



**RESILIENT SIERRA NEVADA COMMUNITIES
GRANT GUIDELINES**
Directed Grant Program



**Sierra Nevada Watershed
Improvement Program**

**Funded by Proposition 68
California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal
Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018**



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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 citizens of California.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Background

The mission of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities, and the citizens of California. SNC's Strategic Plan identifies a goal of increasing the environmental, economic, and social resilience of Sierra Nevada communities.

The bipartisan [Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act](#) (Act), enacted in 2004 and commencing with Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 33300, established the SNC; Sections 33343 and 33346 set forth the authority for SNC to award grants of funds in order to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The statute that created the SNC emphasizes the importance of carrying out the mission in an integrated and complementary manner and the important role an organization providing strategic direction and resources to the Region can play. The SNC's activities fall under seven statutorily mandated program areas:

- 1) Increasing the opportunity for tourism and recreation in the Region
- 2) Protecting, conserving, and restoring the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources
- 3) Aiding in the preservation of working landscapes
- 4) Reducing the risk of natural disasters such as wildfire
- 5) Protecting and improving water and air quality
- 6) Assisting the Regional economy through the operation of the SNC's program
- 7) Enhancing public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public

The [SNC Strategic Plan](#) (Plan) is developed in accordance with the Act and provides direction for SNC activities and the Grant Guidelines (Guidelines). The Plan identifies five Regional Goals:

- 1) Healthy Watersheds and Forests
- 2) Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities
- 3) Vibrant Recreation and Tourism
- 4) Strategic Lands Conserved
- 5) Impactful Regional Identity

The Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities goal concentrates on efforts to increase the environmental, economic, and social resilience of Sierra Nevada communities. The SNC recognizes the unique challenges that face rural, resource-dependent communities in the Sierra Nevada.

The SNC has expended considerable effort working to improve watershed and forest health to reduce natural resource-based threats that put rural communities at risk. Managing forests for health and resilience creates jobs both on the ground in fuel loads reduction opportunities as well as in infrastructure/biomass utilization. Additionally, SNC provides a variety of services that include a grant program, grant writing workshops, facilitation services, and limited California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) assistance to communities to build capacity in the Region. To bring the Sierra Nevada Region to holistic health, the communities within the Region need support that empowers their efforts to address urgent needs, plan for the future, develop organizational capacity, and envision new tools and partnerships.

The [Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program \(WIP\)](#) is a coordinated, integrated, collaborative program to restore the health of California's primary watershed through increased investment, needed policy changes, and increased infrastructure. This comprehensive effort is organized and coordinated by the SNC in close partnership with other federal, state, and local agencies, as well as diverse stakeholders, and aims to increase the pace and scale of restoration in the Region. The SNC has established the WIP as the SNC's overarching initiative, providing a holistic approach to SNC's mission, recognizing the inherent interrelationships and dependencies between the Regional Goals.

Related State Priorities

The California Natural Resources Agency's [Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update](#) identifies strategies for adaptation and risk management relating to climate change. The 2018 Update highlights the importance of working with and investing in California's most vulnerable communities, so those communities are able to respond to climate impacts and thrive under changing future conditions. The Update recognizes that building a resilient California requires increasing the capacity of communities to withstand and recover from climate-related disruptions and learn to adapt in the face of this change. To address this need, the Update recommends a host of actions that support efforts with multiple co-benefits. Such actions include providing technical support, guidance, capacity building, and economic and workforce development to implement climate adaptation initiatives, including forest and watershed health projects, with local, Regional, and tribal agencies, organizations, and communities.

The [2018 California Forest Carbon Plan](#) describes recommended actions to achieve healthy and resilient forests as a long-term carbon sink in light of climate change evolution in California. The Forest Carbon Plan is aimed at significantly increasing the pace and scale of forest and watershed improvements, as current rates of fuel reduction, thinning of overly dense forests, and use of prescribed and managed fire are far below levels needed to restore forest health, prevent extreme fires, and meet the state's long-term climate goals. Limited infrastructure, workforce, and management capacity are identified as major impediments to forest restoration and ongoing forest management.

Program Funding

Proposition 68

California voters passed [Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018](#), on June 5, 2018. Proposition 68 added Division 45 to the Public Resources Code, authorizing the state to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for purposes identified in the Act. Proposition 68 recognizes the critical importance of California's rural communities and directs funds to be used to support natural resource-based economies.

