

# Conclusion

Other existing watershed council groups have echoed many of the recommendations and strategies for success put forward in this *Watershed Council Toolkit*. Remember, there's no reason to go out there and recreate the wheel. Learn what you can about other watershed councils and what they did right; avoid pitfalls identified by those who have already experienced them. Read some of the case studies cited in previous chapters to get a feel for how other groups have dealt with the issues and problems facing new watershed council organizations.

It really helps to know you're not alone. Most groups will be happy to talk to you, if you want to call for advice or more information. And organizations like the Sierra Nevada Alliance and River Network are also here to help. Please call the Alliance with any questions or comments you have, or with any stories or lessons learned from your own efforts!

There are so many resources for helping new groups get started. Take advantage of them all! And above all, keep in mind why you got involved with this watershed council idea to begin with. When things get tough – and they will, especially around the organizational start-up and specific project development efforts – try to bring the group back to its original purpose – improving or maintaining the health of the watershed for ALL interests.

