



**Sierra Nevada  
Watershed Improvement Program**

**Proposition 1  
GRANT GUIDELINES**  
Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

**FUNDED BY THE**  
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014



*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 Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a California state agency that 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.

The 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 SNC adopted its [Strategic Plan](#) in accordance with the Act; this document provides general direction for SNC's activities and these Grant Guidelines.

Forested watersheds of the Sierra Nevada Region provide more than sixty percent of California's developed water supply and are the primary source of fresh water flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These forests filter water, store snowpack, and slow runoff from winter storms, producing the high-quality and reliable water supply that Californians depend on. However, many forests in the Sierra Nevada are unhealthy and at risk for disease and uncharacteristically large wildfires.

The threat that declining forest health places on the reliability and quality of California's water supply is so great that many statewide plans have called for action to restore forests and safeguard the state's primary water source. The [California Water Action Plan](#), developed by the California Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and California Department of Food and Agriculture, clearly recognizes the importance of the Sierra to the state's water resources and specifically calls for restoration of forest health through ecologically sound forest management.

In addition, the [2013 California Water Plan Update](#) completed by the Department of Water Resources, points to declining watershed health, long-term drought, catastrophic fire, and climate change in the Sierra Nevada as water supply challenges of regional and statewide significance. The 2013 Update notes that large, damaging fires resulting from overgrown forest stands are a threat to water and air quality, as well as the many other benefits provided to the state by forested watersheds. Climate change and drought in the Sierra Nevada will only increase the frequency of catastrophic fires, leading to devastating water supply consequences.

In 2011, Governor Brown signed AB 685, the Human Right to Water (HRTW) ([Water Code Section 106.3](#)). The legislation states that "every human has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." The law requires all relevant state agencies to consider the HRTW "when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria" relevant to achieving the human right to water.

[California's 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan](#) includes a broad array of action items related to the promotion of forest bioenergy, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is identified as one of the key responsible agencies for implementing those action items. Utilizing

biomass, the small-diameter woody material and diseased or insect-infested wood generated from forest restoration projects, to create energy will help the state meet environmental mandates such as reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Value created from biomass can also help fund restoration activities that create jobs in rural regions, reduce fire danger, improve air and water quality, and reduce waste.

The California Natural Resources Agency's [Safeguarding California](#) augments and identifies strategies regarding adaptations and risk management relating to climate change. This plan states, "Efforts to improve forest health not only make forests more capable of withstanding climate impacts (and avoids the negative impacts associated with forest losses), but those efforts will also increase the long-term carbon storage capacity of forests and aid in fighting climate change."

### **Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Program**

California voters passed Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Bond Act of 2014, on November 4, 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. Section 79731 (i) of the CWC allocates \$25 million of these funds for SNC. The SNC anticipates awarding up to \$10 million in this grant round.

The SNC will focus this grant program on forest health projects that result in multiple watershed benefits, consistent with the following purposes identified in Proposition 1:

- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.
- Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate changes on California's communities and ecosystems.

While Proposition 1, the SNC statutory authority, and the SNC Strategic Plan identify a variety of activities that could be supported with these funds, the SNC is focusing the program as noted above for a number of reasons. First of all, the SNC is provided a total of \$25 million in Proposition 1, intended to be expended over six years, making a focused approach necessary. Further, a number of other state agencies have significantly greater resources available to fund the types of projects that the SNC has supported in the past, including fee title and conservation easement acquisitions, meadow and stream restoration, and abandoned mine lands remediation. Finally, the SNC Governing Board has identified the protection and enhancement of the multiple benefits associated with healthy forests as the organization's highest priority.

Forest Health is a primary goal identified in a variety of SNC plans and programs. Projects that create or improve forest conditions inherently tend to result in a combination of multiple watershed and ecosystem benefits such as improved water quality, reduced erosion, and improved water yield; reduced likelihood of high-intensity fire and the

negative consequences of such fires; protecting and enhancing natural resources and habitat; assisting the regional economy through increased restoration efforts; improved air and water quality, contributing to increased carbon sequestration, stable carbon storage, and reduced GHG emissions; and support to collaborations that partner to create and implement projects to improve Forest Health. The SNC will coordinate with CAL FIRE and other state agencies' GHG and timber restoration grant programs to achieve maximum watershed and resource benefits.

