *Greene Acres Forest Health Planning Project*

#1263 the Greene Acres Forest Health Planning Project in Sierra County in the amount of \$100,000 to the County of Sierra with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Richard Anderson moved, and Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Greene Acres Forest Health Planning Project (1263), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$100,000 to the County of Sierra, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

9q: #1268 the *Badger Restoration Project*

#1268 the Badger Restoration Project in Shasta County in the amount of \$100,000 to United States Forest Service, Lassen National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Greg Mayer, District Timber Management Officer, United States Forest Service Lassen National Forest, advised the Board of the multiple parties that are working on this project together. The collaborative group is made up of over 38 partners. Mayer also said that his collaborative is close to releasing the ARC GIS platform which will allow local homeowners to do the planning themselves. Mayer provided thanks to the Board for consideration of this project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Mary Rickert recused herself from this agenda item. Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery moved, and Boardmember Stacy Corless seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Badger Restoration Project (1268), authorize a grant award in the amount of

\$100,000 to the U.S. Forest Service, Lassen National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Proposition 68 Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations and Grants Branch Manager Andy Fristensky provided a brief background presentation and summary of recommended project for the Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Proposition 68 Grant Award Recommendations. Staff recommended three projects totaling over \$1.4 million.

10a: #1196-RC the *Sierra Nevada Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Project*

#1196-RC the Sierra Nevada Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment project across the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region in the amount of \$191,655 to the Sierra Business Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Simone Cordery-Cotter, Program Manager for the Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (CAMP), Sierra Business Council, provided thanks to the Board for their consideration of the proposed grant. Cordery-Cotter also provided highlights of the project and expressed her enthusiasm for the project being recommended to the Board.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Bob Johnston moved, and Boardmember Tom Wheeler seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the *Sierra Nevada Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment* (1196-RC) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$191,655 to the Sierra Business Council, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

10b: #1270-RC the *Advancing Community-Scale Wood Energy in Plumas County Project*

#1270-RC the Advancing Community-Scale Wood Energy in Plumas County project in Plumas County in the amount of \$937,075 to the Sierra Institute for Community and the Environment with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Jonathan Kusel, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, provided brief highlights and history of this project. Kusel providing clarifying information to the Board surrounding the equipment purchase and thanked the Board for consideration of this grant.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the *Advancing Community-Scale Wood Energy in Plumas County* (1270-RC) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$937,075 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

10c: #1272-RC the *Mammoth Lakes Resilient Community and Forests Project*

#1272-RC the Mammoth Lakes Resilient Community and Forests Project in Mono County in the amount of \$339,534 to Plumas Corporation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Jim Wilcox, Plumas Corporation, provided thanks to the Board and staff for consideration of the project. Wilcox highlighted the project benefits and told the Board that Plumas Corporation is working in locations where the capacity is severely limited, and this project will assist the communities to access resources.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Stacy Corless recused herself from this agenda item. Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the *Mammoth Lakes Resilient Community and Forests Project (1272-RC)*, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$339,534 to Plumas Corporation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Strategic Land Conservation Proposition 68 Grant Award Recommendations (ACTION)

Field Operations and Grants Branch Manager Andy Fristensky provided a brief background presentation and summary of recommended projects for the SNC Strategic Land Conservation Proposition 68 Grant Program. Staff recommended seven projects totaling over \$5.7 million.

11a: #1152-LC the *Hanning Flat Acquisition Project*

#1152-LC the Hanning Flat Acquisition Project in Kern County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Trust for Public Land with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comments:

Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay, Tubatulabal Tribe, Kern County, advised that this project will benefit the Tubatulabal Tribe. There are sacred lands on this parcel, and she provided her support for this project. Miranda-Begay encouraged continued traditional ecological knowledge and support of their cultural traditions. Miranda-Begay provided thanks to the Board for consideration of the grant and thanks to the Trust for Public Land for working collaboratively with the tribe.

Alex Size, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), provided her support for the project and thanks to the Board for consideration of this project and SNC staff, particularly Sarah Campe and Andy Fristensky for working with TPL on this project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Mary Rickert seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Hanning Flat Acquisition Project (1152-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Trust for Public Land, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11b: #1153-LC the *Mountain Meadows Conservation Project*

#1153-LC the Mountain Meadows Conservation Project in Lassen County in the amount of \$756,920 to the Trust for Public Land with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Markley Bavinger, The Trust for Public Land, provided project benefits and expressed her support for the project. Bavinger provided thanks to the Board for consideration of this project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery was absent during this agenda item vote. Boardmember John Brissenden moved, and Boardmember Richard Anderson seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Mountain Meadows Conservation Project (1153-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$756,920 to the Trust for Public Land, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11c: #1154-LC the *Grizzly Creek Ranch Project*

#1154-LC the Grizzly Creek Ranch project in Plumas County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to Sierra Nevada Journeys with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation regarding property details, appraisal costs, value, and ongoing operating costs.

Public Comment:

Eaton Dunkelberger, Sierra Nevada Journeys, highlighted the benefits of this acquisition. The primary benefit is serving over 30 thousand youth, most of whom are from disadvantaged communities. Dunkelberger was also available to provide the Board with information and details to address Board concerns.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember John Brissenden moved, and Boardmember Mary Rickert seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Grizzly Creek Ranch (1154-LC) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to Sierra Nevada Journeys, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11d: #1159-LC the *Kramer Ranch Strategic Land Conservation Easement*

#1159-LC the Kramer Ranch Strategic Land Conservation Easement in Lassen and Modoc Counties in the amount of \$500,000 to the California Rangeland Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Stacy Corless seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Kramer Ranch Strategic Land Conservation Easement (1159-LC) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$500,000 to California Rangeland Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11e: #1165-LC the Laursen South Preserve Expansion and Trail Connection Project

#1165-LC the Laursen South Preserve Expansion and Trail Connection Project in Placer County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Placer Land Trust with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around land value, match funding scoring criteria and ecological benefit.

Public Comment:

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director, Placer Land Trust, addressed the Board questions concerning funding, match dollars and ecological benefit. Darlington thanked the Board for their consideration of this project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery moved, and Boardmember Stacy Corless seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Laursen South Preserve Expansion and Trail Connection Project (1165-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to Placer Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11f: #1182-LC the Mariposa Creek Parkway Acquisition Project

#1182-LC the Mariposa Creek Parkway Acquisition Project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$491,500 to Mariposa County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Mikey Goralnik, Mariposa County Planning Department, addressed the Board to provide background and project highlights. Goralnik appeared before the Board representing the county and town of Mariposa, and the Sierra Foothill Conservancy.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery was absent for the vote on this agenda item. Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe recused herself from this agenda item.
Boardmember Stacy Corless moved, and Boardmember Tom Wheeler seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Mariposa Creek Parkway Acquisition Project (1182-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$491,500 to the Mariposa County Planning Department, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

11g: #1189-LC the Lewis Ranch – Greenwood Creek Conservation Area Project

#1189-LC the Lewis Ranch – Greenwood Creek Conservation Area project in El Dorado County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the American River Conservancy with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Public Comment:

Melissa Lobach, American River Conservancy, appeared and read a statement on behalf of the Executive Director Elena DeLacy. This statement provided the highlights and benefits of this proposed project, listed project partners, and provided thanks for the consideration of this project.

- **ACTION:** Boardmember Jennifer Montgomery was absent during this agenda item. Boardmember Tom Wheeler moved, and Boardmember Rosemarie Smallcombe seconded, a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Lewis Ranch-Greenwood Creek Conservation Area (1189-LC) project, authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the American River Conservancy, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Boardmembers' Comments

13. Public Comments

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.