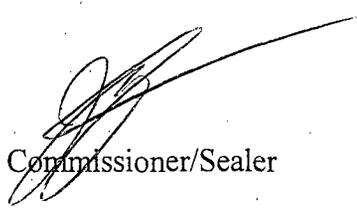


# MEMORANDUM

## PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Joshua P. Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer 

**DATE:** January 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Health Forests Grant Application for Noxious Weed Eradication

---

### ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a resolution approving preparation of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) competitive Healthy Forests grant application and authorize the Agricultural Commissioner to execute the SNC grant application document in accordance with grant requirements. Grant funding will be used to support on-going eradication efforts of California Department of Food and Agriculture A-Rated noxious weeds in Placer County.

### BACKGROUND

California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act in November 2006. Proposition 84 added Section 75050 to the Public Resources Code (PRC), authorizing the State to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds, and associated land, water, and other natural resources. Section 75050(j) of the PRC allocates \$54 million of these funds for SNC. The SNC has approximately \$10 million remaining from its original \$54 million Proposition 84 allocation. In Fiscal Year 2011-12 approximately \$5 million will be available for awards to the Healthy Forests area of focus as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan.

The Department of Agriculture has identified a high priority noxious weed eradication project consistent with SNC's Healthy Forest's objective. The purpose of this project is to improve meadow and forest health in the Sierra Nevada within Placer County by eradicating California Department of Food and Agriculture A-rated weeds such as spotted knapweed, Scotch thistle and Dalmatian toadflax. These are weeds that are currently found in limited distribution in California. They spread aggressively, exclude native plants and animals and disrupt agricultural and ecological functions. In the Sierra Nevada, A-rated weeds compete with forest regeneration and increase fuel loads and wildfire potential. Identifying and eradicating A-rated weed infestations prior to large-scale establishment in meadow and forest environments is both cost-effective and ecologically prudent.

The geographic scope of the project is eastern Placer County extending from Auburn in the Sierra Nevada foothills to the California-Nevada border (excluding the Tahoe Basin). The scope of work includes conducting surveys for weed infestations, mapping infestations with GPS/GIS, and utilizing an integrated pest management approach to eradicate known and newly detected infestations. Project performance measures will be monitored by tracking net acreage or number of invasive plants treated, gross acreage surveyed, eradication tools utilized, percent reduction between visits, photographs and appropriate fire hazard and/or critical habitat improvements.

The SNC requires a resolution of approval by the governing body as part of the grant application package.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

This activity is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Placer County Department of Agriculture is requesting \$60,000 for eradication of noxious weeds in forested lands. If received, funding will be incorporated into the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal budgets.

Attachments:            Resolution

**Before the Board of Supervisors  
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resol. No: \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER TO SUBMIT  
AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM  
THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY (SNC)  
COMPETITIVE HEALTHY FORESTS GRANT  
PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING  
WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY,  
FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COAST  
PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006.**

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer  
at a regular meeting held on January 10, 2012 by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

passage.

Signed and approved by me after its

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:  
Clerk of said Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the SNC require a resolution certifying the approval of an application Agriculture Department's governing board before submission of said application to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Department, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, the County has identified A-Rated noxious weed eradication as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

207

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the Project; and
2. Certifies that the Agriculture Department understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that the Agriculture Department will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resources consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that the Agriculture department will comply will all legal requirements during the application process; and
5. Appoints the Agricultural Commissioner, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.