

**Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Board of Director's Agenda
September 26, 2018 at 5:30 PM
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa CA**

4:00	Social Time: Please Join Us for Appetizers and Beverages at The Alley, Highway 140, Mariposa CA	
5:30	Call to Order	Lynn
5:30	Consent Agenda: Minutes from May 23, 2018 Meeting Approve 2018-2019 FY Board Meeting Dates	Lynn
5:35	Governance: Re-Install Jon Edwards as Board Member and Treasurer	Rich
5:40	Announcements/Information	Bridget
5:45	Discussion/Requests for Approval: Approve Annual Fund Withdrawal from Long-Term Funds Of 3% of three-year averages for McKenzie Trust (Fund), CE Stewardship Fund, plus Operations. Total Withdrawal of \$54,000. Resolution to amend Transaction Authority for the Vanguard held Investment Funds and SIMPLE IRA account to update signature authority. Resolution to the board to accept the Cultural Resources Conservation Easement already existing and currently held by Madera County (Tesoro Viejo) Resolution to approve SNC Grant Application Bean Pond Restoration Resolution to approve SNC Grant Application Von Der Ahe	Bridget Lauren
6:00	Executive Director's and Staff Reports	Bridget
6:05	Public Policy Updates and Information	Bridget
6:15	Land Conservation Program Presentation Auberry Conservation Easement Resolution to Accept the Auberry Conservation Easement	Lauren
6:50	Development Report	Nancy
7:00	Logistics for next meeting (October 20, 2018) Adjourn	Lynn

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

2018 Board Meetings	Other Dates to Remember
- October 19, 2018 (Board and Advisory Social) - October 20, 2018 (Board Retreat) - December 5, 2018	- October 27, 2018 Member and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on the McKenzie - December 8, 2018 Holiday Party (Martin House)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/254095685> , Please Call 1 877 309 2073 Access Code: 254-095-685



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Baker Manock & Jensen
May 23, 2018

SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

1. Consent Agenda:
Minutes from April 25, 2018 Meeting
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
2. Motion to accept Sue Overstreet for a Three-Year Board Term beginning May 2018
Moved by Rich, Seconded by Margot
Passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
3. Motion to accept the nomination of Jeff Single as Interim Vice President beginning May 2018 through December 2018
Moved by Rich, Seconded by Sue
Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
4. Motion to pass a Board Resolution to submit the SALCPP Grant on behalf of the Wright Ranch property
Moved by Caryn, Seconded by Rich
Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
5. Motion to pass a Board Resolution to submit the EEMP Grant on behalf of a Conservation Easement Property, to be determined prior to submission.
Moved by Caryn, Seconded by Jeff
Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
6. Motion to approve the Resolution to Accept the Drayer Chapman Ranch as a Conservation Easement.
Moved by Donn, Seconded by Caryn
Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
7. Motion to Approve the Budget for FY 2018-2019 as presented
Moved by Donn, Seconded by Charles
Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

FULL MINUTES

Board Members Present: Margot Cegielski (Secretary), Caryn Coss, Rich Gilman (Interim Treasurer), Lynn Gorman (President), Charles Morales, Sue Overstreet, Jeff Single

Board Members Present via Conference Call: Donn Furman

Board Members Absent: Art Baggett, Eric Cole

Staff Present: Bridget Fithian, Nancy Fluharty, Lauren Hubert, Mary Kate McKenna

Call to Order

Lynn called meeting to order at 5:33 PM

Consent Agenda – Lynn – 5:33 PM

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda

Moved by Caryn, Seconded by Rich

Passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Governance – Bridget – 5:38 PM

Motion to accept Sue Overstreet for a Three-Year Board Term beginning May 2018

Moved by Rich, Seconded by Margot

Passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Discussion regarding an Interim Vice President – Lynn – 5:40 PM

Jean Linder has termed out and we are actively seeking an Interim Vice President to serve from June 2018 until next Executive Committee election in December 2018.

Motion to accept the nomination of Jeff Single as Interim Vice President beginning May 2018 through December 2018

Moved by Rich, Seconded by Sue

Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Announcements and Information –Bridget – 5:42 PM

SFC was awarded a grant to fund 2 full time interns for the summer months of 2018 through the CCLT Training and Apprenticeship Program (TAP). A CA State Parks Grant was awarded for trail and signage work on the Stockton Creek Preserve, along with kiosks, benches and other infrastructure improvements. Prop 68 advocacy is active with articles and social media posts in support of this essential initiative that will enhance funding opportunities for the Sierra foothill region.

Discussion/Requests for Approval – Lauren – 5:45 PM

Motion to pass a Board Resolution to submit the SALCPP Grant on behalf of the Wright Ranch property

Moved by Caryn, Seconded by Rich

Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Motion to pass a Board Resolution to submit the EEMP Grant on behalf of a Conservation Easement Property, to be determined by Staff prior to submission.

Moved by Caryn, Seconded by Jeff

Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Executive Director's and Staff Report – Bridget – 5:55 PM

See reports attached to the board packet of materials.

Charles Morales Arrived 5:55 pm

Land Conservation Project Presentation – Lauren – 6:10 PM

Lauren presented information about the proposed Chapman Ranch owned by the Drayer's. Motion to approve the Resolution to Accept the Drayer Chapman Ranch as a Conservation Easement.

Moved by Donn, Seconded by Caryn

Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Treasurer's Report – Mary Kate – 6:35 PM

Mary Kate reported on 3rd FY Quarter ending March 30, 2018. See attached Treasurer's Report.

Draft Budget for FY 2018-2019 – Bridget – 6:40 PM

Bridget presented the proposed Budget for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. See attached budget pages.

Motion to Approve the Budget for FY 2018-2019 as presented

Moved by Donn, Seconded by Charles

Passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Development – MK – 7:15 PM

Annual Dinner Update:

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

2018 Board Meetings • June 27, 2018 • September 26, 2018 • October 19, 2018 (Board & Advisory Social) • October 20, 2018 (Board Retreat) • December 5, 2018 Major Donor Save the Date • Mariposa Major Donor Event, Saturday June 30, Kellenberg's • Wishon Dedication, Saturday in August • Bohna Ranch Dedication, Friday Sept. 28	• Rancher's Pairing Dinner: Trelia (Clovis) Sunday, July 8 from 5-8 PM. Limited Seating 4-course Wine Paired SLB beef dinner (Tickets Available on SFC website) • Annual Member BBQ, Saturday October 27 on the McKenzie Preserve.
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7:25 PM Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

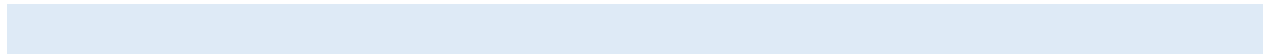
Mary Kate McKenna, May 24, 2018

2018-2019 BOARD MEETING DATES

Social Time 5 PM to 5:30 PM

Call to Order 5:30 PM

September 26, 2018	Mariposa, Board of Supervisors Room
October 20, 2018	Board Retreat (10 AM to 4 PM), Martin House
December 5, 2018	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno
January 23, 2019	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno
February 27, 2019	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno
April 24, 2019	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno
May 22, 2019	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno
June 26, 2019	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno
September 26, 2019	Mariposa, Board of Supervisors Room
October 20, 2019	Board Retreat (10 AM to 4 PM), Location TBA
December 5, 2019	Baker Manock and Jensen 4 th Floor Conference Room, Fresno



SIERRA·FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO
ACCESS THE VANGUARD SUITE OF ACCOUNTS**

September 26, 2018

With regards to the Vanguard held investment accounts of Sierra Foothill Conservancy, specifically the Simple IRA, the Vanguard Federal Money Market Account, and the Vanguard Long-Term Investment Account, the following individuals are authorized by the Sierra Foothill Conservancy Board of Directors to have signature authority, to view and access information and reports and to authorize transfers based on our Investment Policy (Revised December 2015).

The following officers of the corporation have Signature Authority, and authorization for deposits and withdrawals:

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director

Lynn Gorman, President

Jon Edwards, Treasurer

The following directors of the corporation are authorized to view, access and facilitate all transfers, either deposits or withdrawals:

Mary Kate McKenna, Operations Director

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the following email vote on September 26, 2018.

YES _____

NO _____

ABSTAIN _____

ABSENT _____

Attested to by _____

Margot Cegielski, Secretary of the Board

SIERRA·FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY
APPROVING
DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE TESORO VIEJO PROJECT CONSERVATION
EASEMENT IN MADERA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Upper Jamison Ranch Conservation Easement will permanently conserve 8.64 acres of, sensitive biological, hydrological, environmental and cultural resource values; and

WHEREAS, SFC will be compensated for costs associated with the development, implementation and long term management of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors

1. Approves the Tesoro Viejo Project Conservation Easement as presented;
2. Appoints the Executive Director, Conservation Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, option agreement, conservation easement and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 26th day of September 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy by the following vote:

Ayes:
Nos:
Absent:

Margot Cegielski, Secretary of the Board

SIERRA·FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE BEAN MEADOW FOREST TREATMENT AND WATER STORAGE/WATERSHED RESTORATION PLANNING PROJECT IN MARIPOSA COUNTY

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 Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

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

WHEREAS, the SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY has identified the Bean Meadow Forest Treatment and Water Storage/Watershed Restoration Planning Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY, that this Board:

- Approves the submittal of an application for the Bean Meadow Forest Treatment and Water Storage/Watershed Restoration Planning Project; and
- Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
- Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and

- Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
- Appoints Executive Director, 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(s).

Approved and adopted the 26th day of September 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nos:

Absent:

Margot Cegielski, Secretary of the Board

SIERRA-FOOTHILL



BOARD OF DIRECTOR RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE VON DER
AHE FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROP 1 or PROP 68 GRANT PROGRAMS

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy at a regular meeting held on September 26, 2018 by the following vote:

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Abstentions: _____

Absent: _____

Signed and approved by:

Lynn Gorman, Chair, Board of Directors

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 Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

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

WHEREAS, the Sierra Foothill Conservancy has identified the Von Der Ahe Forest Enhancement Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Sierra Foothill Conservancy that this Board: Approves the submittal of an application for the Von Der Ahe Forest Enhancement Project; and Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and

Appoints Gary Miltimore 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 project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by Sierra Foothill Conservancy on the 26th day of September, 2018

Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Executive Director Report
September 26, 2018

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Highlights

The last several months have been filled with significant achievements to advance our land conservation and community engagement goals as we expand our team with two new members and bring new resources to the organization.

Our Development Program continues to grow with 191 New Members this year to date – this brings our total membership to 1,838! We also continue to see growing major donations.

We were awarded grant awards from the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program of \$1 million for the McKinney Ranch in partnership with Vollmar Consulting and \$740,000 for the Day Ranch Conservation Easement! Stewardship was awarded a \$44,500 grant through the California Deer Association for habitat enhancement on the Haslett Basin Preserve. Also, we received a collaborative grant from the American Trails Partnership for \$211,000 including staff time to plan, design and manage implementation of over 5 miles of trails at the Stockton Creek Preserve!

We closed the Willow Creek Conservation Easement, a Stewardship Council Project, on September 7, 2018 adding an additional 241 acres to our acquisition portfolio, bringing us to 30,514 acres.

New land projects continue to develop including several which we will present at the board meeting. Applications are in development for several stewardship projects on SFC conserved lands.

Our summer interns with CCLT have left after an exciting season helping the Stewardship Staff on many projects, and we are once again partnering with Fresno State to have a Fall Semester Intern, U Moa who is working with Stewardship on specific projects on the McKenzie.

We have several upcoming events including the Annual Board Reception & Retreat, The Annual Member BBQ, and the easement dedication celebration at The Bohna Ranch on Eastman Lake. There is more information below.

Our board retreat agenda will include presentation of SFC's achievements and vision for the next year as well as an in-depth section on the Land Conservation Program.

Media, Outreach & Donor Engagement

We have a new grant from the Land Trust Alliance related to my Excellence Leadership program which we will be focusing to develop a robust annual report. We will use the report to help illuminate the breadth and depth of our work; the annual report will be a fantastic tool to use to share about all the exciting work we are taking on at SFC.

Our Trelia Ranchers Pairing was held July 8th with 26 donors attending. This dinner was very well received and showcased our Sierra Lands Beef.

The first Executive Director's Circle Dinner was held in August with 20 major donors present who all shared high praises for the event.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy asked me to serve as their voice and face for the South-Central Sierra Nevada Region for their video component of their Annual Report. We filmed on the Stockton Creek Preserve and look forward to seeing the outcome.

Staffing

Rosanna Ruiz completed nearly a decade of service on staff this June and moved on to complete a PhD while teaching at Fresno State. Her May 2018 farewell dinner at the Martin Preserve had over 70 guests celebrating her next chapter!

A broad recruitment garnered a dozen candidates from across the country. During this process we identified two strong individuals with deep and long ties to the Organization. With incredible excitement we announce the following new hires:

Allyson Brooks, Education & Stewardship Coordinator. Allyson has her teaching credential and her background is in Biology and Education and has worked closely with Rosanna, Rodney Olsen and Chris Velez on various projects for SFC. She performed bat studies on the McKenzie! Allyson will work primarily out of the Prather office heading the Education Program of hikes & classes, youth field trips on the McKenzie, Open Preserve Days and our other education programs, while assisting the Stewardship Program with activities on our preserves and conservation easements.

Lindsey Roberts, Outreach Manager. Lindsey has worked with REI in Fresno as their Outreach, Membership and Marketing Coordinator and throughout the last 3 years has worked with SFC to create a partnership of activities and funding. Lindsey will be focusing her efforts on service region wide outreach, membership, marketing and development.

Welcome Aboard!

Policy

The Parks Bond (Prop 68) was approved and signed by the Governor in July 2018. Staff is working to review upcoming opportunities and strategically plan projects for funding.

Prop 3, The Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018 will be on the November ballot and includes significant allocations to the Sierra region. If Prop 3 also passes, an unprecedented \$492 million will be available to the Sierra. See more on policy in the Sierra Consortium report below.

I co-facilitated our annual Board Retreat for the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council this month at which we assembled our strategic focuses including policy, building resource and capacity for all Sierra/Cascade Land Trust and developing Strategic Conservation Investment Plan in coordination with funding agencies to prioritize state funding investments throughout the range.

Budget & Finance

The audit process for the 17-18 Fiscal Year has started with the initial audit call mapping out upcoming field days (October 2018) and audit process.

Consent Agenda

Minutes from the May 23, 2018 Board Meeting

Board Meetings

- October 19, 2018 (Board and Advisory Council Social)
- October 20, 2018 (Board Retreat)
- December 5, 2018 (2017-2018 Audit Presentation, Year End Campaign)

Save the Date

- Member and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on the McKenzie, October 27, 2018
- Bohna Dedication is November 2, 2018
- Holiday Party, Martin Preserve, December 8, 2018

Sierra Consortium Update:

In 2018, the Sierra Consortium's main priority has been and continues to be supporting two major statewide natural resource and water bonds: Proposition 68 (passed in June 2018) and Proposition 3 (on the ballot in November 2018). If both measures are successful, an unprecedented \$492 million will be available for watershed restoration, wildfire protection, recreation, acquisition, and forest health projects in the Sierra Nevada region. This funding is earmarked for projects in the Sierra through the Wildlife Conservation Board and Sierra Nevada and Tahoe Conservancies.

The Consortium has supported these measures by contributing funding to the campaigns, generating positive media in support of the measures (both traditional and social), seeking endorsements from regional local governments and nonprofits, and organizing phone banking and other "get out the vote" events.

In addition to the Consortium's work on the ballot measures, the group supported eight bills introduced in the California State Legislature this year including three "high-priority" bills. These bills were focused on a variety of issues in the Sierra Nevada region such as increasing cap and trade revenue investments for natural and working lands (SB 1015), establishing the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program in statute (AB 2849), and promoting sustainable outdoor recreation (AB 1918). Unfortunately, SB 1015 and AB 1918 did not pass but AB 2849 was signed by the Governor on September 18th. The Consortium also closely monitored the Legislature's efforts to address the state's wildfire crisis and resulting legislation (SB 901) to aimed at improving forest management.

Finally, the Consortium submitted comments on funding programs in an effort to help nonprofits, local governments, tribes, and state and federal partners in the Sierra Nevada region compete for funding. These programs included: The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (at the Strategic Growth Council) and the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (at the Wildlife Conservation Board).

DEVELOPMENT & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Nancy Fluharty, Development Program Manager

Contributions & Membership

- **Membership** rates continue to climb with **191 New Members** this calendar year to date – this brings our **total membership to 1838!** We are currently in the middle of the September Membership Renewal cycle, with **\$9,215** raised so far – **this represents an 85 % renewal rate for this quarter so far.**

FY 2018-19 Q1 Membership Dues At \$11,251 dues are higher than Q1 FY 17-18 due to excellent membership renewal rates and steady addition of new members.

- **FY 2018-19 Q1 Contributions** At \$15,684 we continue to see increased gift sizes from long term donors as a consistent trend carrying over from FY 17-18.

Donor Outreach

We are in a busy season for donor cultivation and outreach, and are pleased to see increased donor participation at the following events:

Executive Director's Circle Dinner on August 16th, we hosted our first biannual ED Circle Dinner for an exclusive group of donors who contribute gifts of \$5,000 or more to SFC annually. The evening was an enormous success as sixteen ED Circle Members gathered at Max's Bistro in Fresno to engage in a roundtable discussion and share valued input on current issues in land conservation and SFC's work. Thank you for your support!

Wishon Easement Dedication Ceremony In celebration of the Wishon Reservoir Conservation Easement, SFC hosted an exclusive on-site dedication ceremony on August 10th followed by a meal, drinks, and a tour of the breathtaking 7,200 ft elevation site. Wishon Reservoir is the second property that SFC has preserved in partnership with PG&E and The Stewardship Council. Six additional proposed projects (over 2,100 acres) are planned through this partnership in Fresno and Madera Counties.



Wishon Dedication Ceremony August 2018

Bohna Ranch Dedication Ceremony Mark your calendars for a fun day at the Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement on Friday, November 2nd where we will celebrate the conservation of this historic ranch and share a meal and drinks together on site.

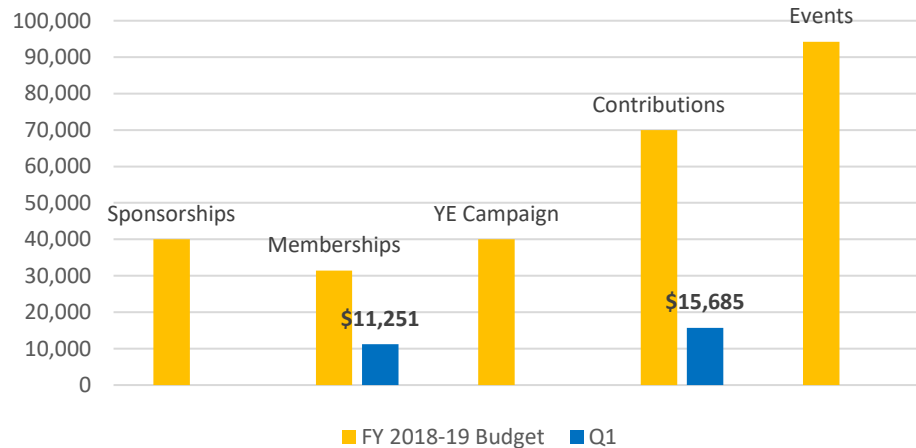
Annual Membership and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

This year's annual member and volunteer appreciation BBQ will be hosted as an open preserve style day on the McKenzie Preserve. As part of the community partners grant that we received from REI this year, REI Fresno will be co-hosting several exciting activities throughout the day to form an impressive itinerary including: Maps and Compass Class, Trail Mix Bar, Yoga Under the Oaks, Table Top Hike, Birds of Prey Demonstration, and Nature Journaling. We hope to see you all at this fun event to help us kick off our 2018-19 Hikes and Classes season and celebrate our dynamic SFC community!

SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY

DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD: FY 2018 -2019, Q1

SFC Development Budget FY 2018-19



SFC Development Program Budget FY 2018-19

Corporate Sponsorships: \$40,000/Q1 = \$1000 (2%)

Contributions: \$70,000/Q1 = \$15,685 (22%)

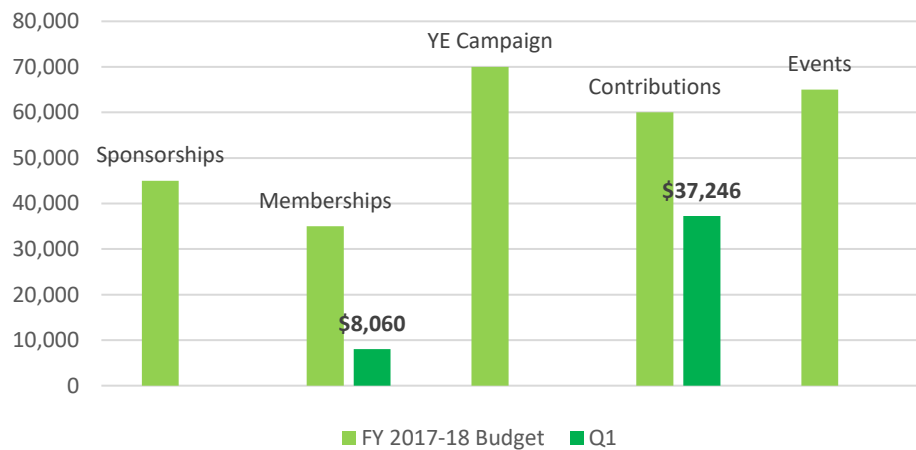
YE Campaign: \$40,000/Q1 = \$0

Annual Membership: \$31,400/Q1 = \$11,251 (36%)

Events: \$94,220/Q1 = 0%

FY 2018-19 Budget = \$275,620/ Q1 = \$27,936 (10%)

SFC Development Budget FY 2017-18



SFC Development Program Budget FY 2017-18

Corporate Sponsorships: \$45,000

Contributions: \$65,000 / Q1 = \$37,246 (57%)

YE Campaign: \$70,000

Annual Membership Budget: \$35,000 / Q1 = \$8,060 (23%)

Events: \$60,000

FY 2016-17 Budget = \$270,000

FY 2017-18 Budget = \$286,865 / Q1 = \$45,306 (15%)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land Conservation

By Lauren Hubert and Melissa Odell

Land Conservation Staff is predicting the closing of a record number of conservation easements by the end of 2018!

Willow Creek Conservation Easement CLOSED! This 241-acre conservation easement closed escrow on September 7, 2018, and officially brings SFC to 30,514 acres conserved. It provides conservation values such as riparian habitat, oak woodland, and cultural resources. This property is owned and managed by PG&E and was completed as part of the Stewardship Council partnership.