Section 80110(9) in Chapter 8 allocates \$30 million of the bond funds to SNC in accordance with SNC's governing statute for its specified purposes. It is the intent of the people of California that these funds will be invested in projects that:

- Advance the purposes of SNC as identified in its governing statute and Strategic Plan (§80110[9]);
- Provide public benefits that address the most critical statewide needs and priorities (§80001[b][1]);
- Leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit (§80001[b][2]);
- To the extent practicable, provide workforce training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities (§80001[b][5]); and
- To the extent practicable, measure greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestrations associated with projects (§80001[b][7]);

Additionally, Proposition 68 states that:

- At least 20 percent of the funds available pursuant to Chapter 8 shall be allocated to projects serving severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC). (§80008[a][1]); and
- Up to 10 percent of the funds may be allocated for technical assistance to

disadvantaged communities. The agency administering the moneys shall operate a multidisciplinary technical assistance program for disadvantaged communities. Funds used for providing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities may exceed 10 percent of the funds allocated if the state agency administering the moneys determines that there is a need for the additional funding. (§80008[b]); and

- To the extent permissible under State General Obligation Bond Law and with the concurrence of the Director of Finance, up to 5 percent of funds available through Proposition 68 may be available for community access projects. (§80008[c]). Proposition 68 defines community access as engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities.

Additional Funding Sources

If additional funding sources become available, with purposes consistent with SNC's Strategic Plan and the Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Grant Program as described in these Guidelines, 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 project development and grant agreements.

Program Objectives

The Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities grant program is a multi-disciplinary technical assistance grant program which will provide resources for capacity building and technical support to enable local agencies, organizations, and tribes to design, manage, and implement projects that will increase community resiliency against and recovery from natural disasters and ecological and economic challenges.

Challenges to Sierra Nevada communities have escalated over the last several decades. Wildfires now occur on a larger scale and with increased regularity, affecting more acres and public health. Unhealthy watershed conditions surrounding these communities make them particularly susceptible to drought and resulting impacts such as pest infestations. In addition, a changing climate will likely exacerbate the situation with increasing temperatures and more extreme weather. Economically, many Sierra Nevada communities are experiencing a shrinking tax base, a scarcity of skilled workers, and changing demographics. While recreation, tourism, and working landscapes remain important elements of local economies, many communities are

struggling with economic diversification and job creation. The result is that significant portions of the Sierra Nevada now meet the definition of "disadvantaged."

The Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities grant program supports direct actions at the nexus between watershed health and resilient communities. Through a decade of working with communities across the Sierra, plus recent assessments in SNC's strategic planning outreach process, it became clear there was a need for technical and capacity support across the Region to provide local agencies, organizations, and tribes the ability to take advantage of the variety of resources currently available to address current challenges. Support is needed to develop, fundraise, meet compliance requirements, manage, and implement projects in these rural areas.

The SNC recognizes that local partners are critical collaborators in determining specific needs in different communities and addressing those needs with the most effective approach. Through this program SNC aims to connect and help strengthen partner efforts, providing them with the resources and leverage they need for success. This program awards grants to partners to either provide the technical assistance or training directly, or through contracts with outside experts.

The SNC identified the following potential needs for capacity-building technical assistance across the Region:

- Regional planning and project prioritization
- Grant writing
- Grant administration/bookkeeping
- Project management
- Board development and training
- Partnership and collaborative development
- Tribal engagement
- Public outreach and education
- Facilitation and dispute resolution
- CEQA/NEPA compliance
- Geographic Information Services
- LiDAR data application and utilization
- Technology for forest management, biomass, and other related activities
- Economic Development/Financing
- Workforce Development

Technical services may not be limited to this list, and priority needs differ across the Region and communities.

Community access projects that address community resilience may be supported under this program. Section 80008(c) in Proposition 68 defines "community access" as engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities. Such projects should include at least one of the following elements:

- Transportation
- Physical activity programming
- Resource interpretation
- Multilingual translation
- Natural science
- Workforce development and career pathways
- Education
- Communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits.

The Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities program is a directed grant program. Concept proposals are accepted on a continuous basis and projects are developed in conjunction with SNC. There is no deadline-oriented Request for Proposals or competitive scoring review.

II. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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.

NOTE: 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 Program Objectives described in these guidelines.
- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined the [SNC Strategic Plan](#) and the [Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program](#).
- Meet all requirements of [Proposition 68](#).
- Be consistent with recommendations of the [2018 California Forest Carbon Plan](#).
- Result in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit.

