

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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October 19, 2010

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: The Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative

Dear Mr. Branham:

On August 10, 2010, Julie Griffith-Flatter and Lynn Campbell, representing the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, provided the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and members of the public with a comprehensive presentation on the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative. We truly appreciated their taking the time to provide this information, as well as answers to our numerous questions.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative. We appreciate the willingness of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to sponsor this regional effort to facilitate the sometimes competing interests of entities that ultimately tend to have the same goals.

Our county is supportive of actions and strategies that provide for watershed restoration and protection; sustainable forest management; the protection and sustainability of local agricultural and ranching activities; and the ability to protect as well as utilize our timber resources. We continue to discuss and explore the potential opportunities that exist for the generation of renewable energy and the creation of wood products through the processing of the wood and biomass removed from the forest. We do see the value in that such opportunities could result in the creation of jobs and sustainable forest management practices for our county as well as the Sierra Nevada region.

Mr. Jim Branham
October 19, 2010
Page 2

The Initiative appears to provide the organizational approach necessary to insure the coordination of the numerous federal, state, local and private entities that are each invested in the economic and environmental well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. Our Board looks forward to working with the Conservancy staff, member counties and the proposed Regional Coordinating Council to move towards mutually agreeable solutions that will result in reducing the risk of fire, creating jobs and protecting our natural resources.

The forest, water and timber are as essential to our county's future as they have been to our history. On behalf of the El Dorado County Supervisors I extend our appreciation to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for your efforts on behalf of the communities within the Sierra Nevada region.

Respectfully,

Norma Santiago
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado