



Board Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2022 – South Central Subregion – Mariposa County

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

- Terry O'Brien
- Aaron Albaugh
- Heather Bernikoff
- John Brissenden
- Dwight Ceresola
- Ron Hames
- Bob Johnston
- Jessica Morse
- Brian Oneto
- Lori Parlin
- Susana Reyes (present after roll call)
- Elizabeth Berger
- Christopher Heppe
- Jim Richardson

Absent:

- Richard Gillihan
- Phillip Peters

**3. Approval of September 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to approve the September 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0.

### **4. Board Chair's Report**

Board Chair Terry O'Brien took a moment to recognize the passing of Michael Chrisman, expressed thanks to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff for a successful Board tour and commented about the relatively moderate fire season. O'Brien also talked about and thanked the exiting Boardmembers.

### **5. Executive Officer's Report (INFORMATIONAL)**

#### **a. Executive Officer Update**

Executive Officer Angela Avery summarized some of the SNC's successes over the past year, including boundary expansion, wildfire- and climate-resilience projects across the Sierra Nevada, increased visibility of state and federal actions to address the wildfire crisis, growth in staff, and SNC's equity program. Avery spoke to the upcoming January 10 budget expected shortfall.

#### **b. Administrative Update**

Deputy Executive Officer, Administration Amy Lussier reviewed the Administrative Staff Report provided in the Board materials, which included a high-level overview of work being done to prepare for the governor's January 10 budget release and SNC's financial status for the current fiscal year. Lussier noted that the expenditures shown in the printed table are through the first quarter only and that SNC is on track with spending.

Lussier reported on recent new hires noting the quality of candidates that apply for SNC positions. Lussier also reported that SNC advertised to fill Barbara Harriman's soon-to-be vacant position. Harriman retired in December after serving as SNC's bond fund analyst for more than 14 years, during which time she processed and paid every single invoice for Proposition 84. The SNC recognized the tremendous contributions of Harriman and wished her the best in retirement.

#### **c. Policy & Outreach Update**

Policy & Outreach Division Chief Brittany Covich provided a brief overview of current legislation and policy activities. Covich also summarized the SNC Policy Platform for 2023, which was included in the Board package. Covich spoke about upcoming work being done on the 2022 Annual Report, gave details about multiple projects the Communications team has been working on, spoke about how staff will be concentrating on advancing capacity-building work through the Regional Forest and

Fire Capacity Program, and shared plans for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Summit on March 1, 2023, in Sacramento.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around Covich's update, policy decisions, and forest-restoration activities.

## **7. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule (ACTION)**

Executive Officer Angela Avery provided the Board with the proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2023.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to approve the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule as follows:

- March 1–2, 2023, Sacramento
- May 31–June 1, 2023, North Central Subregion – Plumas County
- September 6–7, 2023, South Subregion – Tulare County
- December 7–8, 2023, Central Subregion – Yuba County

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0.

## **8. Eldorado National Forest Funding (ACTION)**

Executive Officer Angela Avery described that funding from the Eldorado National Forest would be granted to the SNC under the existing Region 5 Good Neighbor Authority to hire a two-year, limited-term position to serve as a forest conservancy stewardship and partnership coordinator. This position would focus on project management, implementing recovery funding for the Caldor Fire recovery efforts, coordinate Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership efforts, and much more.

Boardmember Elizabeth Berger spoke in support of this item, noting that the U.S. Forest Service is supportive of this agreement and sees that it makes sense to partner with SNC for this purpose.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to approve and delegate authority to the Executive Officer to accept \$500,000 from the Eldorado National Forest to hire a limited-term position to promote

partnership opportunities between the forest and SNC and to provide support for significant recovery efforts associated with the Caldor Fire, including the Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0.

## **9. Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations (ACTION)**

The Board may take action to adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determinations and award grants to the following projects.

### **a. #1410-RT**

Modoc Line Rail Trail Planning project in Lassen and Modoc counties in the amount of \$202,400 to Lassen Land and Trails Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around grant details. Boardmember Heather Bernikoff asked why there was no funding for the South Subregion. Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky responded to Bernikoff's concerns with details about new representation in the South Subregion and the changes that will occur because of this.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Modoc Line Rail Trail Planning project (1410-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$202,400 to the Lassen Land and Trails Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 0.

### **b. #1413-RT**

South Fork Merced River Trails project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$362,846 to Mariposa Trails and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh asked how the project is monitored. Fristensky told Albaugh that the local Area Representative Michael Pickard will be monitoring to ensure the work has been completed.

