# REVISED SOUTH TAHOE GREENWAY SHARED-USE TRAIL PROJECT

Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Initial Environmental Checklist

Environmental Assessment

Prepared for:

**California Tahoe Conservancy**

**Tahoe Regional Planning Agency**

**USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit**

Prepared by:

**Hauge Brueck Associates, LLC**

June 1, 2011

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Prepared for:

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June 1, 2011

# DRAFT
# PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**PROJECT:** Revised South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Tahoe Conservancy

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This combined Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed Revised South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project (Greenway). The Greenway establishes a Class 1 or better trail and provides the backbone of the bicycle trail network in the core of South Take Tahoe, linking residential and lodging uses to jobs, schools, shopping, and recreation and community areas. The 3.86 miles of proposed new trail linking Sierra Tract with Van Sickle Bi-State Park incorporates a section of existing bike trail at the South Lake Tahoe Community Play Fields and completes a bicycle network connection of over four miles. The Greenway generally follows the former Caltrans U.S. Highway 50 Bypass Corridor and rights-of-way (former Caltrans ROW), encompassing other public parcels nearby as needed to improve the connection or reduce or avoid environmental effects.

## FINDINGS

An IS/MND has been prepared to assess the project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the IS/MND, it has been determined that the proposed project would not have any significant effects on the environment after implementation of mitigation measures. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

1. The proposed project would have no effects related to mineral resources.

2. The proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on agricultural and forest resources, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, population and housing, recreation, and utilities and service systems.

3. Mitigation is required to reduce potentially significant impacts related to aesthetics/scenic, biological resources, cultural resources, public services, and transportation/traffic.

The following mitigation measures would be implemented by the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the environmental impacts of the proposed project to a less-than-significant level.

### *SCENIC-1. Reduce Tree Removal*

The Greenway shall be realigned within view of Pioneer Trail in locations possible to retain existing trees. Additional tree retention between Herbert and Blackwood Ave retains screening for existing man-made features.

### *SCENIC-2. Create Additional Screening*

During construction plan development, locations where fencing and additional landscaping can improve screening shall be identified for existing development, including: relocation of the existing privacy fence at the single-family residence, potentially sufficient to allow frontage planting; adding tree plantings in selected locations according to the Revegetation and Restoration Plans (RRPs) detailed in Appendix D; and where screening is necessary and safety will not be compromised, increasing screening to reduce impacts to man-made features.

### *SCENIC-3. Retain Slender Elements in the Safety Railing Design*

As noted for Question 147, the safety railing proposal that incorporates cable elements requires excessive maintenance when located where snow storage from roadways is necessary. Alternate designs more suited to maintenance needs shall be required. As construction plans develop, alternatives to the cable elements shall remain slender and allow easy visual penetration.

### *SCENIC-4. Reduce Retaining Wall Height and Length*

Retaining walls proposed for the Greenway near Ski Run Blvd shall be redesigned to be no more than eight feet tall to comply with City design standards. Retaining walls that require height greater than eight feet shall be designed with multiple tiered wall planes and stepped up the hillside. Further, no long, straight unbroken retaining walls (greater than 100 feet in length) with little or no articulation or other surface features shall be allowed.

### *BIO-1. Active Raptor and Migratory Bird Nest Site and Wildlife Nursery Site Protection Program*

The Program shall include surveys, consultation, and protective actions. Pre-construction surveys, conducted during the nesting/breeding season immediately prior to initial project construction (e.g., excavation, grading and tree removal), shall be conducted to identify any active raptor or migratory bird nest sites and wildlife nursery sites within the project area. During initial construction activities (tree removal and excavation for the construction), a qualified biological monitor shall evaluate whether any raptors or migratory birds are occupying trees or whether any wildlife den/nursery sties are within the project area. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop construction near occupied trees or nursery sites if it appears to be having a negative impact on nesting raptors or migratory birds or their young observed within the construction zone. If construction must be stopped, the monitor shall consult with TRPA staff within 24 hours (and LTBMU staff in locations on LTBMU lands) to determine appropriate actions to restart construction while reducing impacts to identified nursery sites, raptors or migratory bird nests.

### *BIO-2. Avoid Sensitive Plants or Prepare Sensitive Plan Protection Program*

If pre-project surveys identify sensitive plant species, the Conservancy shall develop a Sensitive Plant Protection Program to mitigate impacts to LTBMU Sensitive, CNPS and TRPA Special Status Plant Species. Program features shall include:

<u>Avoidance.</u> Impacts to rare plant populations identified from the rare plant surveys shall be avoided where feasible by reconfiguring project design and fencing rare plant populations to prevent encroachment.

<u>Identify, Select, and Restore or Purchase Mitigation Sites.</u> If avoidance is not feasible, the Conservancy together with input from the TRPA and LTBMU when applicable shall identify opportunities for

mitigation of sensitive plants impacts from Greenway construction and operation. Mitigation is not limited to but may include a single, or combination of the following items: restoration of degraded sensitive plant habitat owned by the Conservancy, purchase of mitigation sites, negotiation of conservation easements, or habitat restoration in off-site, degraded rare plant populations to compensate for unavoidable impacts.

Prepare a Special Status Plant Species Mitigation & Monitoring Plan. If avoidance is not feasible, the Conservancy shall produce a mitigation and monitoring plan to follow the CNPS and CDFG guidelines to comply with Chapter 10 of CDFG Native Plant Protection Policy and TRPA Code Subsection 75.2.A.

