

Sierra Nevada Alliance

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014



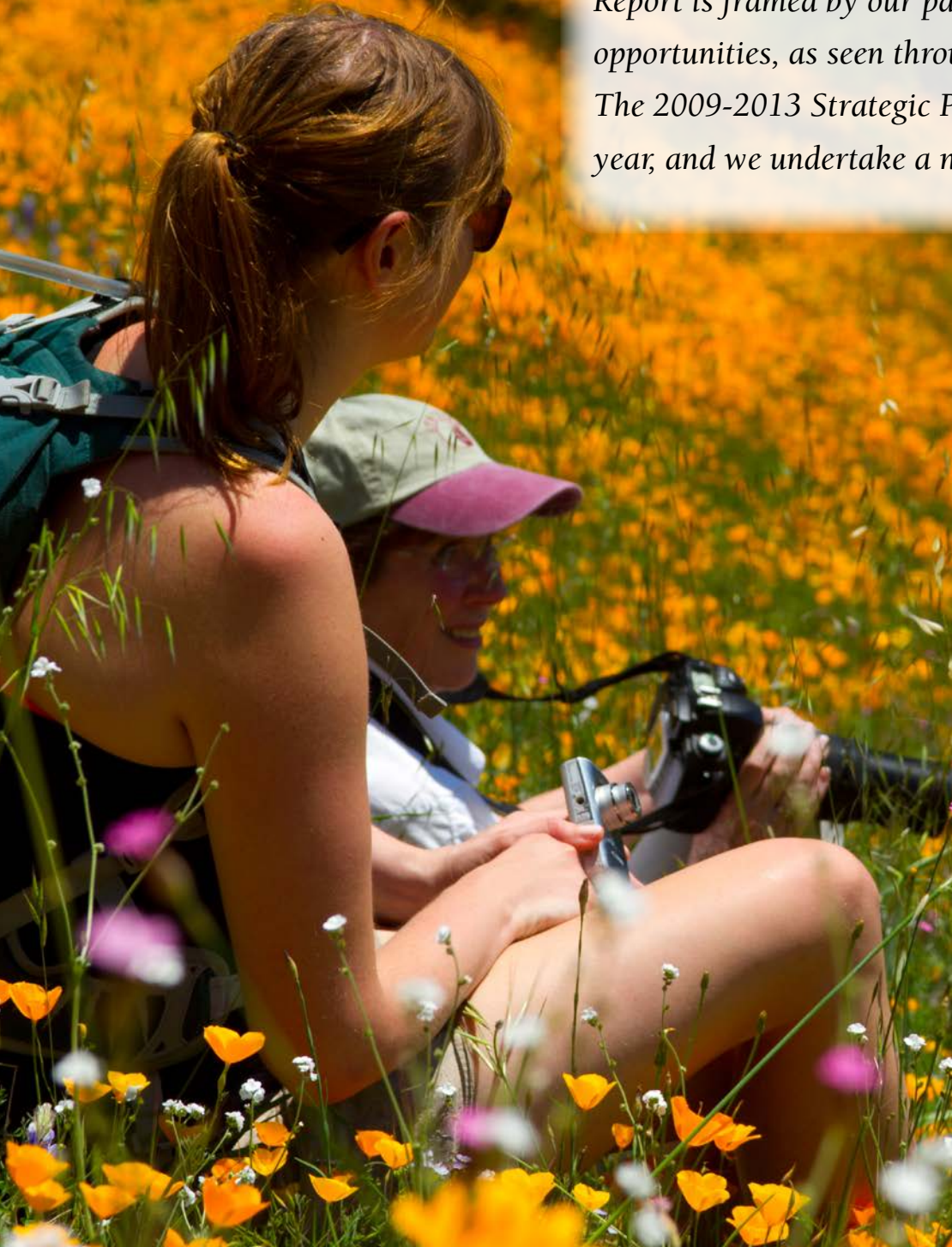
SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's mission is to protect and restore the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013 - 2014

As the Alliance enters its 21st year, it is a time for reflecting and strategizing. This Annual Report is framed by our past successes and future opportunities, as seen through our Strategic Plans. The 2009-2013 Strategic Plan ends with this fiscal year, and we undertake a new three-year plan.





As Alliance Board and staff designed the new Strategic Plan, the primary goal was to consider the organization's greatest successes over the past 20 years, with a focus on the last 5 years; then identify opportunities for similar, concentrated programs going forward. Broadly, the Alliance will continue to support its Member Groups and their outstanding work, including providing AmeriCorps Members to build capacity through the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) Program, while focusing existing conservation programs on the nexus between land use and water management.

This report is not an evaluation of our now-ending Strategic Plan, but a framing document for our future work. Each of our continuing and evolving programs is evaluated based on past performance and shaped based on future opportunities. With the continued support from our Member Groups, individual Members, and partner organizations, we look forward to continuing and accelerating our work to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada for future generations.

Member Group Support Program – Building the Capacity of over 90 Groups to Save the Sierra.

2009-2013 Strategic Plan objective: Sustain mutually-supportive relationships with our Members Groups so that we have a 95% annual satisfaction rate and maintain at least 100 Member Groups.

In FY 13-14, the Sierra Nevada Alliance had 98 Member Groups in its network. The Alliance helped groups raise funds, shape their campaigns, activate advocates, and connect with experts. The Alliance also acted as fiscal sponsor for 12 groups, such as the Sierra Water Workgroup. Sponsorship provides these groups accounting and administrative support to operate as a charitable organization.

Objectives in 2014 Strategic Plan: The Alliance will strive to achieve and maintain over 100 Member Groups that are engaged with our work and share our values.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014

One of the Alliance's greatest Member Group support services is the continued success of the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Program (SNAP).

2009-2013 Strategic Plan objective (SNAP section of Member Group support): Continue to secure funding and lead the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) providing at least 27 members to at least 13 different partnering groups to do conservation work in the Sierra.

The Alliance's **Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP)** completed its 7th year, and launched the 8th year. The 2013 AmeriCorps program expanded with more federal support. We ran a half-term Member program alongside our Full-term member program. This expansion resulted in 36 AmeriCorps members serving the Sierra with over 18 partner groups.

The 2013 AmeriCorps Members served the Sierra by:

- ◆ Restoring 1,986 acres of impaired habitats and degraded watersheds
- ◆ Educating 13,870 individuals on Sierra conservation issues
- ◆ Recruiting and supporting 3,977 volunteers who served 21,807 hours on conservation projects.
- ◆ Securing 186 donations for our partnering conservation groups.

The 2014 AmeriCorps Program got off to a great start with twenty-eight Members placed at twenty partner organizations, in all six Sierra regions, from Redding to Visalia.

Objectives in 2014 Strategic Plan: We will replace the SNAP program with our own "Sierra Corps" program that will strengthen and empower our Member Groups with a long-term, sustainable opportunity to train a new generation of environmental leaders.

Sustainable Sierra Communities Program - Engaging and supporting efforts to adopt exemplary local sustainable community actions

2009-2013 Strategic Plan Objective: Engage and support efforts to adopt exemplary local sustainable community actions in each of the 7 Sierra regions

The Alliance completed its **Truckee River Friendly Landscaping Project**. For four years, the Sustainable Sierra Communities (SSC) program and AmeriCorps worked with the Truckee River Watershed Council and homeowners in Truckee River Neighborhoods to evaluate properties and implement at least 100 Best Management Practices (BMPs) for protecting the watershed. The project entailed doing outreach to interest homeowners in Truckee and the targeted Truckee neighborhoods, distributing 2,057 Sierra Yard and Garden Guides, providing free home consultations to identify yard and garden problems creating non-point source pollution, and based on the site evaluation at the home consultation, creating a Treatment Workbook with a site plan for each homeowner. In total, the program implemented 128 BMPs over the four-year duration.

For the sixth year, the Alliance helped organize and staff the **Great Sierra River Clean-up**, coordinating approximately 100 people in the Tahoe Basin. SNAP Members throughout the Sierra organized and coordinated hundreds more volunteers to help clean Sierra watersheds. The SSC Program continued to highlight successful sustainable community actions through case studies, webinars, and e-news. The Sierra Spokes electronic newsletter merged with the Weekly, our most popular e-news.

Objectives in 2014 Strategic Plan: The SSC program will be combined with the Regional Climate Change program to create new Land and Water Program.



