



# VIBRANT RECREATION & TOURISM GRANT GUIDELINES

March 2022



## Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

*The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the people of California.*

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## Background

The mission of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region (Region), its communities, and the people of California. The SNC's primary initiative, the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP), is a large-scale, holistic effort to restore resilience to the watersheds, forested landscapes and communities of the Sierra Nevada. It is recognized by state policy and planning documents as a model program for addressing the growing challenges facing the Sierra Nevada Region in a changing climate. The [SNC's Strategic Plan](#) identifies a Vibrant Recreation and Tourism goal to enhance, promote, and develop sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities in the Sierra Nevada Region.

The Region offers tremendous opportunities for access to nature and outdoor recreation, which rely on healthy watersheds and forests, and support tourism and economic growth in California's rural communities. For many of the communities in the Region, revenue from recreation and tourism represents the largest portions of their economies, and jobs from recreation provide residents with the opportunity to work and thrive in their communities. The Sierra Nevada's outdoor recreation spectrum runs the full gamut: from highly developed ski resorts to backcountry wilderness; thousands of miles of trails for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) and Over Snow Vehicles (OSV), mountain biking, equestrianism, and hiking; world class fishing and hunting opportunities for a wide range of game; wildlife refuges; caves; and wild rivers. There is also a rich array of cultural and historical sites and resources important to the story of the Region. Today, however, many of these benefits are at risk. A changing climate will likely affect recreational activities dependent on snow, as well as summer activities dependent on water resources. If the size and scope of severe fire and tree mortality continue to grow due to climate change and drought, these resources and economic contributors may disappear and take centuries, if ever, to return. In addition, extreme heat events can lead to added pressure on recreational sites in the Sierra Nevada as people seek places to escape high temperatures. A strategic approach to the development of sustainable recreation and tourism is necessary to enable both economic and natural resource resiliency against these challenges.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy recognizes the fundamental connection between vibrant recreation and tourism across the Region, the health and resilience of Sierra Nevada communities, the opportunity to increase access for people to nature and the outdoors, and the ecological health of California's watersheds and forests. Working with partners to strategically implement activities supporting recreation and tourism will protect these benefits and the resources that are unique to the Sierra Nevada Region.

The Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program supports efforts to enhance and develop sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities and increase access to public lands in the Sierra Nevada Region. The Program is administered as a directed grant program.

## Program Funding

The 2021 Budget Act includes funding over three years to support investments that address the state's multi-faceted climate risks and related State Conservancy priorities. SNC investments will support multi-benefit and nature-based solutions for improving climate and community resilience. The 2021 Budget Act allocates \$11.1 million General Fund to SNC, which will support multiple SNC grant programs. The Budget Act also sets aside funding for budget years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024; however specific allocations are yet to be determined. As additional funding allocations become available, the SNC may direct those allocations to support this grant program.

### ***Additional Funding Sources***

If additional funding sources become available, with purposes consistent with SNC's Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program as described in these Guidelines, the SNC may direct those funding sources to the support of this grant program. Project requirements or limitations tied to specific funding sources or state budget allocations will be reflected in specific RFPs.

## Program Priorities

Projects funded through this program should accomplish one or more of the following:

- Assess conditions, existing resources, needs, and opportunities to improve recreation and tourism throughout the Region and/or identify highest priority activities.
- Identify, create, and participate in partnerships to support the development of vibrant recreation and tourism throughout the Region.
- Create or improve new and existing recreation amenities or infrastructure that provide multi-benefits to the Region.
- Eliminate or reduce the impact of overuse on natural or cultural resources.
- Provide improved access for all Californians to nature and recreational opportunities in the Region.

## II. PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Applicant Eligibility

Grant funds may be authorized for:

- Public agencies: Any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency, or federal agency.
- Qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations: "Nonprofit Organization" means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC.
- Eligible Tribal Entities: An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is one or both of the following: (1) Recognized by the United States and identified within the most current Federal Register; (2) Listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe.
  - Eligible tribal entities are encouraged to apply. On September 25, 2020, the governor released a Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands to encourage every state agency, department, board, and commission subject to his executive control to seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands that are within a California tribe's ancestral land and under the ownership or control of the State of California.

