

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 3081
AUTHOR: Assembly Natural Resources

BILL SUMMARY: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

This bill would revise the definition of nonprofit organization for the purposes of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Conservancy). Specifically, the bill would redefine nonprofit organization to mean a private organization whose charitable purposes are consistent with the mission of the Conservancy.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have no fiscal impact to the state. However, it would allow more nonprofit organizations to apply for the Conservancy's grants. The revised 2008-09 Governor's Budget includes \$17 million Proposition 84 funds for the Conservancy's local assistance grant program.

COMMENTS

This bill would have no fiscal impact and concerns a policy matter on which we are neutral.

The Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act (Act) established the Conservancy to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The Act also defined a nonprofit organization as those organizations that have charitable purposes of (1) preservation of land for scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, or open space opportunities; (2) protection of the natural environment, preservation, or enhancement of wildlife; (3) preservation of cultural and historical resources; or (4) providing for the enjoyment of public lands. This bill would revise the definition of nonprofit organization to mean a private organization whose charitable purposes are consistent with the purposes of the Conservancy.

According to the Conservancy, there are a number of nonprofit organizations that are engaged in work consistent with its mission, but do not have the specific charitable purposes enumerated in the Conservancy's governing statute. For example, organizations engaged in fire safe activities, rural economic development, cultural activities, and efforts to conserve agricultural lands have projects that fit for the Conservancy's mission, but are not organized in a manner that meets the statutory requirements. Consequently, these nonprofit organizations are not eligible for the Conservancy's grants under existing law.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	SO	LA	CO	PROP	FC	FC	FC	FC	
	(Dollars in Thousands)								
	RV	98	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	Code
3855/SierraNevCon	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0140
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0140	Environmental License Plate Fund, Calif								

Analyst/Principal (0633) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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