Consistent with provisions of Proposition 68 and objectives of the proposed project, the SNC may give favorable consideration to projects that:

- directly benefit severely disadvantaged or disadvantaged communities
- consider climate impacts and risks and identify specific adaptation strategies or actions to remedy climate related vulnerability
- leverage private, federal, or local resources

Examples of potential eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- A local or Regional nonprofit completing a capacity needs assessment of communities in a defined geographic area
- Conducting vulnerability assessments, identifying long-term threats to resilience and the balance of short-term with long-term resilience priorities; implementing projects or efforts to increase capacity to address the identified threats
- Support for short- and long-term wildfire recovery efforts for current and future community resiliency
- Support to implement climate adaptation initiatives at local or Regional scales, or by tribal entities
- The coordination of workforce development organizations, local colleges, tribes, and communities to determine the best ways to meet workforce needs associated with watershed restoration, forest products infrastructure, sustainable recreation and tourism, and working landscapes
- A tribal or community agency identifies relevant technical assistance needs and engages with outside experts to provide training for appropriate community organizations across and identified geographic area
- A tribe with established capacity to undertake fundraising and management of watershed health projects conducts trainings or offers technical support to other Regional tribes with a need to build capacity
- A local agency or organization organizes a series of trainings on CEQA compliance for relevant groups across a defined geographic area
- A local agency or organization retains outside assistance to complete CEQA compliance for landscape-scale projects on federal, state, or private lands that have been identified as potential projects to receive state funding for implementation
- A tribal or local agency establishes workforce development programs to pair trainees from underserved communities with professionals engaged in innovative forest and watershed health activities, providing real pathways to job-training and employment

Please contact [SNC Subregional Representatives](#) to determine project eligibility, initiate project development, or to identify alternative funding opportunities and other assistance.

Ineligible Projects

Examples of ineligible projects include:

- 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
- Operations and maintenance of existing structures, including roads
- Research or event-related projects, although these activities may be included as a small part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for SNC grant funds

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 Subregional Representatives](#).

Eligible Costs

DIRECT PROJECT COSTS

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.

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
- 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 in advance of consideration by the SNC Board.

III. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Proposal Initiation

The Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities program is a directed grant program. Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis and projects are developed in conjunction with SNC. There is no deadline-oriented Request for Proposals or competitive scoring review.

To initiate consideration of a project, a project organizer should contact the appropriate [SNC Subregional Representative](#). The Subregional Representative will assist with determining if the project meets SNC criteria. If it is determined that SNC will consider partnering on the project, the Subregional Representative will share the SNC Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Proposal Form with the organizer and assist in developing the project and completing the Proposal Form.

Right of Access Requirements

For any projects which involve planning for or implementation of on-the-ground site improvement projects, proposals must include a letter from all property owners/managers indicating their awareness of and willingness to implement the project and granting access to the property to conduct pre-project due diligence or other necessary activities.

Environmental Documents

The nature of the Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities program is such that most projects would be exempt from CEQA requirements. However, if a project includes any component that is subject to CEQA, it must comply with CEQA at the time the Board authorizes a grant. The SNC relies heavily on previously completed environmental analyses to make required findings. 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. In cases where a project is not exempt from CEQA and the partners do not have standing to act as Lead Agency, the SNC will consider acting as Lead Agency.

NOTE: When projects have previously completed CEQA 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 lead agency responsible for preparing the original CEQA documents that the documents remain valid.

Long-term Management

Projects receiving support through this program must demonstrate a clear and enduring public benefit. Capacity-building technical assistance projects may demonstrate this benefit through the impact activities have on local organizations, agencies, or communities and anticipated increases in future watershed health implementation

projects. If a project includes development of a long-term program, there must be a plan for future management of the program. If a project includes an on-the-ground site improvement component, project sites must be maintained, operated, and used in a manner consistent with the purposes of the project for a minimum of ten (10) years. Additionally, the grantee and/or property owner shall not use any portion of the project site for mitigation or as security for any debt. The long-term management plan for site improvement or program development projects must include a description of how project deliverables will be managed/maintained over time, by whom, and how funding will be provided for such work.

SNC and Related Monitoring

Projects which include an on-the-ground site improvement aspect shall be subject to monitoring for site conditions. The SNC and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives shall have access to monitor the project site for a minimum of twenty-five (25) years following completion of the project.

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will lead landscape-scale quantification of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestration for all projects funded under Proposition 68, where feasible. Grantees will not be required to make these calculations for each project, but instead submit base information (such as acres, land type, activities) for CNRA use. This requirement will only apply when feasible for a project.

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 [SNC Performance Measures](#).

