

SNC Reference Number

080139

## Demonstrations of Support

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4001  
FAX (916) 324-2680

DISTRICT OFFICES  
PROFESSIONAL DR. #140  
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661  
TEL (916) 783-8232  
FAX (916) 783-5487

33C BROADWAY  
JACKSON, CA 95642  
TEL (209) 223-9140

2094 E. MAIN ST.  
QUINCY, CA 95971  
TEL (530) 283-3437  
FAX (530) 283-3439

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/COX

SENATOR.COX@SEN.CA.GOV

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
DAVE COX  
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
VICE CHAIR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
VICE CHAIR  
MEMBER  
BANKING, FINANCE  
& INSURANCE  
ENERGY, UTILITIES  
& COMMERCE  
HEALTH

August 29, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project"  
Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program**

Dear Mr. Branham:

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DF&G. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake provided extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre-feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

On December 22, 2005, the DSOD authorized Permit No. 4466 which approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnion Lake Dam. In addition, the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The Department of Water Resources acting as lead agency for the project has completed all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act.

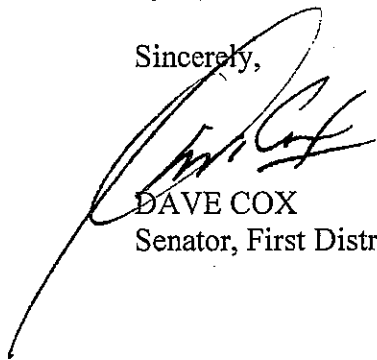
SERVING THE COUNTIES OF:  
ALPINE, AMADOR, CALAVERAS, EL DORADO, LASSEN, MODOC, MONO, NEVADA, PLACER, PLUMAS, SACRAMENTO AND SIERRA

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. Proposition 84 includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. **I feel this project exemplifies the type of project that not only meets the intent of Proposition 84, but also the program guidelines for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's local assistance grants program.**

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, on behalf of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, has brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations in a collaborative effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and implementation measures are comprehensive and cost effective. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique and ensures funding contributions from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are leveraged only to the extent to ensure successful project implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. I am in strong support of this project, and I hope you approve it.

Sincerely,



DAVE COX  
Senator, First District

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004  
(916) 319-2004  
FAX (916) 319-2104

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1700 EUREKA RD., STE. 160  
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661  
(916) 774-4430  
FAX (916) 774-4433

Assembly  
California Legislature



TED GAINES  
ASSEMBLYMAN, FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
BANKING AND FINANCE, VICE CHAIR  
HEALTH  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

September 11, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA, 95603

Gentlemen, I hope this letter finds you both well.

I am writing this letter in support of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project.

It is my belief that this project not only lies within the purview of, but typifies the specified intent of the Conservancy, to "...initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California."

Thus, I encourage the Conservancy to support and allocate Proposition 84 funding towards the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project.

I thank you for your consideration on this matter. Should you have questions or concerns, please call my office at (916) 774-4430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Gaines".

Assemblyman Ted Gaines

CC: AW

JSTY DUPRAY.....DISTRICT I  
HELEN K. BAUMANN.....DISTRICT II  
JAMES R. SWEENEY.....DISTRICT III  
RON BRIGGS.....DISTRICT IV  
NORMA SANTIAGO.....DISTRICT V

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390  
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645

CINDY KECK.....CLERK OF THE BOARD



August 28, 2008

Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of support for the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition Grants Program.**

Dear Mr. Branham & Mr. Kingman,

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding acres from DF&G in an effort to establish an economic stimulus for the rural fire department and a secure water source for fire protection. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below the 50-acre feet, these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is my hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

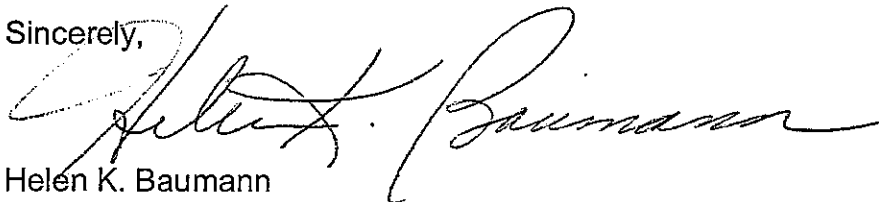
I feel this project exemplifies the type of project that not only meets the intent of Proposition 84, but also the program guidelines for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's local assistance grants program. The "Finnion Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" clearly addresses elements within each of the Conservancy's identified program areas: Increased Opportunities for Tourism and Recreation, Restores Historical Resources, Preservation of Working Landscape, Reduce the Risk of Natural Disaster, Protect and improve Water Quality, Assist the Regional Economy, Enhance Public Use and Enjoyment of Public Lands.

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, on behalf of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, has brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations in a collaborative effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and implementation measures are comprehensive and cost effective. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique and ensures funding contributions from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are leveraged only to the extent to ensure successful project implementation.

As a gesture of my support and commitment to this project, I have supported County contributions to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$10,000. On March 25, 2008, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisor's authorized to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association in the amount of \$10,000 for a one-year term to fund fees owed to the California Division of Dam Safety for the Finnon Lake.

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 530-621-5116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen K. Baumann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "B".

Helen K. Baumann  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors District II

# County of El Dorado

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

STY DUPRAY .....DISTRICT I  
LEN K. BAUMANN.....DISTRICT II  
JAMES R. SWEENEY.....DISTRICT III  
RON BRIGGS.....DISTRICT IV  
NORMA SANTIAGO.....DISTRICT V  
  
CINDY KECK.....CLERK OF THE BOARD

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390  
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645



August 28, 2008

Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham & Mr. Kingman,

This is my letter of support for the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project application, under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.

Finnon Lake Dam is in my District and has a long history as a valuable resource for El Dorado County and the residents of Mosquito and Swansboro, not only for recreation, but in combating wildfires, and also habitat for wild life.

In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during a Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed the Department of Fish and Game, owners and managers of the dam and surrounding 121 acres, to remediate the dam. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to the seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair of the embankment will bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding acres from DF&G. On December 22, 2005, DSOD authorized Permit No. 4466 which approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnon Lake Dam. Also, the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The Department of Water Resources acting as lead agency for the project has completed all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been satisfied (SC# 2005128322).