The SNC appreciates the importance of projects not eligible under these Guidelines. Entities searching for grants for such projects are urged to contact SNC Area Representatives to identify alternative funding opportunities and other assistance.

### **Grant Guidelines and Grant Application Packet**

The Grant Guidelines describe project eligibility and the process used by the SNC to solicit proposals, evaluate applications, and authorize grants under the SNC Proposition 1 Grant Program. They also explain the scope of, and the requirements for, grant applications. A Glossary of Terms is provided.

A Grant Application Packet (GAP) supplements these Grant Guidelines, and includes detailed information and forms needed for a grant application. For applicants who want more information about the administrative requirements once a grant is authorized, sample grant agreements are provided at <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/applying-for-a-grant>.

## II. GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Applicant Eligibility

Grant funds may be authorized for:

- Public agencies (any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency): Please note that federal agencies are not eligible to receive Proposition 1 grants per the definition of eligible entities.
- 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 Organizations: (includes any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 47868 to 47872, inclusive, of Number 155 of Volume 77 (August 10, 2012) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time).

**NOTE:** SNC's governing statute does not allow grants to mutual water companies or to state Indian tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List (entities otherwise eligible under Proposition 1), unless the state Indian tribes also meet the Eligible Tribal Organizations criteria listed above.

### Project Funding and Eligibility

Grants up to \$500,000 for Category 1 (on-the-ground projects), and up to \$75,000 for Category 2 (necessary activities that will lead to a specific future on-the-ground project), will be made by the SNC for projects meeting the criteria described below. Category 1 projects will be given preference. Funds available for Category 2 grants will be limited to 10 percent of the total amount allocated to the SNC in Proposition 1.

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

- Be located within a conifer or mixed-conifer forested area of the Sierra Nevada Region, or have a direct impact on forest lands and waters within the 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) as they relate to forest health.
- Meet the requirements of Proposition 1 in regard to forest and watershed health.

### Grant Categories

Category 1 grants include site improvement, restoration, and fee title acquisition projects that support forest products manufacturing and/or biomass utilization facilities that

increase capacity to improve forest and watershed health. Examples of potential Category 1 grant projects include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing fuel treatment projects (including mechanical treatment and prescribed fire) to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health, including utilization of biomass and/or a full range of forest products, including saw logs, resulting from sustainable activities associated with improving forest health as referenced in California's 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan
- Projects that protect and restore watershed health by improving forest conditions through treatments to prevent or treat forest pests and invasive species, as well as reforestation and implementation of suitable stand improvement activities after wildfire
- Forest management to increase forest resilience, and/or improve habitat conditions and biodiversity including: reducing canopy cover for snowpack retention, reducing ladder fuels, etc.
- Vegetation treatments to increase carbon sequestration benefits, and foster adaptation resiliency of vegetation in light of predicted climate change
- Fee title acquisitions that support forest products manufacturing and/or biomass utilization facilities that increase capacity to improve forest and watershed health

Category 2 grants are limited to pre-project activities that are necessary for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the requirements in these Guidelines for Category 1 projects.

Examples of Category 2 grant projects include work such as:

- Acquiring permits for a specific future on-the-ground project
- Completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental documentation for a specific future on-the-ground project
- Performing necessary studies and assessments, and developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project
- Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans that will result in a specific project or a set of projects
- Pre-acquisition or due diligence activities that will result in a fee title acquisition that supports forest products manufacturing and/or biomass utilization facilities that increase capacity to improve forest and watershed health

### **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

- 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

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 can consult with their Area Representative.