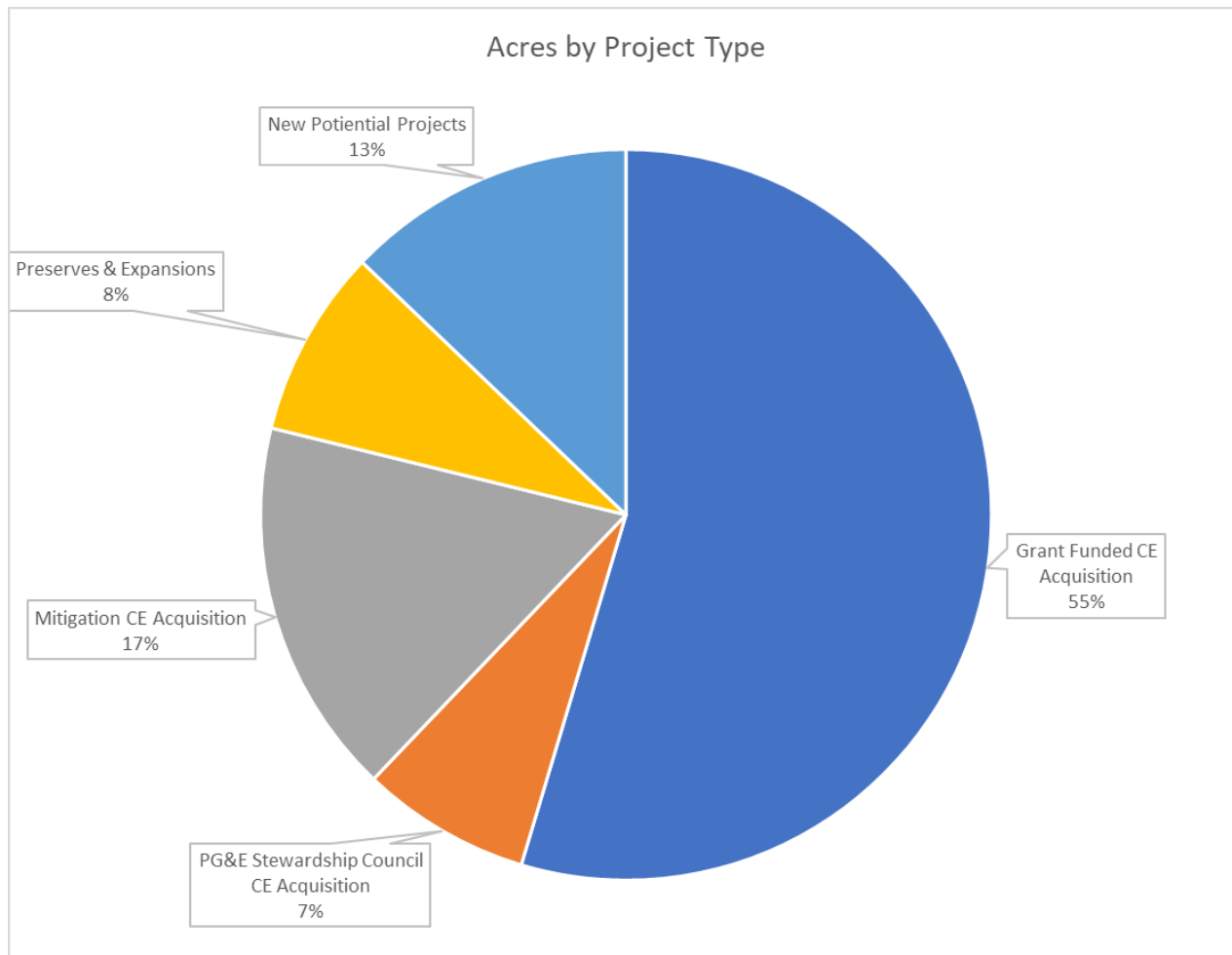
Day Ranch, over 350 acres of vernal pool grasslands in Merced County near the town of Le Grande was approved for 100% funding for Conservation Easement acquisition through the Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program! Staff are currently preparing to execute the grant agreement.



The Day Ranch provides important vernal pool habitat to many species such as California tiger salamander, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and San Joaquin kit fox. It also provides scenic views of the Sierra, a well-managed livestock operation and is in a highly threatened area of Merced County

LAND CONSERVATION DASHBOARD

Land Conservation Staff are currently working on 27 projects totaling 24,774 acres of additional conserved land. The following graph depicts how these projects break out by project type.



Graph courtesy of Melissa Odell, September 2018

SUMMARY

Staff is heavily focused on reviewing the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Strategic Plan Draft, Prop. 68 funding allocations and reviewing/comment on draft grant guidelines. Several land projects are nearing closing including; Chapman Ranch CE and Fenston Ranch CE. In the Stewardship Council arena, the development of Bass Lake CE is moving forward, Willow Creek CE has closed, and we are expecting the closing of Kerckhoff CE in October, and Auberry CE in late 2018.

INFORMATION

New Grants & Donations: It was a great summer for land conservation staff, as we received grant funding for two conservation easements, both from Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program, \$1,000,000 or 100% for the Dy Ranch Conservation Easement (Merced County) and \$1,000,000 or 16% toward the McKinney Ranch Conservation Easement (Madera County), as well the verbal notification for 50% CE funding for Wright Ranch (1,729 acres, Madera County) from the USDA-NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Staff has applied for matching grant funds through the CA Department of Conservation and is hosting a site visit for the potential funder in September. We hope to hear news of grant award by December.

Fee for Service: Staff is investigating new fee-for service opportunities throughout the region, while many of our contracted mitigation projects are rapidly progressing. Currently, staff is under contract to conduct FFS biological monitoring at the UC Merced 2020 expansion project, with several other opportunities on the horizon.

Policy & Planning: SFC is focusing its efforts on working with the land trust community and Sierra to address the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's vision for their strategic plan, set to issue in late 2018. SFC is actively participating in the SCLTC (Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council), Sierra Task Force (a collective of land trusts focusing on legislative language in upcoming state bills, bonds and propositions) and the Sierra Consortium. Recent discussion and actions have covered the focused on the following bills:

CURRENT PROJECTS

Bean Creek Restoration (Mariposa County, Meadow Restoration) Funded by Natural Resources Agency and CDFW. The repair portion of the project is now complete and post-construction monitoring continues (see Stewardship Program Report). NFWF grant funding is supporting species-specific surveys (owls, turtles, willow flycatcher), water quality, and rancher outreach until May 2020.

Day Ranch CE (356 acres, Merced County, vernal pool grassland, riparian). Grant application for full easement funds was submitted in February to the CVPIA/CVPCP (BOR/USFWS) program has been awarded. Staff are working on negotiating terms of the grant agreement.