**NOTE:** The SNC's governing statute does not allow grants to mutual water companies.

### Project Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet all the following criteria:

- Be located within the Sierra Nevada Region.
- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the [SNC Strategic Plan](#) and the [Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program \(WIP\)](#).
- Result in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit.
- Meet all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, as applicable.

### Project Categories

The Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program supports planning projects and implementation projects, as described below. Each project proposal must identify whether it is a planning or implementation project; the project types may not be combined.

## ***Planning Projects***

Planning projects include project development and other pre-implementation activities that will result in specific, identified future on-the-ground project(s). Future actions resulting from the planning activities should be described in the proposal. Lead agencies for CEQA/NEPA compliance for future actions should be identified, if applicable.

Examples of potential planning project activities include, but are not limited to:

- The development of a recreation and tourism collaborative or partnership that identifies and prioritizes site-improvement projects across a large geographic region.
- Baseline studies, cultural resources, biological, botanical, aquatic, soil, hydrologic, wildlife, timber, or other studies/surveys necessary for the implementation of a future on-the-ground recreation project.

## ***Implementation Projects***

Implementation projects are the execution of on-the-ground projects.

Examples of potential implementation projects include but are not limited to:

- The implementation of priority projects identified through a collaborative process
- Trail building and/or maintenance
- Accessible trails or recreation access points
- Site improvements that minimize impacts to natural resources, e.g., food storage lockers, campsite improvements, toilets, re-routing trails around sensitive areas, trailhead improvements that protect resources

## **Ineligible Projects**

Examples of ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Planning projects that do not identify specific future on-the ground projects
- Funding to support ongoing programs that do not result in on-the-ground site improvement
- Research, education, outreach, or event-related projects, although these types of activities may be included as a small part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds
- Grants to service or repay loans
- Projects dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation
- Any projects that do not meet the program priorities described in these guidelines

This list is not exhaustive and is offered only as guidance to potential applicants. The SNC will make determinations of eligibility on a project-by-project basis. If an applicant has questions about the eligibility of their project, they should consult with their [SNC Area Representative](#).

## Eligible Costs

### ***Direct Project Costs***

Direct Project Costs include staff time and all expenses directly related to the project. For project costs to be eligible for reimbursement, the costs must be within the scope of the project, supported by appropriate documentation, and completed by the required deadline, as identified in the grant agreement. Costs related to project-specific performance measures, project reporting, and required signage are eligible costs, and, if being requested by the applicant, must be included in the project budget.

Expenses for California Native American tribes and tribal entities to support their leadership of and participation in local and regional planning, project development, and implementation activities, including cultural monitoring are eligible costs.

Traveling expenses directly related to the project are eligible but may not exceed the current state traveling expenses reimbursement rates. Please note that travel and related costs as part of a subcontract for project implementation are not subject to these limitations.

### ***Administrative Costs***

Administrative costs are shared overhead expenses rather than direct costs. Administrative costs may not exceed 15 percent of the SNC-funded direct project costs. In the event of an audit, projects with budgets that include administrative costs must be able to document the appropriateness of these expenses. A typical method for documentation of administrative overhead expenses is a Cost Allocation Plan (CAP). A CAP is a formal accounting plan used to calculate and document the method for recovering overhead costs. The SNC strongly recommends that grantees consult with an accounting professional to develop an appropriate method for calculating overhead rate and prepare a CAP.

## Ineligible Costs

Examples of ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing or increasing a legal defense fund or endowment
- Monetary donations to other organizations
- Food or refreshments not part of traveling expenses
- Costs associated with fundraising
- Grant writing expenses
- Any expenses incurred before a grant agreement is executed or after the project completion deadline, as identified in the grant agreement

**NOTE:** If a proposal contains ineligible costs, SNC will consult with the applicant to confirm viability of project if those costs are removed from the budget.

## Additional Considerations

Any additional requirements or restrictions, including those specific to state budget requirements, will be communicated through updated program guidance documents.

## III. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Landowner Permission

#### ***Landowner Support for Planning Projects***

If the applicant does not own the property on which the project is implemented, proposals must include letters from all property owners/managers indicating their awareness of and willingness to implement the project being planned. Recruiting additional landowners to give permission and participate in a project may occur after grant award.

#### ***Right of Access for Implementation Projects***

If the applicant does not own the property on which the project is implemented, proposals must include letters from all property owners/managers indicating their awareness of and willingness to implement the project. If the project is awarded, the grantee must enter into a land tenure agreement with the landowner(s) assuring ten years of access for project implementation and maintenance before execution of the SNC grant agreement. For select projects, SNC may consider executing a grant agreement before land tenure is in place, but the grantee must provide proof of land tenure before work begins on the pertinent property. For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners, or authorized designees, must provide satisfactory proof of land tenure.

### Environmental Compliance Documents

The SNC requires all projects comply with CEQA at the time the Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on the proposed project activities and the type of applicant, it is very important that applicants consult with SNC staff as early as possible to discuss which CEQA documents will be required. If CEQA is not complete at the time of proposal, the lead agency for CEQA must be identified in the proposal, with a letter of support or other documentation from the agency stating that they are eligible and willing to serve as lead. In cases where the partners do not have standing to act as lead agency, the SNC will consider acting as lead agency.

If the project is subject to NEPA, a NEPA decision must be in effect at the time of Board approval of grant award.

When projects have previously completed CEQA or NEPA documentation and the baseline environmental conditions of the project area have significantly changed (due to fire, tree mortality, etc.), applicants must provide confirmation from the agency responsible for preparing the original environmental compliance documents that the analysis and determinations remain valid.

SNC may request additional documents, as needed.

### Long-term Management and Monitoring of Implementation Projects

Projects must demonstrate a clear and enduring public benefit and shall be maintained, operated, and used in a manner consistent with the purposes of the project for a minimum

of ten years. Project proposals must include a description of how project deliverables will be managed and maintained over time, by whom, and how funding will be provided for such work.

## SNC Monitoring of Implementation Projects

Implementation projects shall be subject to monitoring for general site conditions. SNC and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives shall have access to monitor the project site for a minimum of ten (10) years following completion of the project. This requirement will be addressed through the grant agreement with the grantee; SNC will not enter into a separate agreement with private landowners. SNC will coordinate with the grantee whenever possible when requesting access.

## Performance Measures and Reporting

Performance measures are used to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes. They provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and how it contributes to the SNC achieving its programmatic goals. Detailed information and recommended performance measures can be found on the [SNC Performance Measures](#) webpage.

SNC requires all grantees consider four specific quantitative performance measures:

1. Number and type of jobs created
2. Number and value of new, improved, or preserved economic activities
3. Resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
4. Number of people reached

In addition, each grantee will be required to report on one to three additional project-specific performance measures that will help describe project outcomes in a measurable way. Examples of additional performance measures can be found on the [SNC Performance Measures](#) webpage.

Applicants may also propose alternative performance measures, which will be subject to the approval of SNC staff if the grant is authorized. The proposed measures will be finalized in consultation with SNC staff prior to grant agreement approval.

All grantees will be required to provide progress reports and a final report for the entire project timeline. The final report must include data associated with the project performance measures.

The SNC may request reporting on additional metrics.

## Engagement with California Native American Tribes

Recognizing that Native Americans have inhabited and cared for the land of present-day California since time immemorial, the SNC strongly encourages engagement with Native American tribes as early as possible in the development, planning, and implementation of projects. The SNC staff can assist project proponents with identifying Native American

tribes whose ancestral homelands may be in the project area and provide contact information for those tribes. The SNC will notify the appropriate tribal contacts regarding all eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area. The SNC may prioritize projects in which tribal representatives or communities are actively involved in project development. Please refer to [SNC's Tribal Relations Policy](#) for additional information.

