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**Support of Upgrade and Improvements to the Donner Summit Public Utilities District
Facility at Donner Summit
July 15, 2011**

Sierra Watch is pleased to express our appreciation for the role of the Donner Summit PUD and Sierra Lakes County Water District (SLCWD) in setting a new standard for sewage treatment on Donner Summit.

For some years the performance of the Donner Summit sewage treatment plant has been unacceptable, discharging into the Yuba River levels of various by-products of effluent or effluent that are too high.

The State has sanctioned the plant and demanded corrections so the Yuba River can be better protected.

To correct the problems the Donner Summit Public Utility District and the Sierra Lakes County Water District could have pursued a variety of strategies.

In our opinion, you have taken the most environmentally responsible and beneficial approach to the problem – thereby better protecting the river and ratepayers.

The two districts have chosen to build a new sewer plant using proven technology for the main sewage treatment and improving plant efficiency to deal with challenges to sewage processing unique to high altitude plants.

In addition the two districts have looked down the road at coming State regulations. The technology employed in the new plant will easily be able to be adjusted to deal with the issue of emerging contaminants. Therefore the plant's useful life will be long and river will be protected for future generations.

We compliment the Donner Summit Public Utility District and the Sierra Lakes County Water District for their responsible and pro-active response to the current issues and needs as well as the future requirements. With the new plant, the two districts will have done their best for the Yuba River, a result of which all Californians can be proud.

Sincerely,

Peter Van Zant
Field Director