Dryer Ranch CE (284 acres; Mariposa County, riparian, grassland, CTS and vernal pool) Project is 100% funded through the NRCS ACEP ALE Program and the Dept. of Conservations SALCP Program. Baseline Documentation Report, Title Policy Proforma and Escrow Instructions are under review by DOC and NRCS. Goal to close before December 2018.

Fenston Ranch CE (765 acres; Madera County, CTS and vernal pools), the Long-Term Management Plan, Endowment, and Conservation Easement have received Agency feedback which SFC and the biological consultant are working to address while simultaneously moving forward on the Escrow Instruction Agreement, Final Mitigation Agreement and Baseline Documentation Report.

Hornitos Ranch CE (7,182 acres; Mariposa County, in rolling oak woodland, to oak savannah, and grassland transition; adjacent to Merced River and Lakes McSwain and McClure; CTS and vernal pools) Project was awarded over \$5 million through 4 grants (Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (CA Dept of Conservation), CDFW Prop 1, California Oak Foundation, and the Wildlife Conservation Board), covering the cost of acquisition. Staff are moving forward with negotiating grant agreements with these agencies.

Madera Quarry CE: (200 acres; Madera County, riparian restoration, CTS and vernal pool conservation easement). Staff has worked collaboratively with the Project Proponent to submit the Habitat Mitigation lands package to the regulatory agencies, including USFWS and CDFW. While we await Agency feedback, staff will be moving forward with the Escrow Instruction Agreement, Final Mitigation Agreement and Baseline Documentation Report.

McKinney Ranch CE (3,602 acres; Madera County, CTS, vernal pool, adjacent to Bonadelle Ranchos and Madera Ranchos) Staff is working collaboratively Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting and Kevin Knowles consulting to acquire competitive grant funding. SFC has been awarded \$1,000,000 already through the CVPIA grant program and is awaiting notification on \$3,000,000 in funding from the SALC program from DOC. Future for funding include WCB, USFWS and CDFW.

Stockton Creek Preserve Expansion Project Fee Title Acquisition Transfer (200 acres; Mariposa County, transition zone, riparian corridor, public access) 100% funded by the Natural Resources Agency. Appraisal site visit complete, next steps will be survey and Lot Line Adjustment, then close and transfer.

Tesoro Viejo CE On- Site Mitigation Conservation Easement: (186 acres, Madera County) A conservation easement of riparian corridors winding through the Tesoro Viejo Development. To mitigate for Waters of the U.S., lead agency, Army Corps. This project is quickly progressing, with weekly meetings and monthly site visits to review and develop dozens of documents.

Todisco Ranch CE: (480 acres; Madera County, vernal pools, grassland, CTS and blue oak woodland) Funded by the CVPIA Program through BOR as the lead. Initial stewardship site visit complete, long term management plan and conservation easement drafting underway.

Wright Ranch CE (1729 acres; Madera County, transition zone, Fresno River corridor). Staff has received verbal approval from the USDA NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for 50% of the funds needed for acquisition. Match funding grants were applied for in the spring/summer 2018.

DEVELOPING PROJECTS

Cal Trans Potential Cal Trans mitigation projects for Mariposa (Limestone salamander preservation and expansion of SFC's existing preserve) and Madera (CTS preservation and restoration) and Fresno (riparian restoration) are in development. We are contributing to the ITP (Incidental Take Permit) information with the mitigation measures.

Bissett and Hansen Ranches (3,000 acres, Mariposa County, Oak savannah, riparian, part of our Madera Mariposa Focus Area, vernal pools and possible CTS). Working with the Bissett family to obtain an Option Agreement, sent donated easement materials to Adele (Hansen). Staff has applied for grant funding this summer to match a bargain sale planned for Phase 1 of the project and expect to hear of grant award decisions by winter.

Fenston Remainder (1,216 acres, vernal pools, CTS) SFC is working with Vulcan Lands to develop various approaches to conserve the remainder of the Fenston Ranch utilizing mitigation as funding mechanism and at the same time serving to meet permittees local needs, from local developers to state agencies.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL PG&E LANDS (CONSERVATION EASEMENTS)

Staff is negotiating Conservation Easement language, various transaction documents, and long-term monitoring funds for the following projects, which are at various stages of completion:

Auberry Service Center (29 acres; Fresno County) Preliminary and Baseline visits have been conducted. Staff has negotiated terms of the conservation easement. Other transaction documents, funding agreement, and reports are in draft final form. Final long-term monitoring fund has been negotiated. Project was approved by Stewardship Council Planning Committee for approval in December and is being prepared for submission for CPUC approval. Expected to begin closing process close to the end of 2018.

Bass Lake (1085 acres; Madera County) Due diligence documents and conservation easement are under review. Initial site visit has been completed and BDR site visit was completed this summer. CE draft negotiation and funding agreement is in progress as well as drafting of the BDR. Expected to close at the end of 2019.

Kerckhoff Reservoir (325 acres; Madera/Fresno County) This will be the next Stewardship Council project to close, expected October 2018. All transaction documents have been negotiated and project has final approval by Stewardship Council Board (January 2017). Public Review period is complete. CPUC regulatory approval has been received, so this easement is expected to close at the end of 2018. Final long-term monitoring fund has been negotiated.

Manzanita Lake Donated (146 acres; Madera County) Funds for transaction costs and SFC staff time have been negotiated, as well as final long-term monitoring fund has been negotiated. This is a property that will be donated from PG&E to Madera County, and SFC will hold an easement. SFC has received Madera County's park infrastructure proposal and is negotiating permitted uses and a management plan. Conservation Easement language and other transaction documents are negotiated and in draft final. Long-term Management Plan is in the drafting phase. Expected to close 2019.

Manzanita Lake Retained (275 acres; Madera County) Funds for transaction costs and SFC staff time have been negotiated. Initial Site visit and Due diligence process and BDR are complete. Land Committee approved project development and all documents are in their draft final versions. Expected to close at the end of 2019.

Willow Creek (241 acres; Madera County) Closed September 7, 2018!

OPEN GRANTS

NFWF Bean Creek Phase II Grant \$164,000

CDFW Bean Creek Meadow Restoration Grant \$493,000

EEMP CA Dpt. of Resources Bean Creek Restoration Grant \$463,000

NRCS EQIP Bean Creek: \$44,900

NRCS ACEP Drayer CE: \$179,375

SACLP ACE Drayer CE: \$179,350

Todisco CE BOR: \$576,000

Hornitos SALCP: \$2,205,000

Hornitos CDFW: \$3,000,000

Hornitos WCB: \$100,000

Hornitos California Wildlife Fund/ California Oak Foundation: \$100,000

NRCS ACEP Wright \$756,437

CVPIA Day \$740,480

CVPIA McKinney \$1,000,000

Natural Resources Agency River Parkways Program – Stockton Creek Expansion \$410,000

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT DEPOSITS

Fenston Ranch CE: \$30,000

Madera Quarry CE and Restoration: \$30,000

Stewardship Council Projects: \$50,000

Tesoro Viejo CE: \$30,000

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

August – September 2018

Gary Miltimore

Bean Creek Preserve – SFC staff are working to prepare for our next phase of the Bean meadow restoration. As you may recall we had some erosion issues from last year's colossal rain storms that require repairs. We have been securing contractors, renting equipment, ordering materials as well as finalizing the permits. The project implementation is currently scheduled for October 15 – 19. The project is funded through grants and donations.

McKenzie Preserve – After almost a year of working with volunteers, interns and the CCC, we have eradicated a large area of invasive fig trees along the riparian area of the McKenzie. Some of these fig trees were the size of a small apartment and overshadowed the area, sucking up considerable amounts of water. A big kudos to the stewardship staff for the relentless efforts to take down these giant invaders. The project was funded through NRCS EQIP .



Interns helping remove fig cuttings

Merced Falls Restoration – Stewardship staff are preparing for a riparian native planting on our Merced River conservation easement. The project is funded by the Stewardship Council to enhance the recreation area for both esthetics and riparian ecosystem function. We are planning to remove invasive plants and install a diverse palette of native species. SFC will partner with various youth groups from the CCC and Youth Outside. The project is scheduled for early November.

Von Der Ahe Forest Enhancement Project – SFC is applying for grant funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Prop 1 and 68 fund pools to implement vegetation

management on approximately 280 acres of the Von der Ahe conservation easement. The project objectives are to promote forest and watershed health while also achieving wildland fire resiliency. The grant application is due October 1.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Mary Kate McKenna

Events for 2018-2019.

- Our **Hikes & Classes Brochure** is in final draft form and we hope to have it hit the post office as well as launched on the web site for registration by the end of September. We had a great response to our call for docents and some new events are planned that we are all excited about.
- SFC has received a **2-year grant from Fresno Unified CREEC program** to implement a STEM related field trip once a year for each of the two years. This \$4,500 grant will be used during one of our regular Friday Youth Education Program and will be led by Allyson and the Education Docents.
- **Youth Education Docent Training** is scheduled for February and outreach to the schools has had a good response with our weeks filling up quickly. Allyson will be working with Lead Docent Florence Maly during the 2019 season.
- The **Classroom Environmental Ed Program** is being planned and grant funding from So Cal Edison has been applied for. Cat Krosschel is excited to be participating again this year.
- Plans are in place for the 2019 **California Naturalist Class** and Allyson will be attending the Admin training for Cal Nat at UC Davis in November. This Program is scheduled to start in March of 2019.

Partners in Education

- **Fresno State Service Learning Dates** are planned and will be co-led by Chris Velez and Allyson. We have three trail days planned and Clovis Rotary as generously agreed to provide lunch to the crew!
- REI and SFC are once again collaborating on an **Open Preserve Day** with expanded offerings. The \$7,000 grant will pay for the BBQ Lunch, and REI is also providing leaders for a Maps and Compass class as well as two craft tables. Scheduled for the same day as our **Member and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ** it's going to be a full day with lots to do and see.
- Fresno State has awarded SFC with an intern for the 2018 fall semester. U Moa is working with the Stewardship Program until December 2018.
- **Docent Training** is scheduled for Saturday October 27, 2018 at 11 AM and we will also announce the schedule for additional special hikes and training opportunities for the Docents.

Outreach

SFC was part of a combined outreach effort with Tioga Brewery, REI and San Joaquin River Parkway Trust to promote the Great Sierra River Clean Up. SFC Staff and Lindsey worked together to have a really fun way to tell volunteers about this wonderful event. Held on Saturday September 15, our clean-up crew at Briceberg along the beautiful Merced River had over 40 volunteers picking up a lot of trash!

Lindsey is also taking the lead on several upcoming Outreach opportunities:

- SFC and SLB are schedule to be represented at the Harvest Arts at Sierra High School in October
- Also we are on board to create a signature Scarecrow for the Clovis Botanical Garden October Fundraiser

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT/SLB PROGRAM REPORT

Billy Freeman, Rangeland Manager

The beginning of fall brings the start of the Residual Dry Matter (RDM) monitoring season which will occur on all grazed SFC properties and many conservation easements. These monitoring results largely determine fall grazing regimes which are currently being planned. SLB is working to coordinate cattle for fall grazing and is working with new clients. The grass-fed beef processing season is nearing an end and sales have been strong so far.

Residual Dry Matter (RDM) forage monitoring informs managers of grazing utilization and impacts of seasonal grazing treatments on each property. This information is used to make management decisions about the timing and intensity of future grazing. It also helps ensure that soils are protected, and sensitive biological resources are maintained on these properties. The Lower and Upper Jamison CE properties will be monitored this week with other easements and preserves to follow. Forage levels are at the upper end of target levels (according to spring monitoring) and all properties responded well to heavy March rains this year.

We have been working with Steve Kellenberg (owner of the Striped Rock CE properties) alongside NRCS to develop a conservation plan which includes resource management activities on the Striped Rock Preserve. As part of this process, we have developed a Grazing Management Plan for the property. This was a Fee for Service (FFS) project utilizing Rangeland Management expertise on staff. Other potential projects of this nature may be pursued as part of the Rangeland Program and could be very beneficial for management of conservation properties.

65 cows were evacuated from the Macready Ranch and Von der Ahe properties in response to the Ferguson fire in July. We utilized these animals to decrease excess forage levels at the Martin Preserve during the remainder of the summer. 15 cows were brought back to the Macready Ranch to resume grazing in August. 40 of the remaining cows will be moved from the Martin Preserve to Smith Basin/Big Table Ecological Reserve on September 21st. We are tentatively planning on beginning grazing at the McKenzie, Fine Gold and Point Millerton Ranch properties in November.

SLB will be working with a different grazing client, Lloyd One to supply cattle for the McKenzie preserve. We will be working with a new client (Jim Brown) for the Fine Gold and Point Millerton properties. SLB will manage cattle owned by these clients at the locations mentioned. This allows SLB/SFC to dictate and perform all grazing management involved with stewarding these properties. Ongoing monitoring will determine the stocking rate and timing of the grazing applied at each location. The tentative grazing season will occur from November through May.

We have had a successful grass-fed beef selling season with 21 out of 25 animals being processed so far. We have had increased interest in USDA inspected product going to wholesale customers participating in local farmers markets. We also have beef in The Gnarly Carrot natural foods store in North Fork and Coulter Café in Coulterville. We have our final processing date of the season set for November 9th.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions about our Rangeland Management and SLB programs.



September 2018

Dear land trust board member:

We are stronger together. I've long believed this mantra – and your land trust has affirmed the accuracy of my belief on countless occasions since I joined the Land Trust Alliance two years ago. Time and again, I've seen firsthand how our organizations complement each other and advance our shared passion for private land conservation in America. The Alliance represents your interests and presents a unified voice for land conservation at the national level, all while your work – and the work of 1,000 other land trusts that are members of the Alliance – provides tremendous benefits to local communities across the country. Thank you for your commitment to conservation and for your partnership with the Alliance.

In this spirit of continued collaboration, I write to share a number of items of consequence and interest to you. If I were able to be with you in person at your next board meeting, these are some of the items I would take a few moments to discuss:

- **Farm Bill:** The Alliance is committed to securing a Farm Bill that streamlines existing conservation programs, ensures that greater acreage is protected and, most importantly, secures \$500 million a year for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (on which many land trusts rely for land conservation funding). Thanks in no small part to recent Capitol Hill advocacy by land trust representatives, both the House and Senate bills provide for the majority of our priorities. The House version delivers our recommended funding for the Agricultural Land Easement program; the Senate version calls for initial funding of \$400 million annually. The Conference Committee process, through which the two versions of the legislation will be reconciled, is likely to prove dynamic; we will continue to work with Congress and critical partner organizations throughout the process to underscore the importance of easement programs that keep working lands working and directly contribute to our economy. For the latest updates, and information about how you can help, visit www.lta.org/farm-bill.
- **Tax shelters:** The Alliance and its members are working diligently on Capitol Hill to shut down abusive tax shelters that offer investors a fast profit by exploiting federal tax incentives for conservation easement donations. We fully support the Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act (H.R. 4459 and S. 2436), which will remedy this urgent problem. If passed by Congress, these bipartisan bills will continue to reward honest philanthropy while shutting down abuse. Visit www.lta.org/hr-4459-s-2436 to learn more about this issue and how you can help.
- **Relevance Campaign:** To counter the long-term threat of public apathy and disinterest in land conservation, the Alliance is developing a nationwide public engagement campaign to elevate the importance of land conservation as a priority in every community. We hope to launch the campaign in 2020. An overview of this initiative is available in our strategic plan at www.lta.org/strategic-plan; I look forward to sharing more with you about this “call-to-action”

campaign as it develops.

- **Land and Climate Program:** If your land trust is seeking strategies, training and tools to both adapt to and mitigate climate change in your land conservation work, communicate about your climate work with your community or tap new sources of climate change funding, know that we offer a wide variety of resources. You can access these through our Land and Climate Program, www.lta.org/climatechange, and our Conservation in a Changing Climate site, climatechange.lta.org. Regardless of where you, your fellow board members, your land trust's staff and your community stand on this issue, we have resources to encourage meaningful discussion and plan achievable goals.
- **Rally registration:** Rally, the nation's largest annual gathering of land conservation professionals, is open for registration through Sept. 17. I hope you can join me there to network with your colleagues, advance your skills and work to solve some of your greatest professional challenges. Learn more about our 2018 gathering – Oct. 11-13 in Pittsburgh – at www.AllianceRally.org.
- **Member resources:** Finally, I want to remind you that your membership in the Alliance comes with many benefits, including an array of free services. Our newest benefit helps your land trust build relationships with local media. Feel free to request from us a complimentary "media list" of reporters in your region. See other benefits at www.lta.org/membership.

I regret that I cannot present these items to you in person. However, my colleagues and I are happy to address for you any lingering questions or concerns.

Again, ***we are stronger together.*** The Alliance was formed 36 years ago by local land trusts, born out of the community's expressed desire to advance private land conservation, develop a sense of community identity, increase the capacity of all land trusts and share resources. The Alliance proudly serves the critical roles of facilitating learning and exchanging information across the community – all while leading on issues that no single land trust could fully address.

I look forward to all we will continue to accomplish together.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Bowman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Bowman
President
Land Trust Alliance

SIERRA·FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUBERRY PLANNING UNIT CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN FRESNO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Auberry Planning Unit Conservation Easement will permanently conserve 29 acres of mid-elevation Sierra Nevada oak woodland, wildlife and habitat values, open space, scenic value, cultural and historical resources, and agricultural values such as grazing;

WHEREAS, the project will conserve water resources important to the people of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, SFC will be compensated for costs associated with the development, implementation and long-term management of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors

1. Approves the Auberry Planning Unit Conservation Easement as presented;
2. Appoints the Executive Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, option agreement, conservation easement and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 26th day of September 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy by the following vote:

Ayes:
Nos:
Absent:

Margot Cegielski, Secretary of the Board