## Cooperation with Local Agencies

For all proposals under consideration, local government agencies, such as counties, cities, and local water districts, are notified of eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area. The SNC Boardmembers representing each geographic Subregion within the SNC boundary will also be notified of project proposals in their respective Subregions.

The SNC may also provide a list of project proposals to the California Conservation Corps.

If there are any privacy concerns related to information contained in a proposal, please notify SNC staff before submission.

## Funding Acknowledgement

Projects will be required to acknowledge SNC support of the project in any publications, studies, or reports that are made possible by the SNC grant, and any news articles, brochures, seminars, or other promotional materials or media through which it publicizes the project. To the extent practicable, implementation projects will be required to include onsite signage indicating that the project was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the applicable funding source. Reasonable costs associated with creation and installation of the sign are eligible expenses and should be included in the project budget.

The required acknowledgement language is included in the grant agreement and SNC will provide logo graphics.

## IV. PROGRAM PROCESS

### Project Proposals

As the Vibrant Recreation and Tourism grant program is a directed grant program, proposals are developed in conjunction with SNC. To initiate consideration of a project, an applicant must contact the appropriate SNC Area Representative. The Area Representative will assist the applicant to determine if the potential project meets the intent of the guidelines and is eligible for consideration. If it is determined that SNC will consider the project, the Area Representative will share the SNC Concept Proposal form with the applicant and assist in developing the project.

The SNC proposal process involves a Concept Proposal and full Proposal phase. Concept Proposals are mandatory. If a complete Concept Proposal is not received by the specified deadline, the applicant will not be eligible to submit a full Proposal. Proposals must be submitted through the SNC online application system.

After submission of a Concept Proposal, a mandatory site visit will be conducted for every eligible implementation project. The purpose of the Concept Proposal and site visit is to provide the applicant an opportunity to clarify any questions that may assist with Proposal development. If the applicant is not a tribal entity and does not already have tribal representation on their team, they are strongly encouraged to invite tribal representatives who have been contacted through outreach efforts to participate in this site visit.

Details specific to individual grant cycles, including schedules, deadlines, and funding available, will be described in proposal solicitation documents.

### Evaluation Process

All grant Proposals will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility following submission. Any proposal determined to be incomplete and/or ineligible may not be considered for funding.

After a submitted Proposal is determined to be complete and eligible, the SNC will initiate the following evaluation process:

1. Proposals will be reviewed by an environmental compliance expert.
2. Proposals will be shared with appropriate county/city planning, water agency (if applicable), and tribal representatives, as well as the SNC Boardmember representing the Subregion in which the project is located. If there are any privacy concerns related to information in a proposal, please discuss them with SNC staff before submission.
3. The Evaluation Team will score the proposals based on the evaluation criteria described in the following section.
4. Proposals scoring 80 or more points may be eligible for a recommendation for award.
5. After the evaluation process is complete, including all due diligence and analysis by the SNC, funding recommendation(s) will be placed on a future Board meeting agenda at the discretion of SNC's Executive Officer.

## ***Special Considerations***

Consistent with provisions of the program funding and objectives of the proposed project, the SNC may give favorable consideration to projects which:

- Involve California Native American tribes, including grants directly to tribal entities or those to tribal or other entities which provide meaningful engagement with and support to tribal partners.
- Directly benefit severely disadvantaged (SDAC) or disadvantaged (DAC) communities.
- Engage a workforce development effort, including but not limited to tribal workforce programs, California Conservation Corps, or other training programs.
- Enable a balanced geographic distribution of SNC resources.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The Evaluation Team will score the proposals based on the evaluation criteria described below. Proposals scoring 80 or more points may be eligible for a recommendation for award:

### **1. Natural Resource and Public Benefits, and Alignment with Funding and Program Goals (30 points)**

The degree to which the project aligns with program priorities and results in multiple tangible, enduring, public benefits. How strong is the need for the specific project? How critical are the public benefits, including natural resource, economic, and community outcomes?

### **2. Project Design and Budget (20)**

Clarity on the project purpose, goals, tasks, deliverables, schedule, and budget. If it is a planning project, does it prepare all needed elements for the future implementation the project? Are the proposed deliverables appropriate for the project? Is the budget adequate and reasonable to complete the project, with costs clearly defined and supported?