Proposition 84, the voter approved Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006, includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and natural resources. I believe this project, that would restore Finnon Lake Dam back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet, meets the intent of Proposition 84, but also the program guidelines for the SNC's local assistance grants program.

In addition, because of the increased number of fire activity throughout the state, restoring Fannon Lake back to its original capacity as a resource for fire fighting efforts, adds even further to its value to protect the residents, wildlife and aesthetics of El Dorado County.

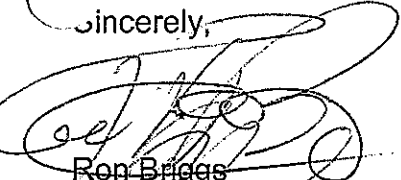
Since the acquisition of the lake and surrounding acres and management by the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, their efforts have added that services and dollars for the community. I strongly feel that by raising the lake level back to its original capacity, residents and visitors once again, will be able to enjoy the facility to its full extent, to include fishing, camping, picnics and community events, while at the same time, restoring watershed resources for wildlife and overall habitat.

I have continued to support this project, including County contributions to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$10,000. On March 25, 2008, the Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado authorized the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the MVFD in the amount of \$10,000 for a one year term to fund fees owed to the California Division of Dam Safety for the Fannon Lake Dam (attached).

My office has also worked closely with the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, who on behalf of the MVFD has brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations, in a collaborative effort to ensure a cost effective, successful implementation for this project.

I appreciate and thank you for your consideration in the approval of the grant application for the Fannon Lake Dam Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call my office at 530-621-6513.

Sincerely,



Ron Briggs  
Supervisor, District IV  
El Dorado County

Enclosures



# El Dorado County

BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS  
MEETING ROOM  
330 Fair Lane, Bldg A  
Placerville, California

## MINUTES

### Board Of Supervisors

*Rusty Dupray, Chairman, District I*  
*Ron Briggs, First Vice Chairman, District IV*  
*Norma Santiago, Second Vice Chairman, District V*  
*Helen K. Baumann, District II*  
*James R. Sweeney, District III*

*Cindy Keck, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*  
*Laura S. Gill, Chief Administrative Officer*   *Louis B. Green, County Counsel*

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Tuesday, March 25, 2008

8:00 AM

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

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#### Vision Statement

"El Dorado County will remain the leader in supporting our safe, healthy, and vibrant communities, wisely managing our natural resources, and preserving our local heritage."

BOARD MEETING ROOM EQUIPPED WITH AN AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM.

Public Testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to 3 minutes, and individuals speaking for a group are allocated 5 minutes. (Adopted 8/10/93) Matters not on the agenda may be addressed by the general public during the Open Forum. Public comments during Open Forum are limited to three minutes per person. The Board reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board of Supervisors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for inspection during normal business hours in the public viewing packet located in the foyer of Building A, 330 Fair Lane, Placerville or in the Board Clerk's Office located at the same address. Such documents are also available on the Board of Supervisors' website at [www.co.el-dorado.ca.us](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us) subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

The Board of Supervisors is concerned that large amounts of written information submitted to the Board the day of the Board meeting may not receive the attention it deserves. The Board Clerk cannot guarantee that any FAX, email, or mail received the day of the meeting will be delivered to the Board prior to action on the subject matter.

The Board meets simultaneously as the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors of the Air Quality Management District, In-Home Supportive Services, Public Housing Authority, Redevelopment Agency and other Special Districts.

**El Dorado County  
Board of Supervisors  
District IV  
530-621-6513**

# Memo

**To:** Laura Gill  
**From:** Supervisor Briggs  
**CC:** Lou Green  
**Date:** 5/10/2007  
**Re:** Finnon Lake

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I was notified today, that the Proposition 50 grant application for \$600,000 for the restoration of Finnon Lake, was not approved. This is my request to pull Item 36, on the May 15 agenda.

There will be attempts by myself and our state legislators to appeal and seek re-consideration for the grant application. Mark Egbert with RCD and Karl Weiland with the Fish and Game Commission, will continue to coordinate this effort along with my office.

RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MAY 10 2007

2007 MAY 10 AM 11:17

31. 08-0345 Human Resources and Human Services Departments recommending Resolution amending the County's Authorized Personnel Allocation Resolution **adding** three (3) Social Worker IV-A/B positions, two (2) Eligibility Workers I/II positions, and five (5) Employment & Training Worker I/II positions for the Human Services Department.  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Adopt Resolution **70-2008**.
- FUNDING:** Federal/State Child Welfare Services (CWS) Allocation and Augmentation, Cal Works and Other Public Works (OPW) Allocations.
- Attachments:** Resolution DHS Personnel Allocation Increase
- A motion was made by Supervisor Sweeney, seconded by Supervisor Santiago to approve this matter.
- Yes: 5 - Dupray, Baumann, Sweeney, Briggs and Santiago
32. 08-0411 County Counsel recommending Chairman be authorized to sign Agreement with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for a term to expire June 30, 2012 to provide partial funding for a Preserve Manager for the Pine Hill Preserve.  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve.
- Attachments:** Agreement with Bureau of Land Management  
Letter to Board re BLM Agreement
- This matter was Approved on the consent calendar
33. 07-789 Chief Administrative Office recommending Chairman be authorized to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) in the amount of \$10,000 for a one year term to fund fees owed to the California Division of Dam Safety for the Finnon Lake Reservoir.  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve.
- FUNDING:** General Fund.
- Attachments:** Finnon Lake Restoration documents.pdf  
Memo from Supervisor Briggs.pdf  
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Assoc. MOU.pdf
- This matter was Approved on the consent calendar

EL DORADO COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA TRANSMITTAL  
Meeting of May 15, 2007

**AGENDA TITLE:** Fannon Lake Restoration

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Board of Supervisors	<b>DATE:</b> May 3, 2007	<b>CAO USE ONLY</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b> Supervisor Ron Briggs	<b>PHONE:</b> 621-6513	

**DEPARTMENT SUMMARY AND REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:** Supervisor Briggs requesting the Board approve the dispersal of \$10,000 to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, to be used for payment of fees owed to the Division of Dam Safety to assist in securing a \$600,000 Proposition 50 grant for the restoration of Fannon Lake.

**CAO RECOMMENDATION:**

<b>Financial impact?</b> ( ) Yes ( ) No	<b>Funding Source:</b> ( ) Gen Fund ( ) Other
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**BUDGET SUMMARY:**

Total Est. Cost	\$ _____
<b>Funding</b>	
Budgeted	\$ _____
New Funding	\$ _____
Savings*	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total Funding Available	\$ _____
Change in Net County Cost	\$ _____

\* Explain

**CAO Office Use Only:**

415's Vote Req'd.	( ) Yes ( ) No
Change in Policy	( ) Yes ( ) No
New Personnel	( ) Yes ( ) No

**CONCURRENCES:**

- Risk Management
- County Counsel
- Other

**BOARD ACTIONS:**

<p><b>Vote:</b> Unanimous _____ Or</p> <p><b>Ayes:</b></p> <p><b>Noes:</b></p> <p><b>Abstentions:</b></p> <p><b>Absent:</b></p> <p>Rev. 7/96 j:\agenda\win96</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered into the minutes of the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> <p><b>Attest:</b> CINDY KECK, Board of Supervisors Clerk</p> <p><b>By:</b></p>
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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

1807 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Please Note Change of Zip Code Sacramento, California 95811-7137  
www.wcb.ca.gov  
(916) 445-8448  
Fax (916) 323-0280

September 11, 2008

Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn California 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

*Jim*  
Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant proposal  
to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
from the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District

The Wildlife Conservation Board is providing this letter in support of the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District's grant proposal for the Finnion Lake restoration and habitat improvement project. The project as proposed will help improve wildlife habitat and expand public outdoor recreational opportunities, both of which are important goals supported by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DFG to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DFG. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, wildlife habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre-feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and outdoor recreational values provided by Finnion Lake.

Mr. Jim Branham  
September 11, 2008  
Page Two

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (916) 445-0137.

Sincerely,



John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director

cc: Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy



# EL DORADO COUNTY

Karl Weiland - At Large - Chairman  
John Turner - At Large - Secretary  
Larry Nelson - Dist I  
William King - Dist II  
Leonard Stroud - Dist III  
Tom Pedersen - Dist IV  
Victor Babbitt - District V

## Fish & Game Commission

### Memorandum

**DATE:** April 11, 2007  
**FROM:** Karl Weiland, Chairman ✓  
**TO:** District IV Supervisor Ron Briggs  
**SUBJECT:** Finnon Lake

2007 APR 24 AM 11:21  
RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FISH & GAME COMMISSION

At the April meeting of the Volunteer Association Board of Directors, Director Linda Buchanan presented the attached report. It is a report on her research into charges levied by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Finnon Dam. The Volunteer Association is the owner of Finnon and the responsible party DWR is charging for dam inspection fees. The current balance has accrued since 1999 and now stands at almost \$30,000. Linda reports on the concerns of DWR officials that if this balance remains unresolved, it may have a negative influence on the \$600,000 Proposition 50 grant application. The report concludes with recommendations to resolve the problem.

There was some discussion at the board meeting indicating that a few years ago, a handshake agreement had been reached with DWR to cancel and suspend the charges until the dam was repaired. However, this was not documented, the principals have moved on, and DWR's current position is that the fees are owed and will not be waived. This is not an issue that the board has been ignoring, it's just that a combination of misunderstandings, turnover at the board, confusion over the issue and a lack of resources have all contributed to the current status.

As Linda points out, the fees would be stopped if the lake was drained and the gate made inoperative prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. When the board was offered this option to eliminate the 2007/2008 fees, the immediate reaction focused on the impact of eliminating a fire fighting resource. Finnon is a resource with strategic location, not only for the Mosquito community but for this area of the divide as well, as evidenced in the Kelsey fire. The board acknowledged that even in its reduced state, Finnon is an important fire fighting resource that they were hesitant to eliminate.

The problem faced by the board is that Finnon has not been capable of generating revenue to pay the fees and they have no other sources to tap. Your board has set aside monies in previous years for the restoration project. The most recent allocation of

\$10,000, from the 2006/2007 budget is identified for use in the proposed resolution. However, a solution needs to be devised that will address the fees until the project is started, the dam made inoperable and the fees stopped.

The 2007/2008 fee is expected to be around \$6,000.

The volunteer board is requesting an opportunity to meet with you and discuss avenues for resolution, which may include:

- 1) Working to quickly develop a package and fund request that the BOS can approve and the Auditor can pay from to make payment to the Division of Water Resources. There is \$10,000 in monies from last year's budget. This will have to occur prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>; otherwise the funds will need to be rebudgeted for FY 08/09. This would implement the solution favored by DWR.
- 2) Consider allocation of about \$6,500 in funds to cover the 2007/2008 fee. This will insure preservation of a fire fighting resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Report on Finnon Dam Fees Prepared for  
The Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association Board of Directors  
by Linda Buchanan  
March 2007

Background

In our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting I was asked to look into the outstanding balance MVFA owes to the State, and gain and understanding of whom we owe money to, why we owe it and how much we owe.

Findings

Sharon Hern provided copies of past invoices received from Department of Water Resources. I did some online research based on the Water Code citations on the invoices and determined these were annual fees charged by DWR, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) to owners of dams that meet certain criteria. Further research confirmed that Finnon Dam falls within these criteria. The fees are calculated based on the fee structure for general dams at \$420 per dam plus \$116 per foot of height per Section 6307, (b) of the California Water Code. Based on our fiscal year 2006 billing DSOD has calculated these fees correctly. These are fees to fund the Dam Safety Program statewide and are assessed for all dams meeting jurisdictional criteria. They are not inspection fees or penalties assessed for some infraction. These fees have increased from previous levels in the last two years due to program funding shifting from the California General Fund to the program fee structure based on legislation approved by the Governor. The billing also shifted from calendar year to fiscal year at that time.

I then spoke with Andy Mangney, Senior Engineer in the Field Engineering Branch of DWR's DSOD. Andy is the Engineer who does our annual inspections. I updated our name and telephone number and provided him interim contact numbers for the MVFA board (see recommendations below). I also set a meeting with him for March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues regarding the Finnon dam fees and obtain copies of the most recent invoices and correspondence on this topic. He stated that Mark Egbert from the RCD had also contacted him and requested a copy of the most recent billing.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, prior to my meeting with Andy I spoke to Mark Egbert to discuss his reasons for needing the DWR account statement. Mark expressed concern that this outstanding account may be detrimental to our obtaining state funding for our

project. He indicated that if we could make an effort to address the delinquencies it would put our application in a better position for funding. He also stated that the \$10,000 for the dam project provided by El Dorado County could be used for this purpose, though we will have to confirm that officially with the Board of Supervisors. Regarding the \$10,000, I could find no reserve account or other account in Sharon's report reflecting this, so don't know if the County has transferred it to us yet or not. Mark also stated that he had briefed Superintendent Briggs on the project and Mr. Briggs seemed willing to help us in any way he could, which might mean with money. The MVFA will need to follow up on that with Mark and Mr. Briggs.

During my meeting with Andy, he explained that while Finnon remains operational the MVFA is subject to the annual fees. There is correspondence confirming this in our file with DWR. Should we choose to place Finnon in an inoperable status by welding the slide gate open we would be temporarily relieved of these fees. This must be done prior to June 30 of a given year as the fees are assessed on a fiscal year basis from July - June, with no partial year assessment option provided. Our dam project will necessitate this anyway, as the entire dam will be removed, but the timing will determine whether we pay annual fees through the full construction period.

Andy also stated that DWR truly supports our dam repair project and has provided a letter in support of our grant application to the DWR Watershed program. However, while supporting the project he is concerned that our outstanding account may affect DWR's decision to provide State funding for the project. During this meeting I obtained copies of pertinent correspondence regarding the dam's operational status, the letter of support for the grant application, and the most recently issued (March 16, 2007) delinquency statement which shows a total of \$29,875.93 owed for past fees, delinquent interest and penalties (see the attached spreadsheet for details on this). Our normal annual billing statement should be coming with in the next few weeks.

Andy indicated that if the MVFA were to make a good faith effort to bring the account current by making the next payment for FY 2007 when it was due, paying down a part of the arrears and developing a payment schedule to liquidate the balance of the account over time, DWR would consider waiver of at least some of the penalties and interest, although he could make no promises in this regard.

Based on this information I have formulated the following recommendations for your consideration and action.

### Recommendations

- 1) Provide DWR with a current list of the names and telephone numbers of our governing board, and update this information with DWR when changes occur.
- 2) Provide DWR with a contact from among our board members to accompany the DWR engineer, any interested community members, or other board members on inspections.
- 3) Bring our account with DWR current using the following steps:
  - i. Utilizing the \$10,000 provided by the County, pay this year's billing which will arriving soon and pay down a portion of the arrears.
  - ii. Provide DWR with a payment schedule to retire the account balance over a specific period of time, perhaps 5 years.
  - iii. Request that DWR consider waiver of penalties and interest on past fees, providing justification and need for such waiver, and a second payment schedule without the penalties and interest.
  - iv. Set up reserve funds in our budget for annual payments and payments to retire the account balance.
- 4) Place Finnon Dam in inoperative status when feasible to facilitate construction activities and relieve the MVFA of the annual fees through the construction period.

If the Board adopts these recommendations, implementation could be carried out as follows:

### Implementation

Items 1 & 2 - MVFA provides notice on official MVFA letterhead listing the names, addresses and phone numbers of the current board members and identifying board officers and a board member to contact for inspections. This notice should be sent annually or as often as there are changes in the membership or officers.

Items 3 i. through 3 iii. - MVFA board to designate a board member to work with Mark and or Sharon to determine if the \$10,000 from the County can be used for this purpose and get the money transferred to the MVFA, if that has not already been done.

MVFA board to designate a board member to work with Sharon in drafting a letter to DWR transmitting payments and payment schedules and including a request regarding the waiver of penalties and interest.

Item 3 iv. - MVFA board requests Sharon to add appropriate accounts to budget and determine which revenues can be used to fund such accounts.

Item 4 - MVFA board, Dam project coordinator (Debbie) and Mark to determine when to place the dam in inoperable status and arrange to have it done at the appropriate time. We will need to contact DWR to inspect the work and confirm the status of the dam at that time.

# CONTRACT ROUTING SHEET

Date Prepared: 02/12/2008

Need Date: ASAP

**PROCESSING DEPARTMENT:**

Department: CAO

Dept. Contact: Laura Schwartz

Phone #: 6541

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Head Signature: Laura A. Hill

**CONTRACTOR:**

Name: Mosquito Volunteer Fire Assoc.

Address: 9009 Orval Beckett Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRACTING DEPARTMENT: CAO**

Service Requested: Funding Agreement

Contract Term: 1 year Contract/Amendment Value: \$10,000.00

Compliance with Human Resources requirements? Yes:  No:

Compliance verified by: N/A

**COUNTY COUNSEL: (Must approve all contracts and MOU's)**

Approved:  Disapproved:  Date: 2/19/08 By: ZBA

Approved:  Disapproved:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

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08 FEB 14 AM 11  
COUNTY COUNSEL  
Michael R. Mitchell

RECEIVED  
QUINCY RESOURCES DEPT  
08 FEB 19 PM 2:00

ASSIGNMENT  
DATE  
2/15/08  
FOR REVIEW  
GREEN  
INDEX NO  
2/15/08

**RISK MANAGEMENT: (All contracts and MOU's except boilerplate grant funding agreements)**

Approved:  Disapproved:  Date: 2/19/08 By: [Signature]

Approved:  Disapproved:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**OTHER APPROVAL: (Specify department(s) participating or directly affected by this contract).**

Departments: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:  Disapproved:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:  Disapproved:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

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## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) made and entered into by and between the County of El Dorado, a political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter referred to as "County"), and Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, a California corporation whose principal place of business is 9009 Orval Beckett Court, Placerville, CA 95667 (hereinafter referred to as "MVFA");

### WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS**, County has appropriated a contribution to MVFA in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for the payment of fees owed by MVFA to the California Division of Dam Safety for the Finnon Lake Reservoir; and

**WHEREAS**, County and MVFA have agreed that the MVFA make payment for the above-referenced fees.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the parties do hereby agree as follows:

Within 30 days after execution of this Memorandum of Understanding, County will advance funds to the MFVA in the amount of \$10,000 to be used solely for the purpose of payment of fees owed by the MVFA to the California Division of Dam Safety for the Finnon Lake Reservoir. Upon payment of the fees, the MVFA shall provide County with proof of payment of fees to the California Division of Dam Safety and shall return any unused funds. If the advanced funds have not been used for the purpose stated herein within one (1) year of execution of this MOU, all funds shall be returned to County.