### *BIO-3. Wildlife Protection Program*

Pre-construction surveys, conducted during the nesting/breeding season immediately prior to initial project construction (e.g., excavation, grading and tree removal), shall occur for the following species: mountain yellow-legged frog, California yellow warbler, northern goshawk, and California spotted owl. Surveys will be performed wherever construction activities will occur in suitable habitat as illustrated in Figure 27. Survey methods shall be approved by TRPA, and CTC and LTBMU (when occurring on LTMBU lands) prior to commencement of surveys. Survey methods shall follow the accepted regional protocol. Survey results shall be submitted for approval to the TRPA, CTC and LTBMU prior to construction activities. If sensitive wildlife species are found, project redesign shall occur to avoid these resources. During initial construction activities (i.e., tree removal and excavation for the construction), a qualified biological monitor shall be on-site to evaluate if construction activities disturb the identified wildlife resources. The biological monitor shall have the authority to suspend construction near known wildlife territories if such activities appear to cause a negative impact on nesting raptors or migratory birds or their young observed within the construction area. If construction is suspended, the monitor shall consult with TRPA and/or LTBMU staff, as appropriate, within 24 hours to determine appropriate actions to restart construction while reducing impacts to identified wildlife individuals, pairs or territories.

### *CUL-1. Cultural Resource Monitoring Program*

A qualified archaeological monitor shall be present during initial ground disturbing activities to identify previously unknown significant or potentially significant historical and archaeological resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, the CRHR, or eligible for designation as a TRPA historical resource, and to identify any unanticipated or inadvertent impacts to known historical or archaeological resources. A Qualified archaeological monitor shall be on-site during active construction and shall inspect ground disturbing activities for the presence of cultural resources. The responsibilities of the archaeological monitor shall include: inspecting, documenting, and describing cultural material identified during monitoring; communicating with construction personnel; and notifying agencies (e.g., LTBMU, the SHPO, and TRPA) if previously unidentified historical or archaeological resources are encountered that may be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, the CRHR or eligible for designation as a TRPA historical resource. Archaeological monitors shall have the authority to halt construction activities that have the potential to disturb significant historical or archaeological resources until appropriate measures can be implemented.

Ground disturbing activities in the vicinity of the resource shall cease if the archaeological monitor determines that continuation of activity shall affect a significant historical or archaeological property, or if human remains are identified. If the archaeological monitor identifies cultural material but is unable to determine whether the resumption of the construction activity will affect historical or archaeological resources that may be eligible for listing, the monitor shall contact the appropriate agency official. Subsequent notification and consultation shall follow regulations pertaining to the evaluation of

significance, assessment of effects, and consultation with the SHPO and the ACHP, as appropriate (36 CFR, part 800.4 through 800.9).

### *PS-1. Improve Safety Railing along Pioneer Trail*

The safety railing along Pioneer Trail shall be redesigned using a more durable design capable of withstanding snow storage requirements with fewer maintenance needs.

### *TRAFFIC-1. Enhance Select Greenway Intersections to Reduce Vehicle Speeds and Increase Visibility*

To enhance crossing treatments at specific locations and to reduce vehicle speeds and increase crossing visibility, the project shall include the following measures:

- Becka Dr local road mid-block crossing: Install all-way stop control at the Glenwood Way/Becka Dr intersection to slow vehicles approaching the crossing location from Glenwood Way. Installing all-way stop control does not change the vehicle level of service at the intersection.
- Keller Rd collector road mid-block crossing: Install the warning signal before the curve and at the trail in the westbound direction.
- Larch Ave local road mid-block crossing: Install “bike crossing ahead” pavement markings before the curve in the westbound direction.
- Rocky Point (South) local road mid-block crossing: Install “bike crossing ahead” pavement markings before the curve in the westbound direction.
- Glen Rd-Rocky Point (North) local road mid-block crossing: Install “bike crossing ahead” pavement markings before the curve in the westbound direction.

Questions or comments regarding this MND may be addressed to:

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## APPROVAL OF INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Certification by Those Responsible for Preparation of this Document. The Conservancy has been responsible for the preparation of this mitigated negative declaration and the incorporated initial study. I believe this document meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, is an accurate description of the proposed project, and that the lead agency has the means and commitment to implement the project design measures that will assure the project does not have any significant, adverse effects on the environment. I recommend approval of this document.

_____ _____

Sue Rae Irelan, Project Manager* Date
California Tahoe Conservancy

Approval of the Project by the Lead Agency. Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Tahoe Conservancy Board has independently reviewed and analyzed the initial study and mitigated negative declaration for the proposed project and finds that the initial study and mitigated negative declaration for the proposed project reflect the independent judgment of the California Tahoe Conservancy Board. The lead agency finds that the project design features will be implemented as stated in the mitigated negative declaration.

I hereby approve this project.

_____ _____

Patrick Wright, Executive Officer* Date
California Tahoe Conservancy

* To be signed upon completion of the public review process and preparation of a final project approval package including responses to comment, if any, on the environmental document and any necessary modifications to project design measures.

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study (IS), Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC) and Environmental Assessment (EA) identifies and assesses the anticipated environmental impacts of the Revised South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project (Greenway), the proposed project.

## 1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

This document satisfies the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

For projects subject to CEQA, NEPA or other state or local environmental review, TRPA shall, whenever feasible, coordinate its environmental review process with the local, state or federal process. Coordination includes joint activities such as scoping, selection of consultants, notice and concurrent comment periods. CEQA encourages similar coordination (Article 14 CEQA Guidelines 15220-15229).

Sections 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 below discuss the general environmental review processes pertaining to the Greenway.