### **3. Likelihood of Success (15)**

The degree to which the project is ready to proceed promptly and can meet funding expenditure requirements. Does the applicant have the necessary experience, sufficient capacity, and a successful track record implementing and maintaining similar projects? Are all funds secured, or is there a plan in place to obtain funding, to complete the planning or implementation project?

### **4. Long-Term Management (10)**

Is a plan, funding, and the responsible entity in place to carry out long-term management? How will public benefits be sustained?

### **5. Community and Tribal Support and Collaboration (10)**

The degree to which the project has public and institutional support at the local, Regional, or larger scale, and the local community or other stakeholders are engaged in project planning or delivery. Was the project developed as part of collaborative efforts? Is there clear and demonstrable community outreach and support for the project? Is there evidence of tribal support and potential tribal participation in the

project if the applicant is not a tribal entity, or if the applicant is a tribal entity in an area where lands will be stewarded by multiple tribes? Is there evidence of local government support?

**6. Regional Significance (10)**

The degree to which the project provides benefits at a Regional or larger scale. Is the proposed project part of a larger plan, coordinated effort, or does the project promote community connectivity?

**7. Leveraging (5)**

The degree to which a project provides in-kind services and/or secured federal, state, private, or local cost share funding. Have non-monetary and/or funding resources of agencies and organizations other than the SNC been identified and secured?

## Grant Awards and Agreements

For each awarded grant, the SNC develops an individual grant agreement with detailed provisions and requirements specific to that project. Please be aware that if an entity is awarded a grant from the SNC, the provisions listed below will apply.

- Administrative costs are limited to no more than 15 percent of the actual direct project costs.
- Grant-eligible costs may be incurred by the grantee only after the grantee has entered into a fully executed agreement with the SNC.
- All grantees will be required to provide regular progress reports and a final report for the entire project timeline.
- To the extent practicable, site improvement projects will be required to include onsite signage indicating that the project was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The required acknowledgement language is included in the grant agreement. Reasonable costs associated with creation and installation of the sign are eligible expenses and should be included in the project budget.

The SNC will assist the grantee to ensure the grantee's clear understanding and interpretation of the terms and conditions of the grant. For applicants interested in more information about the standard grant agreement clauses and administrative requirements once a grant is authorized, please contact SNC for a sample grant agreement.

## V. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Act	Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CALCC	California Association of Local Conservation Corps
CAP	Cost Allocation Plan
CCC	California Conservation Corps
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CWAP	California Water Action Plan
CWC	California Water Code
DGS	Department of General Services
DOC	Department of Conservation
DWR	Department of Water Resources
GG	Grant Guidelines
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HRTW	Human Right to Water
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
Plan	Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic Plan
PRC	Public Resources Code
RFP	Request for Proposals
RPF	Registered Professional Forester
SDAC	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SNC	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USFS	United States Forest Service
WIP	Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

## VI. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in these Grant Guidelines shall have the following meanings:

Administrative Costs – Administrative costs include any expense which is not directly related to project implementation. Similar to the traditional definition of ‘overhead,’ administrative costs include shared costs such as rent, utilities, travel, per diem, office equipment, services such as internet and phone, shared bookkeeping costs, etc.

Applicant – The entity applying for an SNC grant pursuant to these Guidelines.

Authorized Representative – The officer authorized in the Resolution to sign all required grant documents including, but not limited to, the grant agreement, the proposal form, and payment requests.

Biological/Other Survey – An evaluation or collection of data regarding the conditions in an area using surveys and other direct measurements.

Board – The governing body of the SNC as established by PRC Section 33321.

CEQA – The California Environmental Quality Act as set forth in the PRC Section 21000 et seq. CEQA is a law establishing policies and procedures that require agencies to identify, disclose to decision makers and the public, and attempt to lessen significant impacts to environmental and historical resources that may occur as a result of a proposed project to be undertaken, funded, or approved by a local or state agency. For more information: <http://www.resources.ca.gov/ceqa/>.

