



The Sierra Fund's 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Sierra Fund's mission is to increase and organize investment in protecting and restoring the natural resources and communities of the Sierra Nevada region.

NEW INITIATIVES

- ♦ The Sierra Fund has stepped into a prominent role as fiscal sponsor of a \$5.5 million grant for nearly a dozen projects in the Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) region, a program that will fund water infrastructure and natural resources projects at regional water agencies, cities, and nonprofits over the next three years.
- ♦ TSF is coordinating a regional Sediment and Mercury Abatement Initiative, an integrated suite of projects from local and federal agencies and nonprofits that address the various stages of abandoned mine assessment and cleanup.
- ♦ TSF is leading community outreach around Grass Valley's current EPA Brownfields grant, so the community is aware of the benefits these activities bring to their town.
- ♦ TSF is assisting Nevada Irrigation District to showcase and conduct technical demonstrations of their innovative project to remove mercury and sediment from their reservoirs.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH

- ♦ TSF convened a "Mercury Health Summit" which featured mercury expert Dr. Jane Hightower, bringing hard information to the State Capitol on mercury exposure in California.
- ♦ TSF hosted a series of community meetings about the health impacts of legacy mining contaminants in rural Sierra communities, drawing over 250 participants.
- ♦ TSF, in partnership with the California Indian Environmental Alliance, hosted a series of trainings for clinic staff and their patients on mercury in fish, with over 150 participants.
- ♦ TSF's outreach team spoke with over 500 people at regional events, bringing them information on how to make good choices about which fish to eat in order to avoid exposure to high levels of mercury.

DEFENDING NEIGHBORHOODS

- ♦ TSF has been working with the San Juan Ridge Taxpayers Association (SJRTA), neighbors of the proposed San Juan Ridge Mine, to ensure that proposed mines are carefully studied prior to approval.
- ♦ TSF was featured in the film "Water for Gold" about the SJRTA fight.
- ♦ TSF has worked to strengthen California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act as sponsors of legislation proposed in 2014 by Senator Fran Pavley.

& ACTIVITIES

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO MINES



The Sierra Fund's science staff and cultural resources contractor at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, where our project is providing a model for a coordinated assessment of legacy mine sites in the Sierra

INFORMING SIERRA COMMUNITIES



TSF's public meeting on legacy mining impacts held in April 2014 in Quincy

LEADERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



TSF CEO Elizabeth Martin with former Department of Toxic Substances Control Director Debra Rafael and EPA Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld, at EPA's Environmental Justice Teach-In, March 2014

MINE ASSESSMENT AND CLEANUP PILOT PROJECTS

- ◆ TSF completed a three-year assessment of the Humbug Creek watershed in Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, including management recommendations that are shaping our next steps to address contamination in the watershed.
- ◆ TSF is working through the acquisition of a property that was once home to a large gold mine, and which is now considered for a public park – a project that presents both legal complexities and the need to ensure that public health is protected.
- ◆ TSF showed the ongoing impacts of California's mining history, and the progress that is now being made to address it, to numerous leaders in 2014, most notably the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, Undersecretary of Cal/EPA, the Chair and Executive Director of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, eleven members of the state legislature, leaders of the Department of Conservation, and a film crew from the country of Suriname. Additionally, we co-sponsored tours with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Assemblyman Dahle, among other partners.

MERCURY AND THE WATER BOND

- ◆ TSF won language in the now-adopted water bond (Proposition 1) to direct funding toward remediating legacy mines that are contributing mercury to the Delta and San Francisco Bay.
- ◆ Leading up to passage of the bond, TSF built a coalition of partners and participated as experts in numerous hearings, meetings and conferences to shape the bond language.
- ◆ TSF participated in oversight hearings of the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee about abandoned mines and mercury in California.

PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES

- ◆ TSF, leading a team of project partners, completed the Nisenan Tribute Site, the newest phase of the Tribute Trail, which pays tribute to the original people of the Nevada City area and connects a loop trail across Deer Creek with the striking Angkula Seo suspension bridge.
- ◆ ART-OnSite, another project related to the Tribute Trail and sponsored by TSF, completed its project with installation of environmental art along the trail.
- ◆ TSF launched the Rural Policy Education Program, a new fund dedicated to educating legislators about our region through first-hand experience and tours.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- ◆ Tim Seward assumed leadership of The Sierra Fund as Board Chair at this year's annual Legislative Reception.
- ◆ Finance Manager Judy Parks joined our team as the newest staff member of TSF.
- ◆ TSF continued to benefit from participation in the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership with new member Kelsey Westfall and returning member Karen Atkins.

TOURS



TSF's Science Director giving a tour to a film crew from Suriname, where a modern day gold rush is using environmentally devastating techniques similar to those TSF is working to address in California today

BUILDING BRIDGES



TSF and partners on the new Angkula Seo Bridge, at the opening ceremony of the Nisenan Tribute Site, October 2014

A GROWING ORGANIZATION



TSF staff, November 2014