## **Project Development**

These Guidelines govern the preparation, submittal and review of grant applications for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

- Requests for Proposals will be published on July 1, 2015, contingent upon enactment of the California state budget. See [Table 1](#) for application submittal deadlines and possible award dates.
- Potential applicants should contact the SNC Area Representative assigned to their county to determine whether a potential project is eligible for consideration.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a pre-application to be reviewed by SNC staff and subject matter professionals.
- Applicants shall consult with representatives of the California Conservation Corps (Email: [Prop1@ccc.ca.gov](mailto:Prop1@ccc.ca.gov)), and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (Email: [inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org](mailto:inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org)) to determine the feasibility of Corps participation. The Corps have developed Proposition 1 Water Bond Guidelines that fully describe the consultation process that takes five business days to complete after an email submission of project details. Certain project types have been exempted from the consultation requirement, namely projects that solely involve either planning or acquisition activities. The complete application package submitted to SNC must include the response from the Corps and the details related to work the Corps will be completing if it is feasible for them to do so. Please refer to the SNC Grant Application Packet (GAP) for more information on the Corps consultation process.
- All project proposals are required to clearly describe the connection between improved forest health and resulting benefits to water quality, water supply and/or watershed function.
- All project proposals are required to address how CEQA, and where necessary, NEPA, compliance will be achieved. The SNC requires all proposals to comply with CEQA at the time the Board authorizes any grants. See additional details in the GAP.
- All project proposals are required to identify and state progress and projected dates of completion for all permits necessary to complete the project.
- The SNC has determined that most, if not all, of the grants awarded to support the focus area of Healthy Forests will have an indirect relationship toward the advancement of HRTW. More than sixty percent of California's developed water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada Region, and its forests are the natural infrastructure that capture, filter, and store precipitation. To the extent



possible, applicants proposing projects for funding under this grant program should identify and describe the populations downstream that derive HRTW benefits from the project.

- In compliance with the Professional Foresters Law (PRC Sections 750-753, et seq.), projects that directly impact on the management and treatment of the forest resources and timberlands of this state are required to use Registered Professional Foresters. Projects implemented on federally managed lands will be permitted to use “qualified but exempt” federal staff to satisfy this requirement (Category 1 applications only).

### **Land Tenure for Category 1 Projects**

Applicants must submit documentation to the SNC showing that they have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties to be improved or restored (minimum of ten (10) years), and authority for SNC to monitor the project site for twenty-five (25) years.

Proof of adequate land tenure includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Fee title ownership
- An easement or license agreement
- Other agreement between the applicant and the fee title owner, or the owner of an easement in the property, sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project and long-term management
- For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners, or an authorized designee must provide written permission to satisfy land tenure requirements.

### **Land Tenure Requirements (Alternate Process)**

When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of application, but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed upon grant authorization, the applicant must follow the alternate land tenure process by submitting a template copy of the proposed agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or permission form at the time of application. Once a project has been authorized for funding by the SNC Board, the applicant must submit documentation of land tenure before a complete grant agreement can be executed. Applicants are encouraged to submit this information in an expeditious manner. If this information is not provided within 90 days of Board authorization, the SNC may choose not to fund the project.

### **Special Requirements for Acquisitions**

A grant application for funds to acquire an interest in real property is required to specify all of the following:

- The intended use of the property
- A description of how the acquisition will facilitate improved forest and watershed health
- The manner in which the land will be managed
- How the cost of ongoing management will be funded

- A recent appraisal (If the appraisal is older than one year, the applicant must consult with SNC staff prior to submission.) The SNC may require applicants to provide a Phase I or Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (toxics report) on any property proposed for acquisition. Applicants should consult with SNC staff to determine if this requirement is applicable.
- All applications for fee title acquisitions of property intended to support forest products manufacturing and/or biomass utilization facilities that increase capacity to improve forest and watershed health are required to have completed and approved CEQA documents for the acquisition and any future use or project to be built on the land.

