



Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: July 27, 2010

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resolution, Ordinance or Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Forbes PHONE: (559) 636-5000

SUBJECT: A resolution in support of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Sustainable Sierra Nevada Initiative.

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:
Approve a resolution in support of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Sustainable Sierra Nevada Initiative.

SUMMARY:
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a state agency created in 2004. The SNC was created with the understanding that the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the Region would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction. The SNC supports the Sierra Nevada Region in many tangible ways: from providing funding for local projects to offering technical assistance and other support for collaborative projects in partnership with local government, non-profit organizations and Tribal entities.

The SNC Region, made up of all or part of 22 counties and over 25 million acres, is one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions in the world. The Sierra constitutes about 25% of California's land area and is the state's principal watershed, supplying 65% of the developed water supply to residents and

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businesses across the state.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is undergoing an effort to identify mutually agreeable principles for collaborative forest management. The Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) is a coordinated effort among federal and state agencies, local governments, tribal entities, environmental/conservation organizations and the private sector, to improve the long-term environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region.

The SNC is fostering collaboration locally and regionally in an effort to support a cohesive, economically viable, and sustainable approach to reducing fire risk, creating jobs, and protecting this priceless resource. The first desired outcome through the initiative is creating ecologically healthy forests and watersheds, thereby protecting and enhancing habitat and water quality and quantity while reducing the risk of large damaging fires. The second outcome is creating sustainable local economic activity in the Region through increasing the sustainable production of renewable biomass energy, and a variety of wood products.

The Board of Supervisors has consistently supported collaboration and proper forest management. Supporting the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative is consistent with these efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net County cost

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Supporting the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative is linked to the Safety and Security initiative of the Tulare County Strategic Business Plan. Supporting the initiative will provide an adequate and safe water supply.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Supervisors could choose to not support the resolution. This is not recommended because the Board of Supervisors has consistently supported collaboration and increased forest management.

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided information for the agenda item and draft resolution.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Jeff Forbes
Board Representative III

Cc: Auditor/Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION)
IN SUPPORT OF THE SIERRA) RESOLUTION NO. _____
CONSERVANCY'S SUSTAINABLE) AGREEMENT NO. _____
SIERRA NEVADA INITIATIVE)

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Region is California's principal watershed and the origin of 65 percent of the state's developed water supply and serves as one of the state's premiere recreation and tourism destinations for more than 50 million visitors each year; and

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

WHEREAS, 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, degraded water and air quality, reduced recreational and tourism opportunities and other significant economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, land management agencies, Fire Safe Councils and other entities are engaged in ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of large damaging fires with many efforts focused on the urban wildland interface, the need for additional investment for these types of activity is evident; and

WHEREAS, traditional economic activity related to wood products has been in decline in recent decades signaling a need to diversify local economies by protecting existing infrastructure while promoting new economic opportunities at the appropriate scale; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has established aggressive goals to increase the amount of energy supplied from renewable sources, including biomass energy; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forest stewardship can result in improved ecological health of forests, including sufficient habitat conditions, increased carbon storage, continued recreational use and high water quality; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forest management can result in a reliable supply of biomass that could be converted to renewable energy in a sustainable manner, as well as a variety of wood products, including dimensional lumber and “value added” products, creating an opportunity for locally based economically sustainable jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative and will work collaboratively to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region.

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk