

## COUNTY OF PLACER

## PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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## Northern Sierra Partnership to Fund Environmental Protection & Economic Development

Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and other leaders in celebrating the launch Wednesday of a public-private partnership between the State of California and the Northern Sierra Partnership to fund environmental preservation while supporting economic growth.

According to Governor Schwarzenegger, more \$25 million has been donated, with \$10 million each donated by the Morgan Family Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

The Northern Sierra Partnership was created to complement the goals of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, a state-sponsored agency that distributed more than \$17 million in grant funds last year to conserve the Sierra habitat and foster economic prosperity in the region.

"The Sierra Nevada is a gem for eternity," Schwarzenegger said. "We must never let the worries of the day kill our dreams for a better tomorrow. The money that is being raised will be used for preserving more open space, building new hiking trails and recreational facilities, cleaning up our rivers and streams and protecting the working ranches and farms of the Sierra Nevada."

Supervisor Robert Weygandt serves as Vice Chairman of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. "In these economic times, it's more obvious than ever that all levels of government, local communities and businesses, and nonprofits must efficiently work together in order to be most successful," he said.

"The Northern Sierra Partnership and the Governor's directive to have state agencies interface with it, with regard to state conservation policy, will dramatically increase our outcomes. These specific outcomes include saving gorgeous forests, protecting salmon and protecting working ranches for the benefit of future generations."

The Northern Sierra Partnership, brought together by the Morgan Family Foundation in 2007, hopes to raise \$75 to \$100 million in private funds over the next five-to-ten years. The five nonprofit partnership agencies are the Feather River Land Trust, the Sierra Business Council, the Nature Conservancy, the Truckee Donner Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land.

The Partnership's goals are to work with willing landowners, government agencies, organizations and communities for the timely conservation of more than 100,000 acres of the region's most valuable lands and waters. Agencies also want to work with communities to achieve sustainable land uses, sustainable local economies and opportunities to mitigate against climate change.