### 1.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act (California Tahoe Conservancy)

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) is the lead agency under provisions of CEQA. CEQA requires that state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects. The IS, prepared in accordance with the CEQA Statutes (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Administrative Code Section 15000 et seq.), presents sufficient information to allow the Conservancy to determine whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment, requiring preparation of an EIR. If the Conservancy finds substantial evidence that any aspect of the Greenway, either individually or cumulatively, may have a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, the Conservancy must prepare an EIR. If the Conservancy finds no substantial evidence that the Greenway or any of its aspects may cause a significant effect on the environment, a Negative Declaration (Neg Dec) shall be prepared. If in the course of analysis, the Conservancy recognizes that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, but that by incorporating specific mitigation measures the impact will be reduced to a less than significant effect, a Mitigated Neg Dec shall be prepared.

The IS also provides sufficient information for Responsible and Trustee agencies to use as the basis for CEQA compliance, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region (Lahontan), the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The IS is not, in and of itself, a decision document. The document's purpose is to evaluate the environmental consequences of implementing the project and to identify measures if necessary to avoid significant impacts.

Although the lead agency must consider the information in the IS, the document's conclusions do not dictate the lead agency's discretion to approve or disapprove the project. The decision making document is the Mitigated Neg Dec that records the agency's decision and is also circulated for public review. The minimum content requirements for a Mitigated Neg Dec are:

- Description and title of the project;
- Location of the project, preferably shown on a map;
- Name of the project proponent;
- A proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
- An attached copy of the Initial Study documenting reasons to support the finding; and
- Mitigation measures, if any, included in the project to avoid potentially significant effects.

Although not required by CEQA, the State Clearing House (SCH) requests a completed Notice of Completion (NOC) form to be submitted with the 15 copies of the draft Mitigated Neg Dec. This form facilitates the processing of environmental documents and is circulated to state agencies together with the Mitigated Neg Dec. The information from the NOC form is entered into the SCH database. The normal review period for a Neg Dec submitted to the SCH is 30 calendar days (see CEQA Guidelines, Section 15105). Agency and public comments are forwarded to the SCH prior to the end of the assigned review period. At the end of the state review period, comments from the reviewing state agencies are collected at the SCH. A closing letter and a complete package of comments are forwarded to the Lead Agency on the day following the close of the review period.

Within five working days of approving a project for which a Mitigated Neg Dec has been adopted, the Conservancy must file a Notice of Determination (NOD). The filing of the NOD begins a 30-calendar-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the project approval under CEQA.

The project must comply with Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification and CWA Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction permits issued by Lahontan. CDFG issues a Streambed Alteration Agreement. El Dorado County issues an encroachment permit for the portion of the Greenway crossing the street right-of-ways (ROWs) for Martin Ave Bridge.

The City must complete design review of the project and issue construction and encroachment permits for portions of the Greenway utilizing street ROWs.

### 1.1.2 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

The project area is entirely located in the Lake Tahoe Basin and is therefore under the jurisdiction of the TRPA. TRPA is the lead agency under the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (PL 96-551 94 Statute 3233). As such, this IEC is prepared in accordance with Article VII of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, TRPA Code Subsection 5.2.A, and Article VI of the TRPA Rules of Procedure. The responsible body for the TRPA is the Governing Board. The Governing Board's decisions involve: consistency of the Greenway with the TRPA Regional Plan and Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities and project decision for the Greenway.

TRPA utilizes an IEC, which is used to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be prepared for a project. The IEC provides information identifying the environmental effects of the project. The IEC includes:

- An identification of the environmental effects;
- A discussion of proposed mitigation for significant adverse effects, if any;
- The name of the person who prepared the responses; and
- Supporting data or evidence to support the responses.

### 1.1.3 National Environmental Policy Act (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit)

The proposed 3.86-mile long trail includes approximately 1,395 linear feet (0.26 mile) on National Forest System lands. Consequently, the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is the lead agency under the NEPA. As such, an EA is prepared in accordance with the NEPA and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations 40 CFR §1500 et seq. The purpose of the document is to assess potential significant adverse effects and determine whether an EIS will be prepared. If no significant adverse effects will occur from the Greenway, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared and, along with its related Decision Notice, will be made available to the public.

The Responsible Official under NEPA is the LTBMU Forest Supervisor who issues a Record of Decision (ROD) upon review of the EA. The ROD includes:

- Selection of an Alternative for implementation;
- Determination of Forest Plan Consistency; and
- Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations.

The LTBMU agrees to use the EA process to analyze the Greenway because this is a multi-agency document. The Forest Supervisor reviews and accepts the project based on consistency with the Forest Plan and current LTBMU policies. The LTBMU requires a 30-day minimum public comment period for an EA.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) implements CWA Section 404(B) permits, requiring that project applicant's avoid unnecessary environmental impacts by preparing an analysis of alternatives that would potentially result in less adverse impact than the proposed project; to the maximum extent practicable, minimize unavoidable adverse impacts of the preferred alternative; and prepare a compensatory mitigation plan necessary to replace the wetland functions that would be lost as a result of unavoidable adverse impacts.

The USACE can only issue a permit for the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative that meets the project's basic purpose. The USACE independently reviews environmental documentation, determines the sufficiency of the studies, and determines compliance with the CWA and NEPA, NHPA and other relevant statutes. If the USACE finds the reports insufficient, it notifies the applicant as to additional information and follow-up reports needed. The USACE prepares an EA with a Statement of Findings and/or an EIS with a Record of Decision.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plays an important advisory roll in the CWA 404(B) permitting process administered by the USACE and overseen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The USFWS mission is working with others to protect, conserve, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats, for the continuing benefit of the American people. The USFWS mission is authorized and accomplished via our various authorities, including: the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Food Security Act, Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account effects of projects on historic properties caused by federal actions, and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings though consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The USEPA delegates the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) the responsibility for carrying out the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA.

