



## December 2015 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

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### ***Upcoming Events***

***Jan. 6, 2016 Annual General and Membership Meeting*** – scheduled at 12 Noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley. The Sierrans' bylaws require an annual general meeting of the membership be held in January of each year.

As the organization started in 2015 and the initial directors' terms are for 2 or 3 years (to create a staggering of directors' terms), there is no need to re-elect existing directors at this meeting this year. However, the organization is still looking for additional directors and anyone that might be interested should contact David Watkinson the [dwatkinson@sierrans.org](mailto:dwatkinson@sierrans.org) prior to the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss ideas for activities, speakers, and other items we want to consider for the 2016.

***Jan 13, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting*** – scheduled at 12 Noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley.

### ***Sierrans Tax Exempt Status***

The Sierrans is a 501(c)(4) public benefit non-profit corporation. It obtained federal tax exempt status effective Sept. 21, 2015.

Application Form 3500A has been completed and was sent to the California Franchise Tax Board on Nov. 13, 2015 to request exemption from California state taxes. The Franchise Tax Board has acknowledged the submittal of the Application and it is expected the process will take several months to complete.

### ***Sierrans Register with the California Registry of Charitable Trusts***

As of December 3, The Sierrans have registered with the Office of the California Attorney General, Department of Justice, Registry of Charitable Trusts as a public benefit corporation. The registration number is CT0226771.

### ***Sierrans Accomplishments for 2015***

It has been a busy year and the Sierrans successfully accomplished a number of tasks in 2015 as a start-up non-profit. These accomplishments include:

- Naming of the corporation (Mar.)
- Obtaining and Employer Identification Number from the IRS (Apr.)
- Completing initial Articles of Incorporation (Apr.)
- Registering the corporation as a 501(c)(4) organization (Apr.)
- Holding a first meeting of the membership and electing the initial Board of Directors (May)
- Holding a first Board of Directors meeting (May);
- Completing and approving the corporations bylaws (May)
- Completing and approving a mission statement and business plan (Jun.)
- Selecting an logo for the corporation (Jun.)
- Opening a bank account (Jul.)
- Completing an initial website (Aug.)
- Completing Restated Articles of Incorporation (Sep.)
- Obtaining federal tax exempt status (Oct., retroactive to Sep.)
- Filing for state tax exempt status (Nov.)
- Registering with the CA Registry of Charitable Trusts (Dec.)

## ***Sierrans Accomplishments for 2015 (continued)***

The Sierrans became active in monitoring, educating about, and potentially influencing legislation related to the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This obviously involves a learning curve. We took a position opposing senate bill SB637, a senate bill to regulate suction dredging in California. We are currently monitoring SB209 and AB1142, two bills looking to modify the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act in California. While this bill did not make it to Governor Brown this year, it is likely they will be consolidated and further advanced in 2016.

The Sierrans also began to network with other organizations working to support the resource industries in the Sierra Nevadas. This included networking with CALCIMA, the Western Mining Alliance, the American Mining Rights Alliance, the Motherlode Goldhounds, and others.

A site visit was made to the Combie Lake Sediment Project by many members of the Sierrans in conjunction with the Engineering Association of Nevada County (EANC). This is a Project by the Nevada Irrigation District, supported by the Sierra Fund. NID is doing a pilot test study for mining aggregates and removing mercury from Sierra Nevada reservoirs.

A number of educational talks were put on by various speakers including Jim Wood, Alberto Ramirez, Charlie Alpers (USGS), Pat Hurley, and David Watkinson.

We also started to get organized for what will be many more fun social events for the organization. A first picnic for the members was hosted by Lyla Tracy at her home in Washington CA.

The Board of Directors of the Sierrans would like to thank everyone who participated in forming the new organization, participated in meetings and events, supported us monetarily with membership dues and

donations, and helped to get the organization off to a great start.

## ***Sierrans Plans for 2016***

Our goals for 2016 are simple:

1. Grow membership (individual and corporate).
2. Expand representation from the various resource industries the Sierrans represent.
3. Become more active in monitoring, educating about, and influencing legislation that affects the resource industries in the Sierra Nevadas.
4. Become active in sourcing and obtaining grants for the organization and working on projects that benefit the resource industries and the public.
5. Expand our social activities, education activities, and become a voice for the resource industries in the Sierra Nevadas.

These goals and objectives will be discussed and fine-tuned at our January annual meeting.

## ***Contact Us***

You can contact us at [info@sierrans.org](mailto:info@sierrans.org) or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.



**Happy Holidays!**

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