Bernikoff asked for the process and steps for tribal consultation. Fristensky stated it's different for each project, but SNC tries to remind grantees that it is important to consider.

### **Public Comment**

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, welcomed attendees to Mariposa and advocated for the Mariposa Trails group and provided his support to the Board.

Bill King, Executive Director of Mariposa Trails, provided the Board details about the project.

Ben Goger, Resident of Mariposa, spoke in support of the project.

Boardmember Susana Reyes arrived at 10:23 a.m. in time to participate in this item.

### **Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Fork Merced River Trails project (1413-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$362,846 to Mariposa Trails, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0

#### c. #1414-RT

South Siskiyou Sustainable Recreation and Trails Partnership project in Siskiyou County in the amount of \$470,483 to Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around grant details. Albaugh noted that a lot of private land is included in the area. Fristensky clarified that this project is still in the planning phase and the opportunity exists to engage landowners. Bernikoff asked about tribal participation on this project. Fristensky noted that tribal participation has been requested, but there is no tribal commitment, yet, and it may arrive later.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember Aaron Albaugh seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Siskiyou Sustainable Recreation and Trails Partnership project (1414-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$470,483 to the Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation

Alliance, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

d. #1417-RT

Sherwins Trailhead project in Mono County in the amount of \$953,414 to Mammoth Lakes Recreation, with adoption of findings under CEQA and authorization of the filing of a Notice of Determination.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around grant details and ADA requirements.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Having reviewed and considered the information within the Environmental Impact Report for the Mammoth Lakes Trails System Master Plan, Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to adopt CEQA Findings of Fact and authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency for the Sherwins Trailhead project (1417-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$953,414 to the Mammoth Lakes Recreation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –11, Nay – 0.

e. #1418-RT

Modoc Trails Strategy and Concepts project in Modoc, Lassen, and Siskiyou counties in the amount of \$250,000 to USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest, and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Brian Oneto asked about tribal participation and support and Fristensky clarified the tribal strategy during the planning process. Albaugh asked about grazing allotments and Fristensky clarified that this is a planning project, so environmental compliance will still need to be completed for on-the-ground activities. These issues will be dealt with during the planning.

**Public Comment**

Agnes Gonzales, Tribal Chairperson of the Pit River Tribe, submitted written public comment as a letter of support.

**Action**

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh moved and Boardmember Brian Oneto seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Modoc

Trails Strategy and Concepts project (1418-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$250,000 to the USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

f. #1422-RT

Sierra Valley Wetlands Public Access project in Plumas County in the amount of \$532,818 to Feather River Land Trust and authorization of the filing of a Notice of Determination.

Boardmembers engaged in questions around standards that can be established or that currently exist to provide fire breaks and grazing opportunities on land trust or conserved lands.

**Public Comment**

Trinity Stirling, Resident of Plumas County – spoke in support of the project.

**Action**

After having reviewed and considered the information within the Negative Declaration, and having concurred with the Negative Declaration, Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a Responsible Agency for the Sierra Valley Wetlands Public Access project (1422-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$532,818 to the Feather River Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 8, Nay –3. The motion passed.

g. #1451-RT

Sierra Valley Recreation Project in Sierra County in the amount of \$793,620 to Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Bernikoff asked for clarification about motorized vehicles on trails. Fristensky clarified the project is designated to balance the needs of the community.

**Public Comment**

Greg Williams, Executive Director of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship Deer Creek band of the Northern Sierra Miwok, submitted written public comment as a letter of support.

Herman Fillmore, Culture/Language Resources Director for the Washoe Tribe, submitted written public comment as a letter of support.

Trinity Stirling, Connected Communities Project Coordinator of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, thanked the Board for its consideration, noted the letter of support for the project from the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada, and spoke in support of the project.

### **Action**

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Sierra Valley Recreation Project (1451-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$793,620 to the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

#### h. #1454-RT

Lower Carpenter Valley Trailhead Improvements project in Nevada County in the amount of \$92,962 to Truckee Donner Land Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers discussed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and Fristensky established that the vault toilet and the beginning of the trail will be ADA accessible.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember Susana Reyes seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Lower Carpenter Valley Trailhead Improvements project (1454-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$92,962 to the Truckee Donner Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote, the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

#### i. #1463-RT

Bizz Johnson Trailhead Planning project in Lassen County in the amount of \$137,000 to Lassen Land and Trails Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Reyes asked for project detail clarification and Fristensky responded.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.