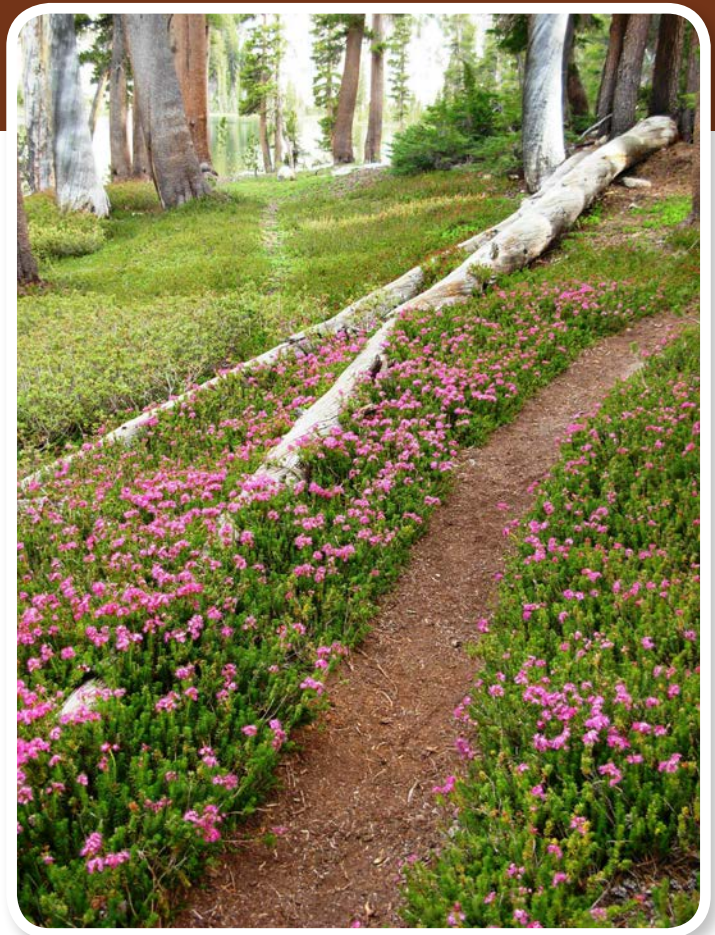
Regional Climate Change Program – Engaging Regional Planning to Protect our Natural Environment

2009-2013 Strategic Plan objective: Engage and support regional efforts to adopt exemplary sustainable plans in each of the 7 Sierra regions.

In December of 2013, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the **Plumas County General Plan and EIR**. Regional Climate Change (RCC) Program staff built a small coalition of Alliance Member Groups and individual advocates and worked with the coalition to analyze the proposed policies and effectively engage in the public process. Overall, the community worked with planners and elected officials to create a plan which reflects the values and politics of their community. The work included successfully pushing back on competing and less environmentally protective proposals from Sierra Pacific Industries, a timber company, and a local Property Rights group trying to link the plan to an alleged international Agenda 21 effort.

In January of 2014, **Lake Tahoe's first Sustainability Action Plan** was released. The RCC Program took a leading role in developing the Plan by drafting the Community Engagement chapter, collecting public input on the Plan, and providing expertise in climate change planning, community engagement and outreach, and collaborative work. This is a cutting-edge and unique Plan, and its "toolkit" nature makes it a model for other regions in the Sierra. The Plan 2014 received the Excellence Award for Innovation in Green Community Planning from the American Planning Association (California Chapter and Sacramento Valley Section).

On June 26, 2014, the **Fresno Council of Governments (COG) unanimously approved the 2014 Fresno County Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)**. The Alliance worked for over a year with coalitions of state, regional, and local groups to influence the SCS in order to protect working lands, open space, and water resources. While the plan alternative adopted was not the first choice for the Alliance and the coalitions, the elected officials used the words "Working regionally" with positive connotations, and stated that the SCS is a "good opportunity" for the region. Both these factors are huge shifts in the conversation in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, which includes counties stretching from the valley floor to the Sierra crest. Our continued pressure, collaborative efforts, and outreach resulted in our three primary policy proposals included in this SCS.



Recapping our natural resource planning efforts over the last five years, the RCC Program successfully supported efforts to adopt six model plans: the Mariposa County General Plan, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Climate Action Plan, the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), the Plumas County General Plan, the Fresno County Sustainable Communities Strategy/Regional Transportation Plan, the Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan. While none of these plans are perfect, they all have aspects that make them models – resource protection, public process, innovative approaches, etc. The seventh effort was a true failure. The Tulare County general Plan, due to a poor public engagement process and woefully inadequate plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors, was rightfully sued by an Alliance Member Group.