This document and the documents referred to herein or exhibits hereto are the entire Agreement between the parties and they incorporate or supersede all prior written or oral Agreements or understandings.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding the day and year first below written.

— COUNTY OF EL DORADO —

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman,  
Board of Supervisors  
"County"

— MVFA —

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION  
A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Leslie Baumgartner  
Chair of the Board

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

STY DUPRAY .....DISTRICT I  
ELEN K. BAUMANN .....DISTRICT II  
JAMES R. SWEENEY .....DISTRICT III  
RON BRIGGS .....DISTRICT IV  
NORMA SANTIAGO .....DISTRICT V  
CINDY KECK .....CLERK OF THE BOARD

RECEIVED

SEP 09 2008

EL DORADO COUNTY ASSESSOR

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390  
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645



September 8, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your consideration of my letter of support for the Finnion Lake Restoration Project. I know you receive numerous requests for such grants. This project shines as it is an opportunity to reunite a Sierra Nevada community with a special resource that has been taken away by our state bureaucracy. Thank You!

### BACKGROUND

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DF&G. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre-feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

On December 22, 2005, the DSOD authorized Permit No. 4466 which approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnion Lake Dam. In addition, the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The Department of Water Resources acting as lead agency for the project has completed all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been satisfied (SC# 2005128322).

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. Proposition 84 includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. I feel this project exemplifies the type of project that not only meets the intent of Proposition 84, but also the program guidelines for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's local assistance grants program.

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, on behalf of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, has brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations in a collaborative effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and implementation measures are comprehensive and cost effective. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique and ensures funding contributions from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are leveraged only to the extent to ensure successful project implementation.

As a gesture of my support and commitment to this project, I have supported County contributions to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$10,000.00. On March 25, 2008, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors authorized to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association in the amount of \$10,000 for a one year term to fund fees owed to the California Division of Dam Safety for the Finnion Lake (attached).

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the Finnion lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 530-621-5390.

Sincerely,



James R. "Jack" Sweeney  
Supervisor, District III  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Enclosures

# County of El Dorado

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RUSTY DUPRAY .....DISTRICT I  
HELEN K. BAUMANN .....DISTRICT II  
JAMES R. SWEENEY .....DISTRICT III  
RON BRIGGS .....DISTRICT IV  
NORMA SANTIAGO .....DISTRICT V  
  
CINDY KECK .....CLERK OF THE BOARD

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390  
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645



August 19, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

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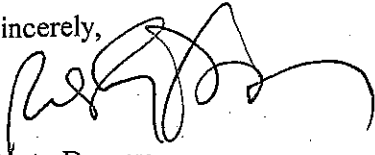
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Sincerely,



Rusty Dupray  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors District I  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Enclosures



## El Dorado County Water Agency

Helen K. Baumann  
*Board of Supervisors*

John P. Fraser  
*El Dorado Irrigation District*

James R. Jones  
*South Tahoe P.U.D.*

Norma Santiago  
*Board of Supervisors*

James R. "Jack" Sweeney  
*Board of Supervisors*

William T. Hetland, P.E.  
*General Manager*

September 8, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

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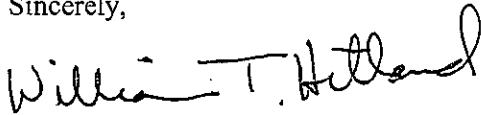
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Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 530-621-5392.

Sincerely,

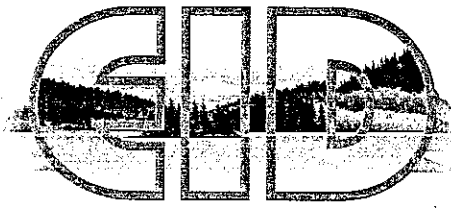


William T. Hetland, P.E.  
General Manager  
El Dorado County Water Agency  
3932 Ponderosa Road, Suite 200  
Shingle Springs, CA 95628

George W. Osborne - *President*  
Division 1

John P. Fraser - *Director*  
Division 2

George - *Director*  
Division 3



## El Dorado Irrigation District

George A. Wheeldon - *Vice President*  
Division 4

Harry J. Norris - *Director*  
Division 5

W. Thomas Gallier  
*General Manager*

Thomas D. Cumpston  
*General Counsel*

In reply refer to: ECL0908-127

September 12, 2008

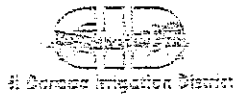
Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

Subject: Letter of Support for the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.

Dear Sirs:

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) is pleased to submit this in support of the subject grant proposal. This support includes the acknowledgment of EID's obligation to the Mosquito area to provide water to Finnon Lake from the EID piped water system upon restoration of the dam. From 2002 to 2004, EID worked with volunteers on the Mosquito Water Committee to address the critical issue of taking the Summerfield Ditch out of service, while still meeting EID's obligation to provide a reliable water supply for Finnon Lake and ditch irrigation customers. A resolution was mutually agreed upon to install a 2-inch water meter off of the piped system, with no connection or commodity charges, to deliver water up to the capacity of the meter to Finnon Lake upon its restoration and after fire suppression draw-downs.

EID and its predecessors historically made direct diversions from Slab Creek, a tributary to the South Fork of the American River, into the Summerfield Ditch that delivered water to customers in the Mosquito area. The diversions were pursuant to pre-1914 water rights on Slab Creek that were recorded in 1889 but first used in 1854 for mining, irrigation, domestic, and other uses. After 1968, the water was used for irrigation and non-domestic uses. This water right was transferred to EID following the annexation of the Mosquito area, subject to the encumbrance associated with the State of California's Finnon Reservoir purchase. EID's General Counsel has opined that the Summerfield Ditch and its associated water rights [Slab Creek] are a means of serving the Mosquito Area, but the transfer did not limit EID to using only this raw water. General Counsel determined that the piped water system in this area could also be used to meet EID's obligation.



Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support in the approval of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If EID can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Sharon Fraser, Water Conservation Coordinator, at 530-642-4112.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Witter', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Witter  
Director  
Natural Resources

**Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association**  
**9009 Orval Beckett Court**  
**Placerville, California 95667-9040**  
**530-622-6832**

September 8, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

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This project is support throughout the community and is a vital component of our Community Action Plan and the Finnon lake Recreation Master Plan. Restoration of Finnon Lake is extremely important as a valuable recreation, educational and economic asset to our community. In addition, increased water storage will provide a valuable resource for combating wildfires through the region as it has demonstrated repeatedly in the past.

Our community will provide housing for the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps as they intend to use the project as a training program. This is an extremely important partnership that demonstrates collaborative and comprehensive approach to resource management and restoration.

One of the most complex, difficult, and urgent environmental problems in the Western United States is the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The problem gained national attention during an unprecedented wildfire season in the year 2000 that generated some startling statistics as summarized by Todd Wilkinson (2001):

More than \$1.6 billion was spent by taxpayers to combat 90,000 fires nationwide, double the cost of a "typical" year. Some 7.5 million acres burned – an area equal in size to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware combined. And at least 860 structures, ranging from beloved homes to outdoor sheds were destroyed primarily in a new frontier known as "the wildland-urban interface" – the fringes of communities, especially in the boom-town West, where more and more houses are creeping into what was until recently wilderness.

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In addition: The **Angora Fire** was a wind driven fire that started near North Upper Truckee Road subdivision near Angora Lakes, Fallen Leaf Lake, Echo Lake and South Lake Tahoe, California around 2:15 PM on Sunday, June 24, 2007 as a result of an illegal campfire. As of July 2, 2007, the fire was 100% contained, and 100% control (all interior fires extinguished) is expected on July 10. The fire burned 3,100 acres (12.5 km<sup>2</sup>), destroyed 242 residences and 67 commercial structures, and damaged 35 other homes. At the peak, there were as many as 2,180 firefighters involved in battling the blaze. As of July 2, there were still 260 personnel fighting the remaining fires in the interior of the containment line. The fire cost \$11.7 million to fight.

The communities surrounding Finnon Lake project area exemplifies the wildland-urban interface. The project is located in the middle of the fastest growing region in the Sierra Nevada – the North Central Sierra (Sierra Business Council 1999). Urban pockets of medium to high density residential neighborhoods are distributed intermittently throughout the area and oftentimes these neighborhoods are completely surrounded by native vegetation or "wildland". What's more, many of the native plant communities found in the project area are fire adapted and some are even fire dependant, meaning the vegetation needs to burn as part of its reproductive cycle. To add to the complexity of this issue, the threat of catastrophic fires continues to intensify with time as the fuel loads increase with each passing year that the already overgrown vegetation does not burn

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the Finnon lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 530-626-1204.

Sincerely,



Leslie Baumgartner  
Chairman  
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association  
9009 Orval Beckett  
Placerville, CA 95667

Enclosures

# EL DORADO COUNTY

## Fish & Game Commission

Karl Weiland - At Large -  
Chairman  
John Turner - At Large -  
Secretary  
Larry Nelson - Dist I  
William King - Dist II  
Leonard Stroud - Dist III  
Tom Pedersen - Dist IV  
Victor Babbitt - District V

August 19, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DF&G. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre-feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

On December 22, 2005, the DSOD authorized Permit No. 4466 which approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnion Lake Dam. In addition, the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The Department of Water Resources acting as lead agency for the project has completed all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been satisfied (SC# 2005128322).

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. Proposition 84 includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. I feel this project exemplifies the type of project that not only meets the intent of Proposition 84,

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, on behalf of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, has brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations in a collaborative effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and implementation measures are comprehensive and cost effective. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique and ensures funding contributions from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are leveraged only to the extent to ensure successful project implementation.

The El Dorado County Fish & Game Commission has provided extensive time in working with the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association in the planning and implementation components of the project. We anticipate a strong involvement with the Fish Rescue and Relocation Plan. Community awareness and involvement is an important component of this project. In addition, we are working closely with the County Board of Supervisors to ensure consistent information exchange and continued support.

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 530-621-5757.

Sincerely,

 , Chair

Karl Weiland  
El Dorado County Fish and Game Commission  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

Enclosures

COPY

August 19, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingmun, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DF&G. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre-feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

The International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The MVFA, with support from the community, will be housing the Job Corps crews while restoration takes place. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the enclosed grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 916-394-0770.

Sincerely,



Mike Spencer  
International Union of Operating Engineers - Job Corps Training Program  
PO Box 231026  
Sacramento, CA 95823

Enclosures

**Letter of Intent**  
**between the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department and the Local Workers Union**  
**# I.U.O.E. JOB CORPS**

August 18, 2008

Mike Spencer  
International Union of Operating Engineers - Job Corps Training Program  
PO Box 231026  
Sacramento, CA 95823

Subject: Letter of Intent for the Fannon Lake Restoration Project.

Dear Mr. Spencer,

By this letter of intent, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association and the International Union of Operating Engineers - Job Corps Training Program plan to cooperatively conduct reconstruction activities to reconstruct the Fannon Lake Dam. These actions will be undertaken within the framework of cooperation to bring needed modification to the existing dam.

Fannon Dam was constructed by hydraulic fill placement in 1905 and owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Ownership was transferred to the Mosquito District Mutual Water Company in 1939 and then later purchased from them in 1956 by the California Department of Fish & Game (DFG). In 1990, the dam was reevaluated for seismic stability and found to be deficient. Unable to rehabilitate the dam due to budget shortfall, DFG transferred ownership to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA). The MVFA does not have the funds to pay the dam reconstruction and is looking at this partnership to conduct the reconstruction activities.

A repair application was submitted by MVFA in June 2000. The proposed repair involves removal and reconstruction of the dam. The Department of Dam Safety (DSOD) reviewed the plans and specifications and found them to be satisfactory.

At a recent meeting held in November 2004 and attended by Assemblyman Tim Leslie, MVFA, DSOD Acting Chief Deputy Director Stephen Vergin and Frank Fong, the DSOD, as lead agency for this project, had agreed to assist MVFA to complete the necessary work to comply with CEQA requirements and to obtain the necessary environmental permits.

