Sierra Business Council has gone above and beyond in our efforts this year to increase community vitality, economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social fairness in the Sierra Nevada. Our small business development efforts, advocacy focus, and climate action programs enhanced our positive impact in the region.

**Business Innovation**
The Sierra Small Business Development Center served 328 unique clients, provided 1,272 hours in counseling, helped create or retain 129 jobs and infuse $10.5 million into the community. Our business innovation team also re-launched the Martis Fund Down Payment Assistance program to qualified working families. The Gold Country Broadband Consortium worked to bridge the region’s digital divide by identifying pockets of unserved areas through over 100 resident internet speed tests and six community meetings.

**Advocacy**
Our government affairs team advocated for and helped secure $142 million for the Sierra in the passage of Proposition 68. Our first sponsored bill, AB 2849, passed with bipartisan support, recognizing the importance of restoring the Sierra’s watersheds and decreasing wildfire risk. We advocated for and promoted the California 100% Clean Energy Act (SB 100), wildfire prevention legislation (SB 901), the California Internet Consumer Protection and Net Neutrality Act of 2018 (SB 822), as well as affordable housing measures, Propositions 1 and 2.

**Climate & Energy**
The Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (Sierra CAMP) hosted two wildfire disaster preparedness workshops for high risk communities and provided educational workshops and webinars on forest restoration, biomass case studies, and climate change policies. The Climate Planning team completed an Energy Action Plan for the City of Sonora, assisted in the development of Placer County’s Sustainability Plan, and are currently working with Grass Valley and Nevada County in the development of Energy Action Plans as well as with Mammoth Lakes on the Town’s Climate Action Plan.

To learn more about Sierra Business Council’s program work, or to donate, visit www.SierraBusiness.org