**Action**

Boardmember Bob Johnson moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Bizz Johnson Trailhead Planning project (1463-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$137,000 to the Lassen Land and Trails Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –11, Nay – 0.

j. #1478-RT

Mariposa Creek Parkway Phase III Recreation and Resiliency Enhancements project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$496,800 to Mariposa County Planning Department and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Bernikoff noted that this project has been a wonderful model project that everyone can learn from. Boardmember Bob Johnston advised Boardmembers that this land is owned by Mariposa County and this project is a community builder, as well as a physical project.

**Public Comment**

Mikey Goralnik, Senior Community Design and Development Planner for Mariposa County, submitted written public comment as a letter of support.

Hannah Harrison, Mariposa County Planning, stated she is grateful for the Board's consideration of the project.

Jessica Thompson, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, provided her support for the project and thanked the Board for consideration.

Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County Supervisor, gave project details and thanked the Board for considering the project.

**Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Mariposa Creek Parkway Phase III Recreation and Resiliency Enhancements project (1478-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$496,800 to the Mariposa County Planning Department, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

k. #1485-RT

Sherwins Area Trails and Trailhead Expansion project in Mono County in the amount of \$510,597 to Mammoth Lakes Recreation and the authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Albaugh asked why this project and #1417-RT weren't combined. Fristensky explained that as a result of an SNC site visit, this was originally one project, but part of the project wasn't shovel-ready and the other part was. Mammoth Lakes Recreation determined not to wait for the other project to be shovel-ready before this phase could go forward.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Sherwins Area Trails and Trailhead Expansion project (1485-RT), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$510,597 to Mammoth Lakes Recreation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote, the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

**6. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair (ACTION)**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff nominated Boardmember Terry O'Brien to serve as the Board Chair for the 2023 calendar year.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to elect Boardmember Terry O'Brien as Board Chair for 2023.

After a Board vote, the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

Boardmember Ron Hames nominated Boardmember Dwight Ceresola to serve as the Board Vice Chair for the 2023 calendar year.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Action**

Boardmember Ron Hames moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to elect Boardmember Dwight Ceresola as Board Vice Chair for 2023.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

## **10. Strategic Land Conservation Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations (ACTION)**

Board Chair Terry O'Brien advised the Board that, as posted, Agenda Item 10b, #1431-LC, Veater Ranch Conservation Easement Development Project, will not be considered by the Board at this meeting.

Field Operations & Grants Division Chief Andy Fristensky provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation with a brief program background followed by a review of the project summary and staff recommendation for each grant. Staff recommended nine Strategic Land Conservation Directed Grant Program projects for a total of \$5,242,025.

### a. #1430-LC

Ray-Mar Ranch Conservation Easement project in Calaveras County in the amount of \$43,500 to the California Rangeland Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers and Fristensky engaged in conversation around easements. O'Brien asked Fristensky about how letters of support are acquired. Fristensky stated that applicants reach out to local officials to request support for projects.

### **Public Comment**

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council, and Board Chair of the California Council of Land Trust, spoke in gratitude for consideration and support of every item under agenda item 10.

At the request of Boardmember Jessica Morse, Fithian provided examples of the positive impacts and outcomes of land-conservation agreements.

### **Action**

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Ray-Mar Ranch Conservation Easement Project (1430-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$43,500 to the California Rangeland Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –11, Nay – 0.

Fristensky stated item #1431-LC was removed due to certain legal items not being ready in time.

b. #1431-LC

~~Veater Ranch Conservation Easement Development Project in Madera County in the amount of \$102,350 to Sierra Foothill Conservancy and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.~~

c. #1432-LC

Miller Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition project in Mariposa County in the amount of \$486,000 to Sierra Foothill Conservancy and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh asked how the project progress is maintained and Fristensky stated the progress is checked on every year for 10 years. Bridget Fithian from the Sierra Foothill Conservancy described guidelines the organization must follow to be accredited to be the stewards of the projects.

**Public Comment**

Lexi Ballinger, Project Manager of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, thanked Boardmembers for consideration and provided project details. Morse asked about project details and Ballinger clarified.