The RCC Program continued to support the **Sierra Water Workgroup** and help the group to shape smart state Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and water policy, including assisting the group in hosting a Sierra IRWM Summit and maintaining a website. RCC Program staff and interns continued to publish the monthly Climate Change News and Land Use News e-newsletters, alternating months, before combining them into single, monthly "Sierra Resource." The Resource was further combined with the Weekly so the Alliance now has a single – newsletter, The Sierra Resource, which goes out twice a month.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014

For the second year, the Alliance's Regional Climate Change Program has led the **Ski Area Citizens' Coalition** and released the annual Environmental Scorecard. Each year, close to 90 ski areas in the western US are evaluated on their environmental practices based on 35 criteria. Released just before Thanksgiving and the beginning of the 2013-14 ski season, the Scorecard urged skiers and snowboarders to choose their resort based on environmental considerations. This 12th annual scorecard highlighted the nascent effort toward on-site renewable energy generation at ski resorts.

Objectives in 2014 Strategic Plan: The Regional Climate Change Program is merging with the Sustainable Sierra Communities Program, becoming the Alliance's new Land and Water Program. One of the priority campaigns will be to ensure that all County general plans throughout the Sierra contain a significant water protection element as they are updated.

Sustaining the Organization to Sustain the Sierra!

2009-2013 Strategic Plan Goal: Attract and maintain the staff, funding and internal capacity to achieve 2009-2014 Strategic Plan goals.

The Alliance had a number of **staff changes**, most notably the departure of our Executive Director, Joan Clayburgh, after 12 amazing years. Thank you, Joan, for all of your hard work and we wish you the best on your next adventure! Jim Ross, who started as Executive Director in March of 2014, replaced Joan. The Alliance **moved offices** one more time, downscaling and supporting a local Collaborative workspace. We look forward to the next year, under new leadership and in a new location in South Lake Tahoe.

Objectives in 2014 Strategic Plan: Have sufficient capacity and funds to implement this plan and develop a fund surplus.



Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Alliance would like to thank everyone who donated during 2013 – 2014

THANKS TO OUR KEY SUPPORTERS

(\$10,000 +)

- ◆ Conservation Lands Foundation
- ◆ The Conservation Alliance
- ◆ Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
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American River Conservancy
American Rivers
Bear Creek Watershed Group
Bear Yuba Land Trust
Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership
California Invasive Plant Council
California Native Plant Society - Alta Peak Chapter
California Native Plant Society - Red Bud Chapter
California Native Plant Society - Sierra Foothills Chapter
California Oaks
California Save our Streams Council
California Trout Eastern Sierra Program
California Trout- Northern Sierra Program
California Urban Streams Alliance
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Community Action Project
Community for Respectful Firearms Use
Defenders of Wildlife
Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT)
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch
Echo Lakes Environment Fund
Environmental Consumer
FoCuS-Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability
Foothill Conservancy
Foothills Water Network

Forest Issues Group
Foresthill Residents for Responsible Growth
Friends of Hope Valley
Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain
Friends of Mariposa Creek
Friends of Squaw Valley
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the North Fork
Friends of the West Shore
Gardens For A Healthy Tahoe
Gold Country Fly Fishers
High Sierra Rural Alliance
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Lake Tahoe Water Trail
League to Save Lake Tahoe
Local Water Stays Local
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Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG)
Mono Lake Committee
Moonlight Valley Alliance
Mountain Area Preservation Foundation
Mountain Meadows Conservancy
North Fork American River Alliance
Pacific Rivers Council
Planning and Conservation League
Restore Hetch Hetchy
Rural Quality Foundation
San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum

Sequoia Forestkeeper
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Shasta Land Trust
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition
Sierra Club Kern Kaweah Chapter
Sierra Club Maidu Group
Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter
Sierra Club Placer Group
Sierra Club Range of Light Group
Sierra Club Sierra Nevada Group
Sierra Club Tahoe Area
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter
Sierra Club Yahi Group
Sierra Cycling Foundation
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sierra Fund
Sierra Green Building Association
Sierra Institute for Community & Environment
Sierra Streams Institute
Sierra Watch
Sierra Water Work Group
Slow Food Lake Tahoe Chapter
Small World
Snowlands Network
South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
Sustainable Tahoe
Tahoe Baikal Institute (TBI)
Tahoe Institute for Natural Science
Tahoe Tallac Association
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Truckee River Watershed Council
Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth
Tuolumne County Land Trust
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Wilderness Society
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Yosemite Area Audubon Society