In Chapter 3, Questions 14, 20, 31, 50, 60, 73, 76, 89, 111, 118, 123, 133, 141, 149, 156, 169, 185, 193, 194 and 195 address the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action (i.e., Greenway) and the no action alternatives.

## 1.2 PROJECT TITLE

The *Revised South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project* (Greenway) serves as the project title for the proposed project.

## 1.3 LEAD AGENCY

The Conservancy, TRPA and the LTBMU serve as joint lead agencies for the Greenway.

## 1.4 CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER

Sue Rae Irelan, Associate Environmental Planner, Conservancy, is the project manager for the Greenway. Her contact information is: sirelan@tahoe.ca.gov; (530) 525-9137.

## 1.5 PROJECT LOCATION

The Greenway is located in El Dorado County, California, entirely within the boundaries of the City. Figure 1a illustrates the project area location within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Project area is generally linear and crosses Federal, State and City-managed public lands in the southern portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, extending from Lodi Ave in the Sierra Tract neighborhood of South Lake Tahoe, California to the Van Sickle Bi-State Park at the Nevada/California state line.

## 1.6 PROJECT SPONSOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS

California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 542-5580
(530) 542-5567 (fax)
www.tahoe.ca.gov

## 1.7 GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION/ZONING

Applicable regional general plan, city general plan and community plans include the Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin, City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan, Stateline/Ski Run Community Plan (CP) and Bijou/Al Tahoe CP.

The Greenway transects the following TRPA Plan Area Statements (PAS): 080 – Kingsbury Drainage; 085 Lakeview Heights; 091 Stateline/Ski Run CP; 092 – Pioneer/Ski Run; 093 – Bijou; 094 Glenwood; 095 Pioneer Village; 098 – Bijou/Al Tahoe CP; 100 – Truckee Marsh; 101 Bijou Meadow; 105 Sierra Tract; and 107 – Black Bart.

Greenway zoning includes: Commercial/Public Services, Conservation, Recreational, Residential and Tourist PAS land use designations.

## 1.8 SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The Greenway establishes a Class 1 or better trail (i.e., a 10 to 12-feet wide, separated trail) and provides the backbone of the bicycle trail network in the core of South Take Tahoe, linking residential and lodging uses to jobs, schools, shopping, and recreation and community areas. Figure 1b illustrates the general Greenway alignment and project location. The 3.86 miles of proposed new trail linking Sierra Tract with Van Sickle Bi-State Park incorporates a section of existing bike trail at the South Lake Tahoe Community Play Fields and completes a bicycle network connection of over four miles. The Project generally follows the former Caltrans U.S. Highway 50 Bypass Corridor and rights-of-way (former Caltrans ROW), encompassing other public parcels nearby as needed to improve the connection or reduce or avoid environmental effects. The Project implements specific goals and policies of the TRPA to provide a non-motorized alternative transportation corridor through South Lake Tahoe and is consistent with the Conservancy's outdoor recreation program requirements. The Greenway is included in the TRPA Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) as project 752. Trail development details comply with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines and American Disability Act (ADA) design standards and include informal trail consolidation or decommissioning and disturbed land restoration along its length.

The Greenway consists of sections of asphalt trail on grade (75 percent), asphalt trail on permeable fill (12 percent) and boardwalk trail (13 percent). Asphalt trail on grade and on permeable fill are 10 feet wide with an additional two (2) feet of clear zone on each side of the trail. Boardwalk sections are 12 feet wide with sections of boardwalk exceeding heights of 30 inches above grade constructed with rails. Parts of the Greenway that cannot maintain alignment with the former Caltrans ROW corridor, must cross through lands owned by the Conservancy, State of California (i.e., California State Lands, Caltrans), City, street ROWs, South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD), LTBMU, and several private parties.

Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) impacts have been minimized through the Greenway design element and trail location. Environmental analysis estimates total SEZ encroachment (i.e., land coverage and disturbance) at 86,751 square feet, requiring restoration of 105,138 square feet of Land Capability District (LCD) 1b lands to offset encroachment at a ratio of 1.5 times the total encroachment.

Based on the Tahoe Region Bicycle/Pedestrian Use Model, trail usage by bicyclist and pedestrians is expected to exceed 3,500 each day. The Greenway promotes reductions in Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) by 177 VMT, based on average trip lengths of 2.4 miles for bicyclists and 1.5 miles for pedestrians.

Preliminary field surveys identify 515 trees that must be removed to construct the Greenway. Of this total, 20 trees are equal to or greater than 30-inches at diameter breast height (dbh).

## 1.9 SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING

The Greenway traverses through residential, conservation, recreation tourist and commercial/public service land use areas. Primary uses within and surrounding the project area are residential and undeveloped lands. As shown on Figure 1c, the LTBMU and Conservancy own most of the undeveloped areas and contain existing informal trails or maintenance roads. Urban lots owned by the LTBMU within the project area are identified with a callout on Figure 1c. The Greenway also enters roadway ROWs owned by the City, County (i.e., Martin Ave Bridge) and a limited number of private lands adjacent to public streets. The general project area becomes more urbanized between Al Tahoe Blvd and Stateline, with parks, schools, a mobile home park, senior housing, and hotel/commercial core areas.

## 1.10 OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED

The Greenway requires approval from the following public agencies:

- TRPA – Construction Permit
- LTBMU – Special Use Permit
- Lahontan – Section 401 Water Quality Certification; Section 402 NPDES construction permit
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- USACE – Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit
- CDFG – Streambed Alteration Agreement
- City of South Lake Tahoe – Encroachment Permit; Design Review Permit; Construction Permit
- El Dorado County – Encroachment Permit for crossing at Martin Ave Bridge

**Figure 1a. Greenway Project Location**

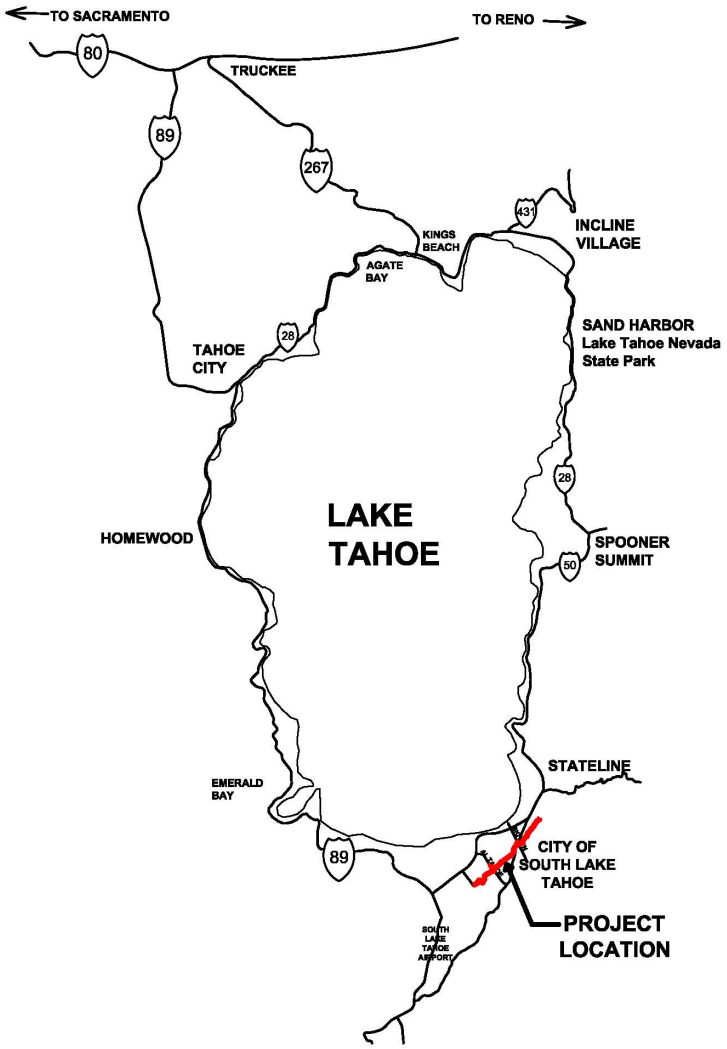


**Figure 1b. Greenway Project Vicinity**

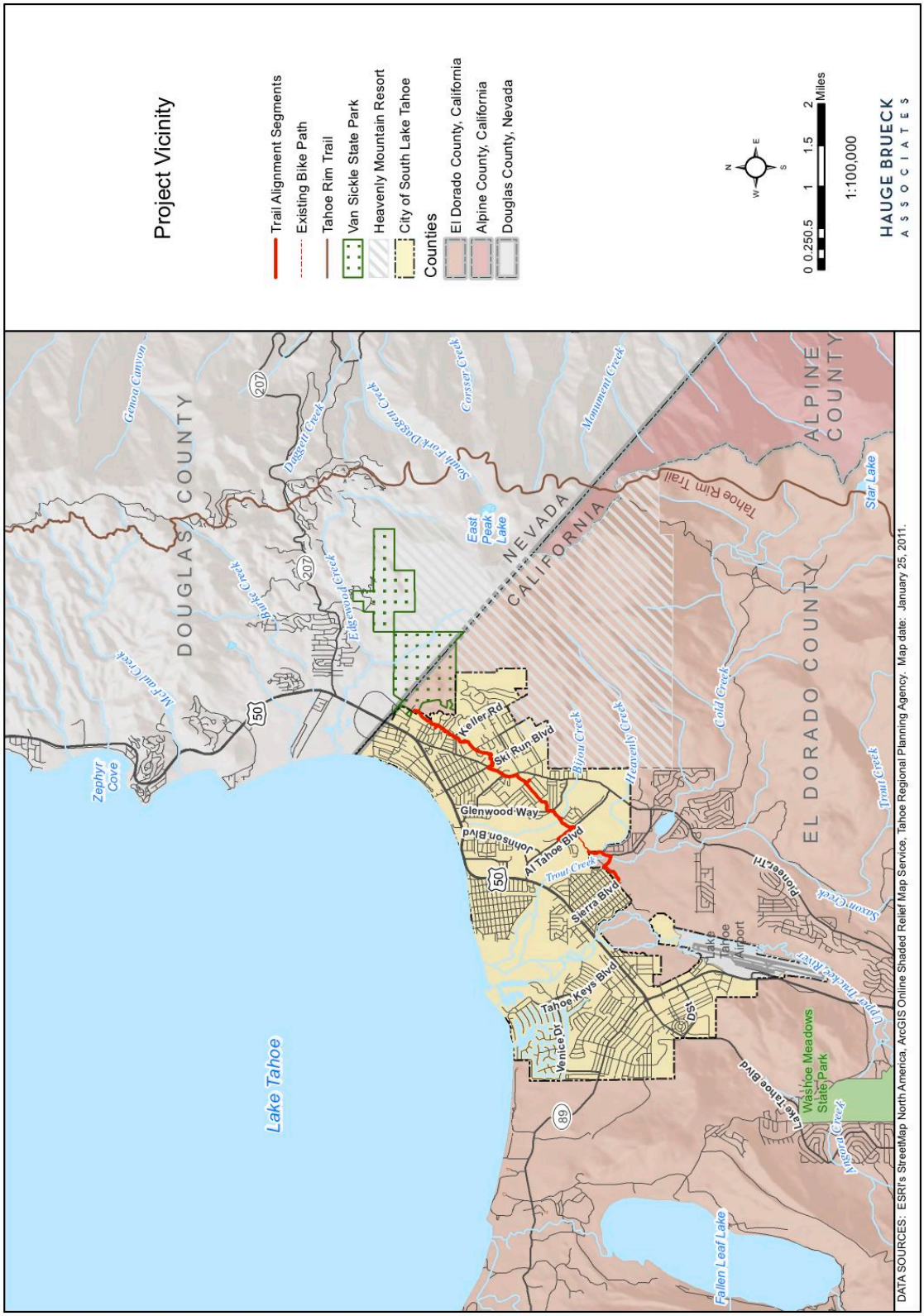
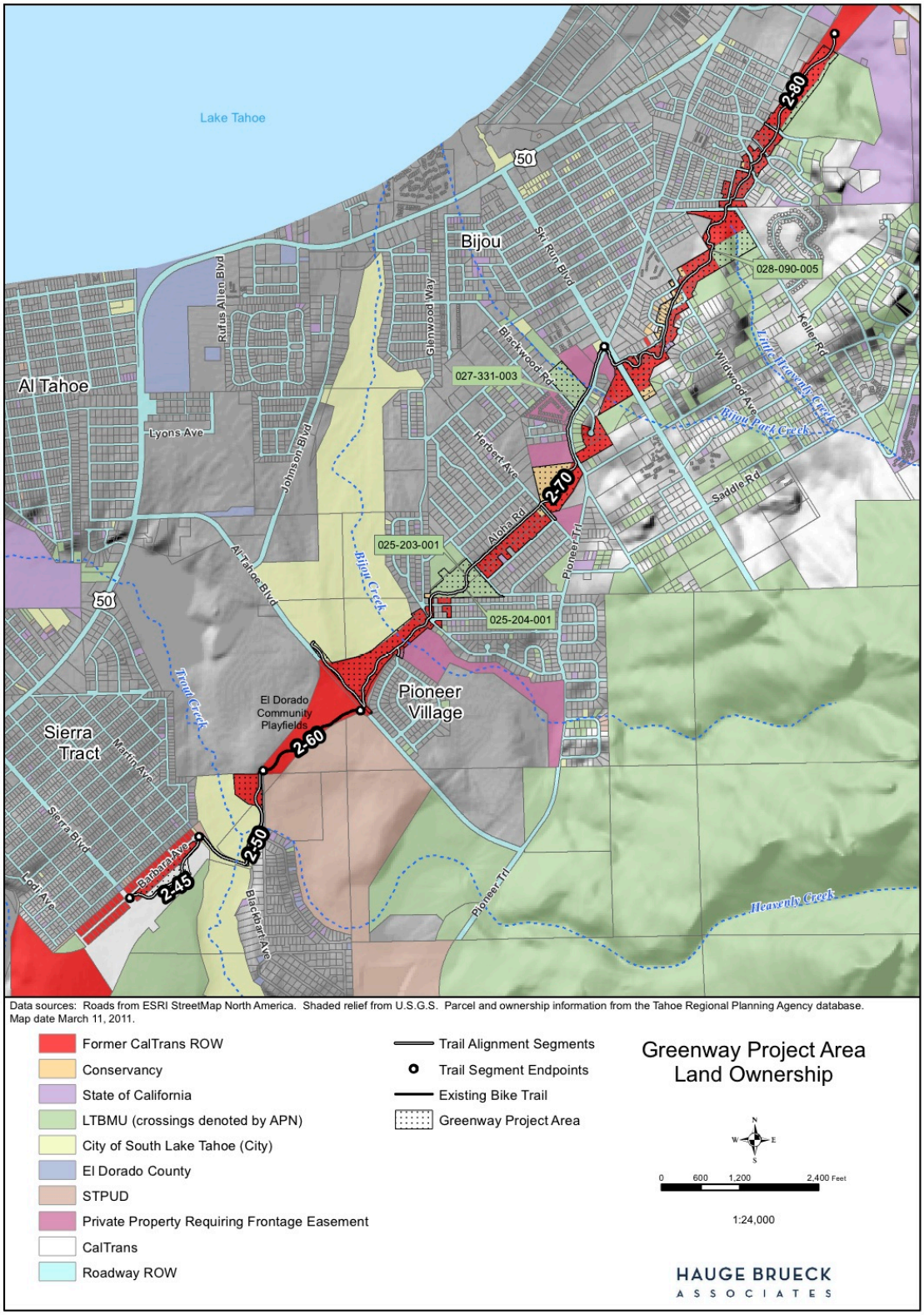


**Figure 1c. Greenway Project Area Ownership**



## 1.11 PUBLIC REVIEW

Public comments have helped to shape this project through its multiple year project development process. This included preliminary design workshops in 2004 and public scoping processes on a larger project in 2006 and 2008. This revised project reflects public comment received during the two prior scoping periods and are part of the project record.

