



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 22, 2009
Contact: Matthew Hessler, CFMP
Title: Director of Marketing
Phone: (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK
NASDAQ Symbol: BSRR
Website Address: www.bankofthesierra.com

Sierra Grant Supports Earth Day Celebration in Three Rivers

Porterville, CA — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant award in the amount of \$500 to Sierra Nevada Alliance to support Earth Day 2009. On Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the Three Rivers Memorial Building in Three Rivers, the community will celebrate the earth and learn planet-friendly behaviors. Three Rivers students are encouraged to participate. Each student that completes the environmental scavenger hunt will receive a T-Shirt as part of the day-long celebration. The grant will be used to purchase these T-Shirts.

“At Bank of the Sierra, we feel it is important that children have an opportunity to discuss and practice using the planet’s resources responsibly. For this reason, we felt a Sierra Grant was well-deserved,” said Jim Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

About The Sierra Grant Program

The Sierra Grant Program is designed to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within Bank of the Sierra branch communities. The Sierra Grant Program is focused on three areas: community services, park preservation, and education. Anyone involved in a non-profit program that is interested in a Sierra Grant can pick up an instructional brochure at any Bank of the Sierra branch, or visit the bank web site at www.bankofthesierra.com.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.3 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 23 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

#####