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**The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council Announces  
New Executive Director**

*Native Californian from long-time farming and ranching family, Allene Zanger, joins the Stewardship Council after working as a Regional Director of the U.S. Peace Corps*

San Mateo, Calif.—The Stewardship Council, a collaborative land conservation and youth investment foundation has appointed Allene Zanger to be its new Executive Director, effective February 17, 2009. Zanger brings with her a wealth of knowledge of both youth and land conservation issues as well as a demonstrated ability to lead a large organization, serving most recently as Regional Director for the United States Peace Corps for the Inter-America and Pacific Region. She also has a unique understanding of the organization’s work in California, previously serving as the Director of School-Community Partnerships in Kern County and the Vice President of Public Affairs for Tejon Ranch.

“I am pleased and honored to serve as the Stewardship Council’s Executive Director,” says Zanger. “The Stewardship Council is doing something special – providing a lasting legacy to the people of California. I wanted to be a part of the organization because of its unique work in developing a body of knowledge on how to conserve some of our state’s most pristine land and how to better engage our youth with the outdoors. I intend to listen to the board, the staff and our stakeholders to expand and broaden our efforts to preserve and enhance the watershed lands in perpetuity.”

With a passion for the outdoors and a family history of farming and ranching in California, Zanger is a perfect fit for the Stewardship Council’s mission and work. Her leadership role extends far and wide, most recently as the U.S. Peace Corps Regional Director of the Inter-America and Pacific Region where she oversaw a federal budget of \$58 million. She intends to couple her experience enhancing the visibility of a large federal agency through key partnerships with her knowledge of California youth and land organizations.

Zanger’s passion for youth is evident from her work for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office. As the Director of School-Community Partnerships, she helped secure funding for programs supporting at-risk youth and worked to create deeper collaboration among local organizations and the community. Zanger also has extensive legal experience, serving as Deputy Attorney General at the Office of the California Attorney General in San Francisco and General Counsel and Vice President of Public Affairs for the Tejon Ranch Company.

Randy Livingston, Board Secretary and Vice President with PG&E, spoke of the board’s decision. “Through her work leading a large federal organization coupled with her experience in land conservation and youth issues, Allene is uniquely qualified to lead the Stewardship Council

efforts. She will add her expertise and leadership to our team as they work to conserve more than 140,000 of California's watershed lands and ensure that all youth have the opportunity to appreciate, explore and experience the outdoors."

The Stewardship Council is a collaborative land conservation and youth investment foundation. Its mandate includes evaluating and providing recommendations for the conservation of more than 140,000 acres of watershed lands (currently owned by PG&E) spread across 22 counties, as well as developing and implementing community-based park and environmental education opportunities for underserved youth.

"Allene has the practical knowledge of how to successfully lead an organization like ours." says Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency Mike Chrisman, President of the Stewardship Council Board of Directors, "She also has a passion for our mission which genuinely stands out."

The Stewardship Council is currently working on developing the third and final volume of the Land Conservation Plan (LCP) for the watershed lands located across 22 counties. The goal is to ensure that the LCP will permanently protect, preserve and enhance the watershed lands, consistent with the mission of the Stewardship Council.

The Stewardship Council will also continue to grow its Youth Investment Program. This year, the Stewardship Council has allocated more than \$2 million in grants for both programming and infrastructure to organizations that address the barriers that prevent youth from discovering the natural environment.

"With Allene's leadership," added Secretary Chrisman, "we are looking forward to continuing our past successes as well as increasing our capacity to effect lasting change to the lives of California's youth, which will benefit generations of Californians to come."

For more information about the Stewardship Council please visit the Web site:  
[www.stewardshipcouncil.org](http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org).

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