A formal public review of the Greenway IS/IEC/EA is accomplished with the circulation of this document, responses to comments received on this document, and through public hearings held to consider approval of the proposed action.

The Draft IS/IEC/EA will be circulated for public and agency review from June 1, 2011 to July 1, 2011. A copy of the document can be downloaded from: http://www.tahoe.ca.gov. Paper copies of the document are available for review at the following locations during business hours:

California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 542-5580

U. S. Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2600

California Department of General Services
Real Estate Services Division
Environmental Services Section
707 3rd Street, Suite 3-400
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 376-1600

South Lake Tahoe Library
1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 573-3185

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
128 Market Street
Stateline, Nevada 89499
(775) 588-4547

Comments on this document must be received by 11:59 p.m. on July 1, 2011. Written comments may be sent by postal, electronic mail or fax to:

Valerie Namba
California Department of General Services
RESD-Environmental Services Section
P.O. Box 989052
707 Third Street, 3rd Floor Mailstop 3-509
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052
(916) 376-1607 Direct
(916) 376-1600 Main
(916) 376-1606 Fax
Environmental@dgs.ca.gov

If you wish to make oral comments on the EA, they may be provided at the LTBMU office during normal business hours via telephone (530) 543-2600 or in person to Matt Dickinson. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The address for oral or hand-delivered written comments is:

Matt Dickinson
U. S. Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2600

The public is invited to attend an informational open house regarding the Greenway from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at the U.S. Forest Service offices at the address provided above.

## 1.12 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED/AREAS OF KNOWN CONTROVERSY

The public input process that preceded preparation of the IS/IEC/EA identified key environmental issues and areas of known controversy. These public comments are a component of the project record. The Greenway, as proposed and analyzed in this document, considers and responds to public comments received to date. The environmental factors checked below in Table 1 could be affected by this project and involve at least one potentially "Significant Impact" as indicated by the IS/IEC in Chapter 3.

**Table 1**

Environmental Factors Considered

| Resource Area | Potentially Significant | Not Potentially Significant |
|---|---|---|
| Aesthetics / Scenic | X | |
| Agriculture / Forestry Resources | | X |
| Air Quality | | X |
| Biological Resources | X | |
| Cultural Resources | X | |
| Geology / Soils / Land | | X |
| Greenhouse Gas Emissions | | X |
| Hazards / Hazardous Materials | | X |
| Hydrology / Water Quality | | X |
| Land Use / Planning | | X |
| Mineral Resources | | X |
| Noise | | X |
| Population / Housing | | X |
| Public Services | X | |
| Recreation | | X |
| Transportation / Traffic | X | |
| Utilities / Service Systems / Energy | | X |
| Mandatory Findings of Significance | | X |

Source: HBA 2011

## 1.13 FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have further questions or require additional information regarding this matter, please contact Sue Rae Irelan, Associate Environmental Planner, Conservancy. Her contact information is:

Email - sirelan@tahoe.ca.gov and Phone - (530) 525-9137.

## 1.14 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| AADTs | Annual Average Daily Traffic counts |
| AASHTO | American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials |
| AB 32 | California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 |
| ACHP | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation |
| ADA | American Disability Act |
| ADT | Average Daily Traffic |
| AF | Acre-Feet |
| AF/yr | Acre-Feet per Year |
| ANSI | American National Standards Institute |
| APCDs | Air Pollution Control Districts |
| APE | Area-of-potential effect |
| APN | Assessor parcel number |
| AQMD | Air Quality Management District |
| AQP | Air Quality Plan |
| ARMR | Archaeological Resources Management Reports |
| BAAQMD | Bay Area Air Quality Management District |
| BAQP | Nevada Division of Environmental Protection - Bureau of Air Quality Planning |
| Basin Plan | Water Quality Control Plan Report for the North Lahontan Basin |
| bgs | Below Ground Surface |
| BLM | United States Bureau of Land Management |
| BMP | Best Management Practice |
| Board | Board for Geologists and Geophysicists |
| BOD | Biological Oxygen Demand |
| BPMP | Lake Tahoe Regional Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan |
| CAA | Federal Clean Air Act of 1970 |
| CAAA | 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments |
| Cal-EPA | California Environmental Protection Agency |
| Cal-OSHA | California Occupational Safety and Health Administration |
| CalEPA | California Environmental Protection Agency |
| SHPO | California State Historic Preservation Officer |
| Caltrans | California Department of Transportation |
| CARB | California Air Resources Board |
| CBC | California Building Code |
| CCAA | California Clean Air Act |
| CCIC | Central California Information Center |

| | |
|---|---|
| CDF | California Department of Forestry |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish and Game |
| CDMG | California Department of Mines and Geology |
| CDMGB | California State Mining and Geology Board |
| CDPR | California Department of Parks and Recreation |
| CEC | California Energy Commission |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 |
| CESA | California Endangered Species Act |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| cfs | Cubic Feet per Second |
| CGS | California Geological Survey |
| City | City of South Lake Tahoe |
| CNDDB | California Natural Diversity Database |
| CNEL | Community Noise Equivalent Level |
| CNPS | California Native Plant Society |
| CO | Carbon Monoxide |
| CO2 | Carbon Dioxide |
| Code | Code of Ordinances |
| Conservancy | California Tahoe Conservancy |
| Cortese List | California's Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites List |
| County | El Dorado County |
| CP | Community Plan |
| CSAA | Central Sierra Agency on Aging |
| CSHPO | California State Historic Preservation Officer |
| CWA | Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 |
| CWC | California Water Code |
| dB | Decibel |
| dBA | A-weighted decibel |
| dbh | Diameter at Breast Height |
| DEIR | Draft Environmental Impact Report |
| DRI | Desert Research Institute |
| DTSC | Department of Toxic Substances Control |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIP | TRPA Environmental Improvement Program |
| EIR | Environmental Impact Report |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EO | Executive Order |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| ESCP | Erosion and Sediment Control Plan |
| Farmland | Farmland of Statewide Importance |
| FEMA | Flood Emergency Management Agency |

| | |
|---|---|
| FESA | Federal Endangered Species Act |
| FHSZ | Fire Hazard Severity Zone |
| FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| Forest Service | United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service |
| Fossils | Paleontological Resources |
| FRAP | Fire and Resource Assessment Program |
| FRAs | Federal Responsibility Areas |
| GHGs | Greenhouse Gases |
| Greenway | Revised South Tahoe Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project |
| H2S | Hydrogen Sulfide |
| HABS | Historic American Buildings Survey |
| HAER | Historic American Engineering Record |
| HAPs | Hazardous Air Pollutants |
| HAZWOPER | Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response |
| HCM | Highway Capacity Manual |
| IBC | International Building Code |
| IEC | Initial Environmental Checklist |
| in/yr | Inches per Year |
| IS | Initial Study |
| ISTEA | Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act |
| Lahontan | Regional Water Quality Control Board-Lahontan Region |
| LCD | Land Capability District |
| $L_{dn}$ | Day-night Average Sound Level |
| Ldn | Day-night Average Sound Level |
| $L_{eq}$ | Energy Equivalent Sound Level |
| Leq | Energy Equivalent Sound Level |
| LEO | Law Enforcement Officer |
| LOS | Level of Service |
| LP | Land Preserve |
| LRAs | Local Responsibility Areas |
| LTBMU | USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit |
| MBTA | Migratory Bird Treaty Act |
| mg/L | Milligrams per Liter |
| $mg/L^3$ | Microgram per Cubic Liter |
| mg/L3 | Microgram per Cubic Liter |
| Mgal/yr | Million Gallons per Year |
| mgd | Million Gallons per Day |
| Mitigated Neg Dec | Mitigated Negative Declaration |
| MLD | Most likely descendant |
| Mmax | Maximum Moment Magnitude |
| MMI | Modified Mercalli Intensity |
| MMP | Mitigation and Monitoring Program |

| | |
|---|---|
| MND | Mitigated Negative Declaration |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MPN | Most Probable Number |
| MPO | Metropolitan Planning Organization |
| msl | Mean sea level |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| NAC | Noise Abatement Criteria |
| NAHC | Native American Heritage Commission |
| NCR | Neighborhood Compatibility Review |
| Neg Dec | Negative Declaration |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NFL | National Forest Lands |
| NFS | National Forest System |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NO2 | Nitrogen Dioxide |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NOC | Notice of Completion |
| NOD | Notice of Determination |
| NOP | Notice of Preparation |
| NOX | Oxides of Nitrogen |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NWP | Nationwide Permit |
| $O_3$ | Ozone |
| OES | Office of Emergency Services |
| OMMS | Operations Management and Maintenance Strategy |
| OPR | California Governor's Office of Planning and Research |
| OS | Open Space |
| OSHA | Occupational Safety and Health Administration |
| PA | Programmatic Agreement |
| PAS | Plan Area Statements |
| Pb | Lead |
| PD | Planned Development |
| PGA | Peak Ground Acceleration |
| PM10 | Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns in Diameter |
| PM2.5 | Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns in Diameter |
| PPM | Parts per Million |
| PPV | Peak Particle Velocity |
| PRC | Public Resource Code |
| Project | Revised Greenway Shared-Use Trail Project |
| PSD | Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program |
| psi | Pounds per square inch |

| | |
|---|---|
| QSP | Qualified SWPPP Developer |
| RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| RESD | Real Estate Services Division |
| ROD | Record of Decision |
| ROG | Reactive organic gases |
| ROS | Recreation Opportunity Spectrum |
| ROW | Rights-of-Way |
| RR | Rural Route |
| RRPs | Revegetation and Restoration Plans |
| RTP | Regional Transportation Plan |
| RWQCB | Regional Water Quality Control Boards |
| SCH | State Clearing House |
| SEZ | Stream Environment Zones |
| SH | Scenic Highway |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| SIP | State Implementation Plan |
| SNFPA | Southern Nevada Forest Plan Amendment |
| SMARA | Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1975 |
| SO2 | Sulfur Dioxide |
| SQIP | Scenic Quality Improvement Program |
| State Board | California State Water Resources Control Board |
| STPUD | South Tahoe Public Utility District |
| STR | South Tahoe Refuse Company |
| Superfund | Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 |
| SWPPP | Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan |
| TCORP | Tahoe Coalition of Recreation Providers |
| TCP | Traffic Control Plan |
| Thresholds | TRPA Environmental Carrying Capacity Thresholds |
| TKN | Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen |
| TMDL | Total Maximum Daily Load |
| TMPO | Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization |
| TP | Total Phosphorus |
| TRPA | Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| UBC | Uniform Building Code |
| USA | Underground Service Alert |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| USEPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | United States Geological Survey |
| VMT | Vehicle Miles of Travel |
| VQO | Visual Quality Objectives |
| WBS | Western Botanical Services, Inc. |

| | |
|---|---|
| WUI | Wildland-Urban Interface |
| µg/m3 | Microgram per Cubic Meter |
| µg/m3 | Microgram per Cubic Meter |