- 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 [SNC Performance Measures](#).
- 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 six-month progress reports and a final report for the entire project timeline. The final report must include data associated with the project performance measures.

Tribal Consultation

On September 19, 2011, Governor Brown issued [Executive Order B-10-11](#), which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of the administration that every state agency and department subject to executive control implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Native American tribes. The SNC staff will work to implement all aspects of the Tribal Consultation Policy when considering projects. The SNC strongly encourages Native American engagement with projects. The SNC can assist project proponents with identifying Native American tribes whose ancestral homelands may be in the project area, and contact information for those tribes.

Consultation and Cooperation with Local Agencies

In compliance with the SNC's governing statute, local government agencies, such as counties, cities, and local water districts, are notified of eligible grant projects being considered for funding in their area.

For all proposals under consideration, SNC staff will notify the county and/or city and public water agency affected (when appropriate), and request comments within 15 business days following notification. The SNC will make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local governments. The individual SNC Board members representing each geographic Subregion within the SNC boundary will also be notified of project proposals in their respective Subregions.

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

California Conservation Corps and California Association of Local Conservation Corps

Per Proposition 68 requirements, all projects that involve an on-the-ground site improvement component shall consult with representatives of both the California Conservation Corps (CCC) (Email: Prop68@ccc.ca.gov), and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) (Email: inquiry@prop68communitycorps.org) to determine the feasibility of Corps participation. Projects that do not include a site improvement component do not need to notify the Corps. The Corps has developed [Bond Guidelines](#) that fully describe the consultation process. The process takes five business days to complete after an email submission of project details. Please consult with your [SNC Subregional Representative](#) to learn more details regarding use of CCC for implementation of the project.

IV. GRANT PROCESS

Project Development

Following SNC Board and CNRA approval of the Grant Guidelines, SNC will announce the opening of the grant program and begin accepting proposals on a continuous basis. Any additional requirements or restrictions, including those specific to additional funding sources or new state budget requirements, will be included on the SNC Website program description. The SNC will undertake a thorough outreach effort to announce the program to diverse populations.

As a directed grant program, SNC may be involved in the development of potential projects. The initial step to bring a project forward to SNC is to contact the appropriate [SNC Subregional Representative](#) to determine whether a potential project is eligible for consideration and for assistance in project development.

As part of the project development process, organizers are encouraged to engage other stakeholders and Native American tribes. SNC will notify county, water and tribal representatives as described in Section III.

Project Proposals

After determination that a project meets the requirements of the program and SNC agrees to engage in project development, SNC will provide the project organizer with the Collaborative Recreation and Tourism Proposal Form. The SNC will work closely with the project organizer to develop the project and complete the Proposal Form. In addition to addressing the Program Requirements described in Section III, all proposals are required to specify the following:

- A description of how the project will directly result in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit.
- A clear connection to the goals of the SNC Strategic Plan, Proposition 68, and Safeguarding California and consistency with the Forest Carbon Plan.
- An anticipated timeline of activities and responsible parties through completion of the project.
- Detailed budget for project expenses, including resources leveraged from other sources.
- If and how the project may benefit disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities. For a map of community designations, please visit the [Parks for California](#) website.
- Plans for long-term management of project outcomes.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Evaluation Process

The SNC will work closely with project proponents in the development of the project, and the development of the project proposal. As such, project evaluation will not come after submission of a proposal, but instead will occur upon initial discussion and throughout the project development process. The following evaluation aspects will be considered in project development:

- 1) The project will be reviewed by a technical expert for technical merit.
- 2) The project will be reviewed by an environmental compliance expert.
- 3) Proposals will be shared with appropriate county/city planning, water agency (if applicable), and tribal representatives, as well as SNC's Board member county liaisons. If there are any privacy concerns related to information in an application, please discuss them with SNC staff before submission.
- 4) An SNC Evaluation Team will independently review and meet to discuss the proposals based on the evaluation criteria described in the following section.
- 5) The Evaluation Team will prepare a recommendation for SNC's Executive Officer.
- 6) After the evaluation process is complete, including all due diligence and analysis by SNC, funding recommendation(s) will be placed on a future Board meeting agenda at the discretion of SNC's Executive Officer.

NOTE: The SNC will consider the geographic distribution of projects, project locations related to disadvantaged communities, and project types and may prioritize projects based on these considerations.

