U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

FEMA

December 12, 2013

Dr. Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816
Attn: Ms. Susan Stratton

RE: FEMA PDM-PJ-09-CA-2010-019
North Tahoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space

Dear Dr. Roland-Nawi:

The Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering financial grant assistance to the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) (Subapplicant) through the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) to conduct vegetation management to reduce the fire hazard potential on properties managed by the CTC. The proposed project is located on undeveloped parceled lands within communities along the northern and western shores of Lake Tahoe in Placer County.

FEMA's action of providing federal financial assistance meets the definition of an Undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.16(y) and therefore requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §470f). FEMA has identified an Area of Potential Effect (APE) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1) and the 2005 First Amended Programmatic Agreement executed between FEMA, CalEMA, the California SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as the 981 parcels or 244 acres within in the Study Area of 1,013 parcels managed by CTC and in which the fuels management proposal would occur.

FEMA has made a finding that no historic properties are present in the APE pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). We seek your concurrence with our finding and have enclosed documentation in support of our finding in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.11(d).

FEMA will authorize funding for the Subapplicant's proposal unless you notify us of your objection within 45 days of receipt of our documentation. If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to me at (510) 627-7728 or donna.meyer@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Meyer, CEM/HPS
Deputy Regional Environmental Officer
Non-Disaster Grant Programs

Enclosures

DOCUMENTATION – NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT
North Tahoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project
December 2013

1) A description of the undertaking, specifying the Federal involvement, and its area of potential effects, including photographs, maps, drawings, as necessary;

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide Federal financial assistance to the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) (Subapplicant) through the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to reduce fuel loads on properties managed by the CTC to reduce the potential risk and damages for initiation and the spread of fire through local communities in the northern and western Lake Tahoe Region, Placer County. FEMA has identified an Area of Potential Effect (APE) for direct effects as 981 parcels or 244 acres on which the fuels reduction would occur. A Study Area of 1,013 parcels was established for investigation and identification of potential historic properties.

The proposed fuel reduction project would include the mechanical mastication and hand thinning of understory vegetation. Equipment and vehicles for the operation would be staged within the parcel boundary and waste vegetation would remain on-site or be transported to a waste facility. The proposed project would not extend beyond the parcel property boundaries and all access roads are restricted to existing paved roadways.

Although the proposed project would involve removal of understory and potentially change views within the parcels, no APE for indirect effects has been established as no there would be no affect to any historic properties. In addition, noise and dust would be short-term and would not affect any historic properties.

2) A description of the steps taken to identify historic properties, including, as appropriate, efforts to seek information pursuant to § 800.4(b)

FEMA's Subapplicant obtained the services of an SOI-qualified consultant to perform NCIC records and literature archival research and conducted a pedestrian survey of the Study Area and the APE from April 30, 2013 to May 24, 2013. As a result of the archival research and pedestrian survey a Historic Properties Inventory and Evaluation Report were prepared by the Subapplicant's consultant, AECOM (enclosed).

FEMA sent letters and a request for information to six tribes on December 13, 2012 and to two tribes on June 13, 2013 who may have an interest in the APE. FEMA received one response from the Shingle Springs Rancheria on February 7, 2013 whom requested a copy of all documents. A copy has been forwarded to them. No other comments were received.

3) The basis for determining that no historic properties are present or affected

As identified in the enclosed Historic Properties Inventory and Evaluation Report, five of 14 previously recorded unevaluated properties were identified during the NCIC records searches as potentially being located within the larger Study Area. These properties were confirmed to be in the Study Area during the pedestrian survey. Additionally, eleven previously unrecorded historic-age resources were identified and recorded. A total of sixteen potential historic properties were confirmed located within the larger Study Area. However, no properties were identified as being located within the APE. Resource P-31-1889 was confirmed located within the proposed APE and was evaluated and determined ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP in 1994.

FEMA has made a determination that no historic properties are located within the APE and that no properties are eligible for listing to the NRHP pursuant to 36 CFR Part 60.4. In addition, no historic architectural (built) properties were identified within the APE.

There is however always a potential for unanticipated discoveries of buried properties during project implementation. FEMA will condition the grant such that if during project ground-disturbing activities an unanticipated discovery is made, all ground-disturbing activities shall cease within 100 feet and the CTC and FEMA shall be immediately notified. The CTC shall be required to retain the services of an SOI-qualified archaeologist to assess the significance and a determination of eligibility of the discovery and provide recommendations for further investigation, if necessary.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., *Governor*

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January 13, 2014 Reply In Reference To: FEMA_2013_1216_001

RECEIVED
JAN 16 2014
BY:

Alessandro Amaglio
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA R IX – U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

RE: North Tahoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space, FEMA PDM-PJ-09-CA-2010-019

Dear Mr. Amaglio:

Thank you for your December 12, 2013, letter regarding the proposed undertaking in Placer County in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended, and its implementing regulation found at 36 CFR Part 800 and the 2005 First Amended Programmatic Agreement between Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Along with your letter, you submitted a report entitled "Final Historic Properties Inventory and Evaluation Report: North Tahoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Project" dated December 2013 and prepared by AECOM.

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves funding through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program to reduce the fire hazard potential on properties managed by the California Tahoe Conservancy on the northern and western shores of Lake Tahoe. Mechanical mastication and hand thinning of understory vegetation will occur on 981 undeveloped parcels.

FEMA has identified the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as all 981 parcels, totaling 244 acres. FEMA's consultant conducted an Information Center records search and an intensive pedestrian survey of a wider survey area that extended to 1,018 parcels. No architectural resources are located within the APE. Any parcel containing unevaluated potential historic properties were excluded from the project, and, therefore, from the APE. Only one resource remained within the APE: P-31-001889 was determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by consensus determination with the SHPO in 1994.

Because no properties eligible for listing in the NRHP are located within the APE, FEMA proposes a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected. In addition, FEMA intends to condition the grant so that if any buried archaeological resources are discovered, all ground disturbing activities would cease at that location until a qualified archaeologist completes a determination of eligibility.

After reviewing the information submitted with your letter, the SHPO has no objection to a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking as described.

Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, at (916) 445-7047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer