

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: August 24, 2010

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION – Approve a Resolution supporting the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Resolution supporting the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS:

The Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) is a collaborative effort coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy with state and federal agencies, tribal governments, environmental/conservation organizations and the private sector to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region.

On June 3, 2010, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board unanimously adopted the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) with the express purpose of promoting forest health, creating jobs, increasing woody biomass uses such as energy production and reducing the risk of fire in the Sierra forests.

The SNFCI has gained support from a diverse array of stakeholders including local elected officials, environmental groups, public land management agencies and state and federal agencies. The Initiative will primarily focus on issues relating to public lands in the Region.

Placer County is being asked to join in support of the SNFCI to improve the environmental, economical and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the matter of a Resolution in support of the Resolution No. 2010- XXX
Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative
(SNFCI) coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) is a collaborative effort coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy with state and federal agencies, tribal governments, environmental/conservation organizations and the private sector to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Region is California's principal watershed and the origin of 65 percent of the state's developed water supply; serves as one of the state's premiere recreation and tourism destinations for more than 50 million visitor days each year; provides between one-third and one-half of the state's annual timber harvest; produces nearly three-quarters of the state's hydroelectric power; is home to two-thirds of the state's bird and mammal species, half of the state's plant species, and more than 600,000 people; and

WHEREAS, much of the Sierra Nevada forestlands are in an ecologically unhealthy condition, including public lands managed by federal governments; and

WHEREAS, while fire is an important part of the ecosystem and can have a positive ecological impact, large damaging fires in the Sierra Nevada can result in a wide variety of negative impacts including loss of life and property, adverse human health impacts from poor air quality, reduced recreational and tourism opportunities and other significant economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, through sustainable forest stewardship the ecological health of the Sierra Nevada forestlands can be significantly improved along with the environmental and economical well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region to maintain sufficient habitat conditions, continued recreational use and high water quality; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has established aggressive goals to increase the amount of energy supplied from renewable sources, including biomass energy, through concentrated forest management programs, biomass could be converted to renewable energy and create an opportunity for sustainable locally based jobs which will assist in boosting the economic health of the Sierra Nevada communities and improve the environmental and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, on behalf of the citizens of Placer County, supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in coordinating the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) for the purpose of enhancing the well-being of the environmental, economical and social health of the Sierra Nevada Region.

Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4
Chairman 2010

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Jim Holmes
Supervisor, District 3

Jennifer Montgomery
Supervisor, District 5