Fannon Lake is a cornerstone of the community of Mosquito. The MVFA is dependant of the cooperative efforts of all partners involved in the project. Special attention to reconstruction activities has been given in that all other environmental documentation and community planning efforts are fruitless without the contribution of International Union of Operating Engineers - Job Corps Training Program.

We look forward to a successful collaboration.

*Mike Spencer 9/5/08*

Leslie Baumgartner  
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association  
9009 Orval Beckett Court  
Placerville, CA 95667



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

801 K STREET • MS 18-01 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 324-0850 • FAX 916 / 327-3430 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE [conservation.ca.gov](http://conservation.ca.gov)

September 8, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham and Mr. Kingman:

**Subject:** Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project"  
Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board Project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DF&G. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive watershed resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a valuable resource for combating wildfire. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

On December 22, 2005, the DSOD authorized Permit No. 4466 which approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnion Lake Dam. In addition, the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The Department of Water Resources acting as lead agency for the project has completed all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act has been satisfied (SC# 2005128322).

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. Proposition 84 includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land,



## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

2840 Mt. Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530)644-2345  
(530)647-5276 fax



August 19, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support the "Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" Grant Proposal under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

Finnon Lake Dam was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1906 by American River Electric Company. In 1939, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Mutual Water Company who retained ownership until 1956 when the dam and surrounding property was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. It was concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during the Maximum Credible Earthquake. DSOD directed DF&G to remediate the dam. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the dam and surrounding 121 acres from DF&G. The dam is presently operating under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to seismic stability deficiency. The proposed repair involves complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment to bring the lake back to its original capacity of 350 acre feet.

At its full capacity, Finnion Lake sustained extensive Watershed Resource values. These values included fishing, camping, education, aesthetics, wetlands, habitat and a **valuable resource for combating wildfire**. With the restrictions to maintain the lake below 50 acre-feet these watershed resource values have been depleted. It is our hope to restore Finnion Lake back to its original capacity and re-establish the important watershed, wildland firefighting and community values provided by Finnion Lake.

On December 22, 2005, the DSOD authorized Permit No. 4466 which approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnion Lake Dam. In addition, the International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps Training Program has committed to providing operators for the reconstruction of the dam as a training operation. The Department of Water Resources acting as lead agency for the project has completed all requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been satisfied (SC# 2005128322).

On November 7, 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. Proposition 84 includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. I feel this project exemplifies the type of project that not only meets the intent of Proposition 84, but also the program guidelines for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's local assistance grants program.

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, on behalf of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, has brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations in a collaborative effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and implementation measures are comprehensive and

cost effective. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique and ensures funding contributions from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are leveraged only to the extent to ensure successful project implementation.

One of the most complex, difficult, and urgent environmental problems in the Western United States is the **threat of catastrophic wildfire**. The problem gained national attention during an unprecedented wildfire season in the year 2000 that generated some startling statistics as summarized by Todd Wilkinson (2001):

More than \$1.6 billion was spent by taxpayers to combat 90,000 fires nationwide, double the cost of a "typical" year. Some 7.5 million acres burned – an area equal in size to Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware combined. And at least 860 structures, ranging from beloved homes to outdoor sheds were destroyed primarily in a new frontier known as "the wildland-urban interface" – the fringes of communities, especially in the boom-town West, where more and more houses are creeping into what was until recently wilderness.

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In addition: The **Angora Fire** was a wind driven fire that started near North Upper Truckee Road subdivision near Angora Lakes, Fallen Leaf Lake, Echo Lake and South Lake Tahoe, California around 2:15 PM on Sunday, June 24, 2007 as a result of an illegal campfire. As of July 2, 2007, the fire was 100% contained, and 100% control (all interior fires extinguished) is expected on July 10. The fire burned 3,100 acres (12.5 km<sup>2</sup>), destroyed 242 residences and 67 commercial structures, and damaged 35 other homes. At the peak, there were as many as 2,180 firefighters involved in battling the blaze. As of July 2, there were still 260 personnel fighting the remaining fires in the interior of the containment line. The fire cost \$11.7 million to fight.

The communities surrounding Finnon Lake project area exemplifies the wildland-urban interface. The project is located in the middle of the fastest growing region in the Sierra Nevada – the North Central Sierra (Sierra Business Council 1999). Urban pockets of medium to high density residential neighborhoods are distributed intermittently throughout the area and oftentimes these neighborhoods are completely surrounded by native vegetation or "wildland". To add to the complexity of this issue, the threat of catastrophic fires continues to intensify with time as the fuel loads increase with each passing year that the already overgrown vegetation does not burn

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 530-647-5203.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Banducci  
Forester II, Amador – El Dorado Unit  
CAL FIRE  
2840 Mt Danaher Road  
Camino, CA 95709

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



SEP 05 2008

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

Finnon Lake Dam, No. 4466  
El Dorado County

Dear Mr. Branham:

The Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) supports the grant proposal entitled "Finnon Dam Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project" to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.

Finnon Lake Dam is under the jurisdiction of the DSOD. The dam was constructed by hydraulic fill placement methods in 1905. In 1990, the dam, while under the ownership of California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), was re-evaluated for seismic stability and found to be deficient. After DFG was unable to secure the necessary funds to rehabilitate the dam, ownership was transferred to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) in 1997. The MVFD changed their name to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA), a non-profit corporation, in 2007.

Since 1997, DSOD has been closely working with the dam owner to resolve seismic deficiencies with the dam. A repair application was filed with DSOD on June 14, 2000 to completely remove and rebuild the dam to current seismic standards. During the review process, DSOD provided technical expertise and both DSOD and the Department of Water Resources Division of Local Assistance provided assistance with the environmental permitting aspects of the project. The repair application was approved by DSOD on December 22, 2005.

The MVFA is currently attempting to secure funding to complete the construction phase of the project. The International Union of Operating Engineers Job Corps and a local engineering firm have committed to providing equipment, operators, and engineering expertise. The failure to secure funding for other facets of the project such as construction materials and fuel may result in the loss of these commitments and the expiration of environmental permits, which will lead to further delays in starting the project.

We fully support the owners request for funding through the Proposition 84 Grants Program. This project is being required by DSOD in the interest of dam safety, but its completion will have many additional benefits. Once the project is completed, DSOD will remove its current storage restriction of 50 acre-feet on the reservoir. Restoring the reservoir capacity to its original capacity of 350 acre-feet will have the added benefits of increasing wetland habitat, improving aesthetics in the area, enhancing recreational opportunities such as fishing and camping, and increasing quantities of a valuable water source used for combating fires.