### **Long-term Management and Monitoring**

- The property restored or enhanced with funds provided by the SNC shall be operated, used, and maintained consistent with the purposes of the grant and in accordance with the long-term management plan for the project.
- 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 from the date of the grant agreement execution.
- If the project includes water quality monitoring data collection, it needs to be reported to the [State Water Resources Control Board](#) (SWRCB) in a manner that is compatible and consistent with surface monitoring data systems or ground water monitoring data systems administered by the SWRCB.
- If the project includes watershed monitoring data collection, it needs to be reported to the [Department of Conservation](#) (DOC) in a manner that is compatible and consistent with the statewide watershed program administered by the DOC.

### **Environmental Documents**

The SNC requires all proposals to comply with CEQA at the time the Board authorizes any grants. In addition to CEQA compliance, NEPA compliance is required for all projects proposed on federal land. 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 determine which documents will be required in a full application. Status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the project proposal.

### **Eligible Costs**

#### **DIRECT PROJECT COSTS**

Only project costs for items within the scope of the project, within the time frame of the project agreement, and supported by appropriate documentation, are eligible for payment. Costs related to project-specific performance measures, reporting, and required signage must be addressed in the project budget.

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Administrative expenses may not exceed 15 percent of the SNC-funded direct project costs. If awarded, applicants will be required to submit an indirect cost allocation plan. Detailed information about how to prepare a cost allocation plan is available on the SNC website.

### **Ineligible Costs**

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

- Establishing or increasing a legal defense fund or endowment
- Making a monetary donation to other organizations
- Paying for food or refreshments
- Unsubstantiated administrative costs

If an application contains ineligible costs, the SNC may contact the applicant to confirm that the project is still viable if they are removed from the project budget.

### **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.

- Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures at the time of complete application submittal. Detailed information and recommended performance measures can be found in the GAP. 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. Please refer to the GAP for further description of how performance measures will be considered as part of the application.
- All grantees will be required to provide deliverables in the form of periodic progress reports and a final report. The final report must include data related to the project performance measures. See <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant> for additional information on the required content of these reports.

Applications will not be considered for scoring until complete and submitted to the SNC. The submission deadlines to be eligible for scoring and potential authorization are:

Table 1

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Possible Board Authorization Dates</b>
September 1, 2015	December 2015 or March 2016
March 1, 2016	June 2016 or September 2016
September 1, 2016*	December 2016 or March 2017
March 1, 2017*	June 2017 or September 2017

\* *These application dates are subject to remaining Proposition 1 funds after the first two award periods.*

## **Evaluation Process and Criteria**

After submission of a complete application, the SNC will use the following evaluation process in determining a project score of up to 100 points.

- Evaluation Teams and subject matter experts will score the applications based on the criteria values described in these Grant Guidelines.
- Applications scoring 85 or more points may be eligible for a recommendation for award.
- After all application requirements are completed, funding recommendation(s) will be placed on the Board meeting agenda as an action item at the direction of the Executive Officer.

### Evaluation Criteria for Category 1 Projects:

- The degree to which the project improves Forest Health which results in multiple tangible benefits that further the [purposes](#) of Proposition 1, and the degree to which the project aligns with existing state planning priorities or state plans referred to in the Grant Guidelines, including the California Water Action Plan, and the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the SNC WIP (up to 45 points)
  - Examples of benefits include: improved water quality, increased quantity of available water, increased amounts of water for human use, improved air quality, improved wildlife habitat, reduction of GHG emissions, increased carbon storage, reduced risk of wildfire, improved economic opportunities, protection of working landscapes, and/or improved or protected access for recreation. When feasible, proposals should clearly describe the measurable or quantifiable benefits expected from the project.
- The design and readiness of the project, including the proposed budget, funding sources, environmental documents, permits, and long-term management plan (up to 25 points)
- The likelihood of successful implementation based on the applicant's capacity and experience in implementing similar projects using proven methodologies or employing new or innovative technology or practices (up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project has community and beneficiaries support and the project is consistent with similar efforts and/or larger plans on nearby or surrounding lands, or identified partnerships (up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project leverages resources of other agencies, organizations, and funding sources to maximize public benefits and outcomes (up to 10 points)