**Action**

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Miller Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition project (1432-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$486,000 to the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

d. #1433-LC

Fay Creek Ranch Acquisition project in Kern County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to Western Rivers Conservancy and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff commented that this is a good project and she would like to see more like it. Boardmember Brian Oneto asked if it will be kept as a working ranch and Fristensky affirmed that it will be kept a working ranch.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Lori Parlin seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Fay Creek Ranch Acquisition project (1433-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Western Rivers Conservancy, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 1. The motion passed.

e. #1437-LC

Long Gulch Ranch Preserve Phase II project in Tuolumne County in the amount of \$693,500 to Mother Lode Land Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around grant details and about letters of support for the project.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember Brian Oneto moved and Boardmember Ron Hames seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Long Gulch Ranch Preserve – Phase II Acquisition project (1437-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$693,500 to the Mother Lode Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 1. The motion passed.

f. #1439-LC

Butte Creek Canyon Preserve project in Butte County in the amount of \$1,430,000 to Paradise Recreation and Park District and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmember Aaron Albaugh questioned the price per acre of the project. Dan Efseaff, District Manager, Paradise Recreation & Parks District, addressed the Board to answer the high cost per acre cost and speak to the benefits of the acquisition.

**Public Comment**

Dan Efseaff, District Manager of the Paradise Recreation & Parks District, spoke about the project and answered Boardmembers' questions.

**Action**

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Jessica Morse seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Butte Creek Canyon Preserve project (1439-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,430,000 to the Paradise Recreation and Park District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 10, Nay – 1. The motion passed.

g. #1442-LC

El Dorado Ranch Phase 4 Acquisition project in El Dorado County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to American River Conservancy and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation including a requirement to keep the property as a working cattle ranch.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember Lori Parlin moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the El Dorado Ranch – Phase 4 Acquisition project (1442-LC), 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.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

h. #1446-LC

Walton Homestead CE Planning project in Lassen County in the amount of \$90,000 to Lassen Land and Trails Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Boardmembers and Fristensky conversed about the validity of the project and Fristensky stated it is a massive piece of land (over 6,000 acres) that could provide a permanent land corridor. Conversation circled around timber production zones. This project will get the land ready for conservation in the future.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Susana Reyes seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Walton Homestead CE Planning project (1446-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$90,000 to the Lassen Land & Trails Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 8, Nay – 3. The motion passed.

i. #1471-LC

Lind Corridor Property on Indian and Montgomery Creeks project in Plumas County in the amount of \$94,875 to Wildlife Heritage Foundation and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Bernikoff questioned the tribal access plans for the land and Darla Guenzler, Executive Director of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, responded that the Maidu Summit Consortium will be very involved in the planning and management. Oneto asked about grazing on the land and Guenzler affirmed that grazing will be part of the plan.

**Public Comment**

Darla Guenzler, Executive Director of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, thanked the Board for their consideration and provided special thanks to Area Representative Kristy Hoffman.

**Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Bob Johnston seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Lind Corridor Property on Indian and Montgomery Creeks project (1471-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$94,875 to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

j. #1473-LC

Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisition Program – Johnson Property project in Sierra County in the amount of \$404,150 to Sierra County Land Trust and authorization of the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

Albaugh asked if the land is private land or U.S. Forest Service land and Fristensky responded that the land is privately owned but surrounded by Forest Service land.

**Public Comment**

Laurie Oberholtzer, Director of the Sierra County Land Trust, submitted written public comment thanking the Board for their consideration.

**Action**

Boardmember Dwight Ceresola moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin – Johnson Property project (1473-LC), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$404,150 to the Sierra County Land Trust, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

**11. Sierra Nevada Landscape Grant Pilot Program Update (INFORMATIONAL)**

Agenda item 11 was moved to a future date.

**12. Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant (ACTION)**

Partnership & Community Support Manager Alex Vance provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation giving details about the RFFCP block grant.

Boardmembers engaged in conversation around the block grant.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Action**

Boardmember Jessica Morse moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to accept a grant from the Department of Conservation, approve and execute grants and contracts consistent with the above stated criteria for the expenditure of RFFCP funds, and direct staff to take the necessary actions for successful implementation of the Program in the Region.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0.

**13. 2022 Fire Season Update (INFORMATIONAL)**

Agenda item 13 was moved to a future date.

**14. Boardmembers' Comments**

Departing Supervisors commented on their time served on the Board.



### **15. Public Comments**

There was no public comment.

### **16. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

### **Additional Board Materials**

- Key Meetings and Presentations
- Letters of Support
- Sierra Spotlight