Mr. Jim Branham

SEP 05 2008

Page 2

If you have any questions or need any addition Information, you may contact me at (916) 227-9800 or have your staff contact Acting Regional Engineer Andrew Mangney at (916) 227-4635.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Mike Zumot, Acting Chief  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Ms. Leslie Baumgartner  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association  
9009 Orval Beckett Court  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. Mark Egbert, District Manager  
El Dorado County and Georgetown  
Divide Resource Conservation Districts  
100 Forni Road, Suite A  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. Bob Kingman  
Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

Jules

SEP 05 2008

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

Finnon Lake Dam, No. 4466  
El Dorado County

Dear Mr. Branham:

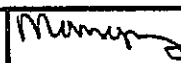

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Since 1997, DSOD has been closely working with the dam owner to resolve seismic deficiencies with the dam. A repair application was filed with DSOD on June 14, 2000 to completely remove and rebuild the dam to current seismic standards. During the review process, DSOD provided technical expertise and both DSOD and the Department of Water Resources Division of Local Assistance provided assistance with the environmental permitting aspects of the project. The repair application was approved by DSOD on December 22, 2005.

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We fully support the owners request for funding through the Proposition 84 Grants Program. This project is being required by DSOD in the interest of dam safety, but its completion will have many additional benefits. Once the project is completed, DSOD will remove its current storage restriction of 50 acre-feet on the reservoir. Restoring the reservoir capacity to its original capacity of 350 acre-feet will have the added benefits of increasing wetland habitat, improving aesthetics in the area, enhancing recreational opportunities such as fishing and camping, and increasing quantities of a valuable water source used for combating fires.

<b>SURNAME</b> <small>DWR 540 (Rev. 1/86)</small>	 9/4/08	 9/4/08		
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Mr. Jim Branham  
SEP 05 2008  
Page 2

If you have any questions or need any addition Information, you may contact me at (916) 227-9800 or have your staff contact Acting Regional Engineer Andrew Mangney at (916) 227-4635.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Mike Zumot, Acting Chief  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Ms. Leslie Baumgartner  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association  
9009 Orval Beckett Court  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. Mark Egbert, District Manager  
El Dorado County and Georgetown  
Divide Resource Conservation Districts  
100 Forni Road, Suite A  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. Bob Kingman  
Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

AJMangney:TinaGlorioso  
Finnon Lake Dam.doc  
Spell Check 9/2/08

Files

SEP 05 2008

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

Finnon Lake Dam, No. 4466  
El Dorado County

Dear Mr. Branham:

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SURNAME



*Manning* 9/14/08

*M. Wagoner* 9/11/08

DWR 540 (Rev. 1/86)

Mr. Jim Branham  
SEP 05 2008  
Page 2

If you have any questions or need any addition Information, you may contact me at (916) 227-9800 or have your staff contact Acting Regional Engineer Andrew Mangney at (916) 227-4635.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Mike Zumot, Acting Chief  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Ms. Leslie Baumgartner  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association  
9009 Orval Beckett Court  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. Mark Egbert, District Manager  
El Dorado County and Georgetown  
Divide Resource Conservation Districts  
100 Forni Road, Suite A  
Placerville, California 95667

Mr. Bob Kingman  
Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

AJMangney:TinaGlorioso  
Finnon Lake Dam.doc  
Spell Check 9/2/08

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

CENTRAL DISTRICT  
901 P STREET, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
CRAMENTO, CA 958146424



September 5, 2008

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive  
Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

TO: Distribution List

The California Department of Water Resources encourages local agencies to participate in Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) and pursue Proposition 84 funding including the consideration of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project. In 2006, Proposition 84 was passed which provides a new source of funding for local assistance grants to qualified integrated regional water management projects. The California Department of Water Resources is preparing guidelines to implement water management projects that will provide sustainable and reliable water supplies, promote environmental stewardship, and improve water quality.

In 2002 and 2005, Central District provided technical assistance and field support to the Finnon Lake owner, Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) by investigating and producing the Preliminary Wetland Delineation Report and the Site Assessment for the California Red Legged Frog Report for the Finnon Lake Reconstruction Project. The MVFA was required to repair the Finnon Lake dam due to stability deficiencies. Central District will continue to provide support and regional coordination to advance information sharing with IRWMP coordinators to provide recognition and assessment for the environmental and water supply value Finnon Lake provides to the community.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 651-0759.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Nozuka".

Robert Nozuka, Chief  
Resources Assessment Branch

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Page 2  
September 5, 2008

Distribution List

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

Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive  
Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603



# The County of El Dorado

## Chief Administrative Office

Gayle Erbe-Hamlin  
Chief Administrative Officer

Sam Driggers  
Economic Development Coordinator

330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667-4197

Phone (530)621-5570  
Fax (530)626-5730  
[www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/economic](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/economic)

August 19, 2008

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer  
Mr. Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject: Support for Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application - Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program.**

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that the El Dorado County, Economic Development Advisory Commission supports the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project's grant application.

This project involves the complete removal and reconstruction of the embankment, restoring Finnon Lake to its original capacity of 350 acre-feet of surface water storage. A restored Finnon Lake will rejuvenate fishery and wildlife habitat, while providing a reliable water source for combating seasonal wildfires. From the economic development perspective, a restored Finnon Lake will act as a catalyst for revitalizing the rural tourism and recreational industries of the area, providing a secure revenue stream to fund local natural resource and conservation programs. As an added socio-economic impact, we believe that by funding the Finnon Lake restoration project an important watershed is re-established and community values that once were a centerpiece of activity at the lake will reappear.

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 includes \$54 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. The EDAC feels this is the type of project that not only meets the intent of Proposition 84, but also the program guidelines for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's local assistance grants program.

The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, on behalf of the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association, has been instrumental in generating collaboration and resource optimization among multiple agencies and community organizations in an effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and implementation measures are efficiently deployed and comprehensive in scope. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique and ensures funding contributions from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy are successfully leveraged for project implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of the Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 916-202-7575.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Owen".

Mike Owen, Chair  
County of El Dorado, Economic Development Advisory Commission