### Evaluation Criteria for Category 2 Projects:

Pre-project activities will be evaluated on the following criteria that emphasizes the connection between the specific on-the-ground project and SNC Proposition 1 goals for Forest Health. They are:

- The degree to which the specific future on-the-ground Forest Health project will achieve multiple tangible benefits that further the [purposes](#) of Proposition 1 and aligns with existing state planning priorities or state plans referred to in the Grant Guidelines, including the California Water Action Plan, and supports the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the SNC WIP (up to 45 points)
  - Examples of benefits include: improved water quality, increased quantity of available water, increased amounts of water for human use, improved air quality, improved wildlife habitat, reduction of GHG emissions, increased carbon storage, reduced risk of wildfire, improved economic opportunities, protection of working landscapes, and/or improved or protected access for recreation. When feasible, proposals should clearly describe the measurable or quantifiable benefits expected from the project.
- The design and readiness of the project, including an explicit description of the specific future on-the-ground project to which the Category 2 project leads, including restrictions, technical documents, and agreements necessary to complete the specific future on-the-ground project (up to 25 points)
- The likelihood of successful implementation based on the applicant’s capacity and experience in implementing similar projects using proven methodologies, or employing new or innovative technology or practices (up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project has community support and the project is consistent with similar efforts and/or larger plans on nearby or surrounding lands, or identified partnerships (up to 10 points)
- The degree to which the project leverages resources of other agencies, organizations, and funding sources to maximize public benefits and outcomes (up to 10 points)

**NOTE:** The SNC will consider the geographic distribution of projects and project types and may prioritize projects based on this consideration.

### **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 applications under consideration, SNC staff will notify the county and/or city affected and public water agency (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 at this time and may wish to communicate with the affected entities as well.

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 Indian Tribes. SNC staff will work to implement all aspects of the Tribal Consultation Policy when evaluating project applications.

When possible, project-specific resolutions of support from affected cities, counties, Tribal organizations, and water agencies should be included with the application.

### **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 authorized to receive a grant from the SNC, the provisions listed below will also apply:

- Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State of California.
- Grant-eligible costs may be incurred by the grantee only after the grantee has entered into a fully executed agreement with the SNC; only these costs will be eligible for reimbursement.
- To the extent practicable, grantees will be required to include onsite signage indicating that the project was funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy using Proposition 1 funds. Signage guidelines and logo graphics will be available on the SNC website.

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.

### III. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in the SNC Proposition 1 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 does not relate directly to project implementation. Similar to the traditional definition of ‘overhead,’ administrative costs include rent, utilities, travel, per diem, office equipment and supplies, services such as internet and phone, 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 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 (Public Resources Code 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 Public Resources Code 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://ceres.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.

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

Conservancy – The Sierra Nevada Conservancy as defined in Public Resources Code 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.

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 Public Resources Code 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 1 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 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 within the agreement term by the grantee.



Grant Agreement Performance Period – The period of time starting with the end date of the Grant Agreement Term and lasting for ten (10) years for the purpose of adequate land tenure, and for twenty-five (25) years for the purpose of long term monitoring by the SNC.

Grant Agreement Term – The period of time that includes the time for all work to be billed and paid for by the state be completed. This period is the same as the beginning and ending dates of the agreement. The grant agreement specifies the length of time after the grant agreement term end date the grantee is given to submit final close-out documents and deliverables.

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.

Infrastructure Development/Improvement – The physical improvement of real property, including the construction of facilities or structures such as bridges, trails, culverts, or buildings.

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, Multibenefit pertaining to Forest Health may include, but are 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 SNC 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 Public Resources Code 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 particular 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 in order 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.

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.

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 Organization – An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, or a tribal agency authorized by a tribe, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and is identified on pages 47868 to 47872, inclusive, of Number 155 of Volume 77 (August 10, 2012) of the Federal Register, as that list may be updated or amended from time to time.