Evaluation Criteria

Project proposals will not move forward with recommendation to SNC's Executive Officer until the following criteria have been addressed to the satisfaction of SNC and the project proponent:

1. Alignment with funding and program goals and related state priorities

The degree to which a project aligns with:

- The [SNC Strategic Plan](#)
- [Proposition 68](#) or other funding source
- State Planning Priorities previously addressed in these Guidelines, including [Safeguarding California](#) and the [California Forest Carbon Plan](#).
- Other local, Regional, state, or federal plans

2. Community Resilience / Natural Resource Benefits

The degree to which the project provides multiple tangible, enduring, public benefits with a high likelihood that the benefits will be realized. Is the need for the specific project clearly identified and explained? Are the community resilience benefits reasonable? Will the project benefit disadvantaged communities?

3. Project Readiness

The degree to which the project is ready to proceed promptly if funded. Is project planning and coordination complete? Is access secured, environmental compliance, permitting, or other necessary preparations complete as appropriate? Is all funding identified or secured?

4. Project Design

Clarity on the project purpose, goals, deliverables, and schedule. Is the project approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives and deliverables of the project?

5. Project Budget

The degree to which the budget is adequate and reasonable to implement the project. Are proposal costs clearly identified, supported, and meet reasonable levels of fees for service?

6. Long-Term Management

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

7. Likelihood of Success

Does the project organizer have the necessary experience and sufficient capacity to implement the project as described?

8. Community Support and Collaboration

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? Is there clear and demonstrable community outreach and support for the project and any community economic benefits? Is there tribal support for or tribal participation in the project?

9. Landscape Level Context

The degree to which the proposed project is part of a larger plan or coordinated effort. Does the project support a broader, cumulative effort to restore/protect strategic goals?

10. Leveraging

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 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 six-month 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 and the applicable funding source. The required acknowledgement language is included in the grant agreement and logo graphics are available on the SNC Website. Reasonable costs associated with creation and installation of the sign are eligible expenses and should be included in the project budget.

The SNC will provide assistance to 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, sample grant agreements are available at: <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/applying-for-a-grant>.

VI. 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
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
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

VII. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

Acquisition – To obtain fee title ownership of real property. Leaseholds and rentals do not constitute acquisition.

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 a SNC grant pursuant to these Guidelines.

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

Authorized Representative – The officer authorized in the Resolution to sign all required grant documents including, but not limited to, the grant agreement, the application 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.

Bond or Bond Act – Proposition 1, Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (PRC Section 79700 et seq.).

Capital Improvement Projects – Projects that utilize grant funds for site improvement and/or restoration.

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, refer to <http://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.

Community Access – Engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income

communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities.

Condition Assessment – Characterization of the current state or condition of a particular resource.

Conservancy – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy as defined in PRC Section 33302 (b).

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.

Disadvantaged Community – A community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average. To view maps of DAC areas, visit <http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>.

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

Enhancement – Modification of a site to increase/improve the condition of streams, forests, habitat, and other resources.

Environmental Site Assessment – Phase I, Phase II, or other reports which identify potential or existing contamination liabilities on the underlying land or physical improvements of a real estate holding.

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

Fee Title – The primary interest in land ownership that entitles the owner to use the property subject to any lesser interests in the land and consistent with applicable laws and ordinances.

Fiscal Sponsor – An organization that is eligible to receive SNC Proposition 68 grants and is willing to assume fiscal responsibility for a grant project, although another entity would carry out the grant scope of work.

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.

Forest Carbon Plan – May 2018 California Forest Carbon Plan prepared by the Forest Climate Action Team

Forest Health – A healthy forest is a forest that possesses the ability to sustain the unique species composition and processes that exist within it. Forest Health occurs when resilience, recurrence, persistence, and biophysical processes lead to sustainable ecological conditions.

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.

Grant Scope – Description of the items of work to be completed with grant funds as described in the application form and cost estimate.

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 application 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.

Model/Map – Representations to visually show the organization, appearance, or features of an area or subject.

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 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, 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, refer to: <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 create specific benefits.

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

Preservation – Protection, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities.

Project – The work to be accomplished with grant funds.

Proposition 1 – The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Bond Act of 2014. Proposition 1 added Section 79731 to the California Water Code (CWC), authorizing the state to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state.

Proposition 68 – The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 which authorizes the issuance of bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all 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.

Region-wide – The overall breadth of the SNC Region or multiple Subregions within the Region.

Resource Protection – Those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to natural, cultural, historical or archaeological resources, or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or resources, such as restoration, preservation or interpretation.

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

Safeguarding California Plan – 2018 Update of California’s Climate Adaptation Strategy

Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC) – A community with a median household income less than 60% 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.

Study/Report – Research or the detailed examination and analysis of a subject.

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.