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Bodie Hills Conservation
Partnership
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Foothill Water Network
Friends of Squaw Valley
Incorporate Olympic Valley
Lake Tahoe Water Trail
Local Water Stays Local
Sierra Water Work Group
Small World
Tulare County Citizens for
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Sierra Streams Institute
South Yuba River Citizen's League
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Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2014

Assets

Cash	\$ 112,542
Accounts Receivable	\$ 52,830
Property and Equip.	\$ -
Restricted Cash	\$ 267,090
Prepaid Other	\$ 19,326
Total Assets	\$ 451,789

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$ 3
Vacation Payable	\$ 8,559
Total Liabilities	\$ 8,561

Temporarily Restricted	\$ 285,503
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 157,723
Temporarily Restricted & Net Assets	\$ 443,226

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ **451,788**

Financial Statement

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Support and Revenue

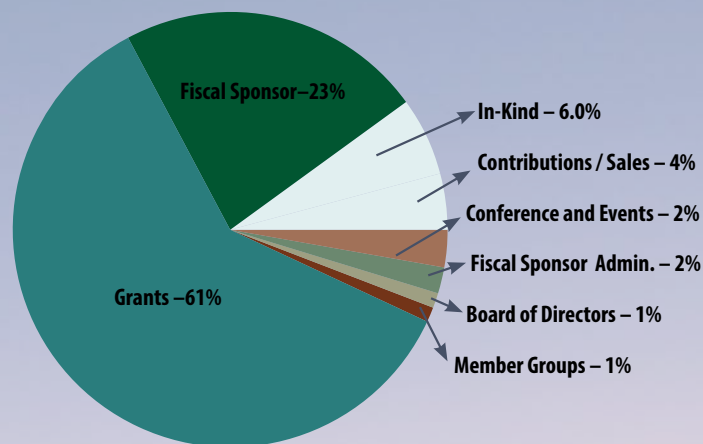
Board of Directors	\$ 11,914
Conference and Events	\$ 36,606
Contributions	\$ 60,832
Fiscal Sponsorships - Admin Fees	\$ 28,520
Fiscal Sponsorships	\$ 338,889
Grants	\$ 888,495
In-Kind	\$ 90,191
Member Groups	\$ 8,555
Sales	\$ 1,730
Total Revenue	\$1,465,733

Expenses

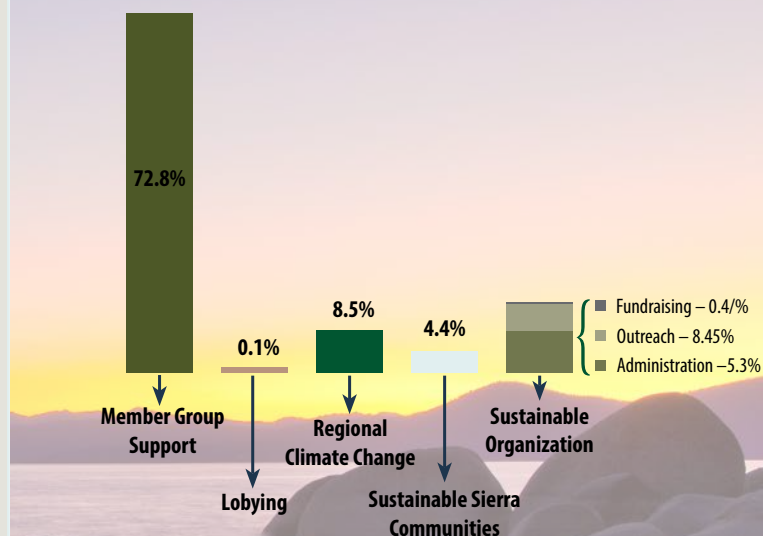
Personnel and Benefits	\$ 370,773
Conference and Facilities	\$ 31,608
Consultants & Sub Contractors	\$ 51,688
Fiscal Sponsors	\$ 212,575
In-Kind	\$ 90,191
Operating	\$ 88,420
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$ 531,591
Travel/Training	\$ 10,159

Total Expenses \$ **1,387,004**

Support and Revenue



Expenses by Program



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Keeping light in the range.

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