CEQA/NEPA Compliance – Activities an entity performs to meet the requirements of CEQA and/or NEPA.

Collaborative Process – Cooperation between stakeholders with different interests to solve a problem or make decisions that cut across jurisdictional or other boundaries; often used when information is widely dispersed and no single individual, agency, or group has sufficient resources to address the issue alone.

Data – A body or collection of facts, statistics, or other items of information from which conclusions can be drawn.

Design – Preliminary project planning or identification of methodologies or processes to achieve project goals.

Eligible Costs – Expenses incurred by the grantee during the performance period of an approved agreement which may be reimbursed by the SNC.

Executive Officer – Executive Officer of the SNC appointed by the Governing Board, pursuant to PRC Section 33328, to manage the SNC.

Forests – For the purposes of these Guidelines, forests are defined as areas of the Sierra Nevada Region that are characterized by predominantly conifer and mixed-conifer forests.

Grant – Funds made available to a grantee for eligible costs during an agreement term.

Grant Agreement – An agreement between the SNC and the grantee specifying the payment of funds by the SNC for the performance of the project scope according to the terms of the agreement by the grantee.

Grantee – An entity that has an agreement with the SNC for grant funds.

In-kind Contributions – Non-monetary donations that are utilized on the project, including materials and services. These donations shall be eligible as “other sources of funds” when providing budgetary information for proposal purposes.

Land Tenure – Legal ownership or other rights in land, sufficient to allow a grantee to conduct activities that are necessary for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. Examples include fee title ownership, an easement for completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, or agreements or a clearly defined process where the applicant has adequate site control for the purposes of the project.

Multibenefit – For the purposes of these Guidelines, the term ‘Multibenefit’ when pertaining to Forest Health may include but is not limited to reduction in wildfire risk, improved air quality, improved water quality and quantity, increased carbon sequestration, and biomass utilization. Multibenefits pertaining to the SNC mission and program areas, the SNC Strategic Plan, and WIP may include, but are not limited to, increased economic resilience, increased or enhanced use of public lands, and increased or enhanced recreational benefits

NEPA – The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. NEPA is a federal law requiring consideration of the potential environmental effects of a proposed project whenever a federal agency has discretionary jurisdiction over some aspect of that project. For more information: <https://ceq.doe.gov/>.

Nonprofit Organization – A private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the SNC as set forth in PRC Section 33300 et seq.

Other Sources of Funds – Cash or in-kind contributions necessary or used to complete the site improvement/restoration project beyond the grant funds provided by this program.

Outreach Materials – Audio, visual, and written materials developed to help explain a topic or subject.

Performance Measure – A quantitative measure used by the SNC to track progress toward project goals and desired outcomes.

Permitting – The process of obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals from appropriate governmental agencies to implement the project.

Plan – A document or process describing a set of actions to address specific needs or issues, or to create specific benefits.

Pre-Project Due Diligence – The analysis necessary to prepare a future on-the-ground project for implementation.

Project – The work to be accomplished with grant funds.

Proposal – The individual grant proposal form and its required attachments pursuant to the SNC Grant Program.

Public Agencies – Any city, county, district, joint powers authority, or state agency.

Region – The Sierra Nevada Region as defined in PRC Section 33302 (f).

Resilience – The ability of an ecosystem to regain structural and functional attributes that have suffered harm from stress or disturbance.

Restoration – Activities that initiate, accelerate, or return the components and processes of a damaged site to a previous historical state.

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) – A community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average. To view maps of SDAC areas, visit <http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>.

Site Improvements – Project activities involving the physical improvement or restoration of land.

SNC – Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Solicitation – A publicly available document that requests grant proposals for a specific program and may also specify deadlines, program priorities, limits to eligibility, and other requirements.

Total Cost – The amount of the Other Sources of Funds combined with the SNC Grant request amount that is designated and necessary for the completion of a project

Tribal Entities – Includes any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe which is one or both of the following: (1) Recognized by the United States and identified within the most current Federal Register; (2) Listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe.