

SECTION B

Individuals

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From: Mike Alexander [tahoealexander@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 9:39 PM
To: Carroll, Scott@Tahoe
Subject: Utr marsh restoration comments

Mr. Carroll, please consider the following comments for the upper truckee marsh restoration:

I completely support the restoration of the upper truckee marsh and if effectively implemented, the restoration has enormous potential to improve the quality of water entering Lake Tahoe. Furthermore, returning the functionality of the marsh to a condition not seen since the construction of Tahoe keys is without question the most important task that can be addressed by any lake Tahoe restoration organization.

I first must point out that appropriate public access to this sensitive region must be balanced with the practical limitations of construction and maintaining boardwalks and bridges. Public access at Taylor Creek and Tallac Creek marshes have coexisted for decades and I see no reason that limited public access can not be maintained at the Truckee Marsh with one exception. The alternatives which include the Barton Beach boardwalk and bridge suggests a level of infrastructure which will diminish the projects ability to meaningfully meet objectives 1 through 5. Once the upper Truckee River outlet meanders in the marsh as Trout Creek currently does, the only level of public access that is consistent with the other objectives is to maintain the current public access along the edges of the marsh and to not construct the Barton Beach boardwalk and bridge.

11-1

Based on the information provided, alternative 3 appears to restore natural function and habitat in a manner superior to any other man made configuration. In addition alternative 3 will avoid flooding of property better than any other alternative by directing flow to the central region of the marsh.

The importance of the restoration of the largest marsh in the Sierra's can not be over stated. Constructing the Tahoe's Keys subdivision and marina in the marsh has already taken enough from the Tahoe basin and is providing ample public access to the marsh, we simply chose to modify the form of the marsh for our wants. We have to take this opportunity to conserve the remaining portions by constructing the alternative that reduces our impact on Lake Tahoe to the greatest extent possible and this includes the most natural river realignment, and no additional recreation infrastructure, the keys have degraded the basin enough already.

11-2

Thank you for considering these comments, best regards

Michael Alexander

Sent from my iPhone

I1-1 The commenter’s support for restoration of the Upper Truckee Marsh is noted. The commenter has concerns that construction of the Barton Beach boardwalk and bridge would diminish the project’s ability to meet Objectives 1–5.

See response to Comment AO5-6.

I1-2 The commenter’s support for Alternative 3 is noted.

As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate recreation on the west side of the marsh, similar to existing conditions, and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side. Alternative 3 is the recommended restoration approach under the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.1, “Selecting a Preferred Alternative,” of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a description of the approach to selecting recreation and restoration components of the Preferred Alternative.

From: ryan@tahoepropertyforsale.com
 Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 10:20 AM
 To: Carroll, Scott@Tahoe
 Subject: Truckee Restoration

Scott,

I was a pleasure meeting you last night. What follows are my comments in regards to supporting restoration alternative 1. Thank you for the knowledge, your conservation efforts and your time.

I've lived in Tahoe over 10 years and sell Real Estate for Pinnacle Real Estate Group over on Harrison Ave. in the Al Tahoe Neighborhood. I am also a homeowner near the meadow that the stream restoration is proposed for. I use the Truckee River and Trout Creek quite a bit for Kayaking and Stand up paddleboarding. I use the meadow trail frequently on my bike. The meadow is an amazing bird sanctuary that gets a lot of use, sometimes to the point of being trampled by ignorant folks. Most folks don't realize that this is a special place that is home to many endangered species.

I love what has been done by the airport with the river restoration there. It was well done from a lake clarity standpoint and from a recreational river standpoint. I'm excited to see the river restoration take place further downstream and I welcome the benefits to lake clarity and to our community's bikeability and walkability goals.

I2-1

All summer long 1000's of families bring their bikes to Tahoe and go on tour and are routed by signs through Al Tahoe neighborhood and all summer I hear "where did the bike route go?" "How do we get across to camp Richardson?" How do we get to Baldwin beach? In the confusion the meadow gets trampled a little more every day. Tourists are then forced to dangerously pursue the side of the highway sucking exhaust to take a much longer route to the west. Next time they drive their car across town further adding to the traffic congestion nightmare that is summer in Tahoe.

So in conclusion supporting restoration alternative 1 which shows a bridge over the Truckee and a dedicated trail or boardwalk that keeps folks from trampling the bird sanctuary, would not only further lake clarity and save endangered species, but add to our communities' goals of being more bikeable and walkable, lessening automobile pollution, and drawing more tourists!

Sincerely

Ryan D. Anderson

Ryan Daniel Anderson
 530-416-9966
 ryan@tahoepropertyforsale.com
 www.tahoepropertyforsale.com

I2-1 The commenter's support for Alternative 1 is noted.

As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate recreation on the west side of the marsh, similar to existing conditions, and no additional recreation access on the marsh's east side. Alternative 3 is the recommended restoration approach under the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.1, "Selecting a Preferred Alternative," of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a description of the approach to selecting recreation and restoration components of the Preferred Alternative.

April 5, 2013

California Tahoe Conservancy
 ATTN: Scott Carroll
 1061 Third Street
 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Comments on Dunlap Ranch Proposals by CTC
 by the undersigned

These generic comments apply to all of the alternatives or any one that is a combination of features of all four changes.

As property owners of land that is both a part of the project and adjacent to it, we are in a unique position. The river runs through our property and therefore any changes will have a direct impact on us. We realize the goal is to improve lake quality, which is a positive. On the other hand we believe that our concern for the security of our boundaries should be respected and considered. We are in favor of anything that curtails outside access to our property. Presently, we have people coming in through your Conservancy lot on Michael. They are no doubt encouraged by the obvious trail through the lot which leads to our property and a fence that is regularly knocked down as soon as it is repaired. People also come through and around the fences on the north side. When confronted (even within sight of our no trespassing signs), most pay no attention to the property owners. Some state ignorance of private ownership because the fences have been destroyed by their predecessors.

There have been arrests of juveniles on foot or in cars. There have been transients who have relocated there after being forced to leave their camp behind Carrows and Motel 6. Dog walkers and bicyclists seem to think they have a pass.

We would encourage any solution that promotes flooding to the east of the river rather than to the west towards houses.

Comments on the specific alternatives

We have strenuous objection to Alternative 2 because it brings the river too close to our houses. That subjects us to more hikers, bicyclists, dog walkers and kayakers who drawn to the river. A lack of fencing will give the mistaken impression that the land is public. The possibility of serious confrontations is very possible.

Alternatives 1 and 3 fill in the river bed and meld it into the present landscape. That will create a large open area to the west that includes our property. We are afraid that this larger area will be a magnet for trespassers from the Michael and or the California street and from the north to attract runners, bikers and hiker/dog walker.

Alternative 4 is the least objectionable.

I3-1

Request for notice

Up to this time we have not received any notices of meetings regarding the property. Please send notices to the following:

Nancy & John Ball & Amy Tyler Busch
4401 Crestwood Way
Sacramento, CA95822

13-2

Royce Dunlap
2363 Washington
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Request for clarification

Statements were made to Royce Dunlap and Tom Rosenberg that the Conservancy does not have the remedy of eminent domain. Please confirm that in writing to the above named.

13-3

Likewise, please clarify the details of the access points and staging areas set forth for Colorado and Washington Streets.

13-4

Sincerely,
John & Nancy Ball
Amy Tyler Busch
Royce Dunlap

- I3-1 The commenters state their concern about security and trespassing and support for any measures that would curtail access to their property.
- See Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of police protection services in the study area.
- I3-2 The commenters favor any solution that promotes flooding to the east of the river rather than to the west.
- See Section 3.1.1, “Flooding and Flood Hazards,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of flooding under the Preferred Alternative.
- I3-3 The commenters’ opposition to Alternatives 1–3 and support for Alternative 4 is noted.
- As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate recreation on the west side of the marsh, similar to existing conditions, and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side. Alternative 3 is the recommended restoration approach under the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.1, “Selecting a Preferred Alternative,” of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a description of the approach to selecting recreation and restoration components of the Preferred Alternative.
- I3-4 The commenters’ request that public meeting notices be sent to addressees listed in the comment letter is noted.
- Addresses provided in the comment letter have been placed on the project mailing list.
- I3-5 The commenters inquired whether the Conservancy would use eminent domain.
- The Conservancy would work with private landowners to obtain easements and agreements to implement project activities on private property. In cases where an agreement between parties cannot be reached, the Conservancy would not pursue project improvements on that parcel. Use of private lands and the need for eminent domain are not required to meet the goals and objectives of the project or to mitigate impacts.
- I3-6 The commenters request details regarding access points and staging areas on Washington Avenue or Colorado Avenue.
- See Section 3.1.2, “Traffic, Access, and Staging,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of construction-related traffic.

Dear Mr. Carroll,

1 April, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to options being considered in the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project.

I have waded through an enormous amount of web-based materials, and attended the March 28th public information session.

In an effort to simplify my input on what seems to be an over the top amount of study and regulation, I will categorize my thoughts below.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Maximizing recreation: I think the concept of maximizing recreation is a bad idea. The area needs protection, not overuse, and the Conservancy historically does poorly on seeing that existing rules are followed. (eg. dogs on leashes, smoking, or dog exclusion periods). I am not at all against people being able to see and enjoy the wildlife, or the beauty of the meadow, but the focus should be preservation, and education, not recreation. | 14-1 |
| 2. Trails and walkways, observation areas: If trails and walkways (over the flood areas) will help keep people out of the deeper areas of the meadow, where the wildlife hides, and keep them more on the periphery of the meadow that would be great. This would represent an improvement over what happens now. Observation areas would also be nice. | 14-2 |
| 3. Bikes: I do not believe bikes are a good match on a meadow. I suggest you put bikeracks at entrances, and have people "lock 'em and leave 'em. It slows the pace of activities, and since authorities can't seem to catch "rule offenders" when they're on foot, any enforcement will be at an even bigger disadvantage, if bikes are allowed. | 14-3 |
| 4. Aggradation, new channels, and better filtration of sediments... I think you folks have the consultative resources to improve this. Decreasing the amount of sediment which is transported into the lake is vital, but I trust you to choose a solution which will reduce transport of sediments, and improve the meadow as a wildlife habitat. I hope you also consider mosquitoes, and the hazards they present, in your thinking. | 14-4 |
| 5. Kiosks ...are a good thing, low cost, and informative, but they need to be maintained, with different messages for different seasons, updates, etc. Only if they are maintained am I in favor of having Kiosks. | 14-5 |
| 6. Parking: helpful if you can arrange for it. What about using the lot you have by Lily for parking? Most people walk to the beach, and parking in that location would be a help both for visitors and for enforcement. | 14-6 |
| 7. Neighbors: Most of us lucky enough to live on the meadow are happy for others to have the opportunity to enjoy it also. We do, however object to unleashed dogs, to loud crowds, foul language, surley attitudes and people cutting through our yards. I | 14-7 |

realize you can't fix the ills of society, but I ask you to keep these issues in mind as you deliberate solutions.

14-7
cont.

7. **Enforcement:** Having lived on the meadow for the past 6 years, I believe that most of those who flaunt the rules of the Meadow are people who live here, (often for just a season or a year) rather than tourists. I believe you need to consider restoration solutions which can reduce rule breaking as part of your action plans. I believe education is a part of the solution, as is enforcement.

14-8

I hope these general comments will be of use as you discuss. I thank you for setting this land aside, and hope you will select options which will preserve it.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Bergner
P.O. Box 18548
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

- I4-1 The commenter’s concern about maximizing recreation is noted.
- As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate infrastructure on the west side of the marsh and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side.
- This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I4-2 The commenter’s support for trails, walkways, and observation areas on the periphery of the meadow is noted.
- As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate recreation on the west side of the marsh, similar to existing conditions, and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side. Alternative 3 is the recommended restoration approach under the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.1, “Selecting a Preferred Alternative,” of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a description of the approach to selecting recreation and restoration components of the Preferred Alternative.
- This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I4-3 The commenter is concerned about allowing bikes within the marsh and recommends that bike racks be installed at the entrances.
- This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I4-4 The commenter’s support for selecting an alternative that addresses sediment, wildlife habitat, and mosquito hazards is noted.
- All of the action alternatives include elements that would reduce the amount of sediment transported into Lake Tahoe and enhance wildlife habitat in the meadow.
- The primary objective of all four alternatives considered is to decrease channel capacity and reestablish the connection between the channel and its floodplain so that moderate flows (and the sediment and nutrients conveyed by the flow) would overbank more frequently. As discussed in Section 3.9, “Geomorphology and Water Quality,” of the 2013 Draft EIR/EIS/EIS (page 3.9-16), previous studies have found that sediment delivery and retention in the study area is a function of water depths and floodplain connectivity, with sediment delivery and retention increasing at greater water depths and increased frequency of connectivity (Stubblefield et al. 2006). The greatest sediment retention was found to occur in areas where flow velocities were reduced or dissipated, such as through the lagoon or backwater areas. The increased frequency and area of inundation during moderate flows would promote sediment deposition and retention of fine-grained sediment in portions of the floodplain that are currently not inundated. In addition to increasing the frequency of overbanking flows onto the floodplain, other design elements are also likely to reduce sediment inputs into Lake Tahoe, including reactivation of the existing secondary channel during moderate overbanking events.

In addition, the Preferred Alternative includes engineered restoration elements to address local sources of sediment from streambank erosion. Specifically, bank protection elements including rock and large wood are planned to stabilize about 1,300 feet of bank downstream of the U.S. Highway 50 Bridge and on about 2,600 feet of lower Trout Creek. Reactivating the secondary channel and lowering the floodplain on the left bank would also reduce hydraulic stress on the main channel banks during high flows.

Restoring the natural sedimentation processes on the adjacent floodplain and meadow areas would also enhance the habitats within these areas. Restoration of these processes would increase micro-topographical complexity, which would result in varied topography and hydrology supporting a greater diversity of plant species. Additionally, infiltration of overbanking water would increase soil moisture over a greater area than under existing conditions, improving conditions for marsh and riparian vegetation. Partial backfilling of the existing channel would be contoured to provide varied soil moisture conditions, but with net down-valley flow through swale connections, rather than ponding areas.

Much of the project area is identified as a breeding area for mosquitoes. As stated in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, Environmental Commitment 10 requires the Conservancy to establish and implement a management agreement with the El Dorado County Vector Control District (EDCVCD). The agreement would include but not be limited to measures ensuring necessary access for monitoring and control measures, EDCVCD review of project plans and provision of recommendations for management of mosquito populations, and applicable BMPs from the California Department of Public Health’s *Best Management Practices for Mosquito Control on California State Properties*. In addition, see Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of mosquito control. The Conservancy has committed to establishing and implementing a management agreement with EDCVCD to adequately control mosquito populations in the project area. The management agreement would include criteria for maintaining mosquito populations at or below levels under existing conditions.

I4-5 The commenter’s support for kiosks if they are maintained and updated is noted.

The Preferred Alternative would include an interpretive kiosk that would provide information to support public access, recreation infrastructure, and visitor education and interpretation of the ecological values of the Upper Truckee Marsh (e.g., maps and information regarding sensitive resources). In addition, see Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of management and maintenance.

This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

I4-6 The commenter’s preference for parking is noted.

See response to Comment AO2-7. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

I4-7 The commenter’s concern about management of activities in the study area is noted.

See Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for discussions related to management of the study area.

I4-8

The commenter's concern about management of activities in the study area is noted.

See Section 3.1.4, "Management," in Chapter 3, "Master Responses," of this final EIR/EIS/EIS for discussions related to enforcement in the study area.

Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 34 year resident of South Lake Tahoe, currently living on Argonaut Avenue which borders the Marsh on the east side near San Francisco Street. I appreciate all that the Conservancy has done to keep the neighbors informed and give voice to their concerns, including the workshops on this project.

As I have no expertise in water or wetland management, I will not comment extensively on the restoration of the historic channels of the Upper Truckee River other than to say that I support any action which reduces sediment flowing into Lake Tahoe as long as it also protects wildlife habitat in the Marsh.

15-1

My main comments will be directed towards the improvements and management of recreation included in the Alternatives 1-4 on the east side.

Re: TRPA Goal 1—"Encourage opportunities for dispersed recreation when consistent with environmental values and protection of natural resources."

California Tahoe Conservancy Objectives (partial list)

- ▶ Objective 1: Restore natural and self-sustaining river and floodplain processes and functions.
- ▶ Objective 2: Protect, enhance, and restore naturally functioning habitats.
- ▶ Objective 3: Restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat quality.
- ▶ Objective 4: Improve water quality through enhancement of natural physical and biological processes.
- ▶ Objective 5: Protect and, where feasible, expand Tahoe yellow cress populations.
- ▶ Objective 6: Provide public access, access to vistas, and environmental education at the Lower West Side and Cove East Beach consistent with other objectives.

15-2

I do not believe that increased recreation as in Alternative 1 is consistent with these goals and objectives. In fact, unless the recreation is managed more proactively than in the past, none of the alternatives will protect the flora and fauna habitat. I have heard many times about the value of this large, unique Marsh to the Lake Tahoe Basin. The public (mostly locals) have continued to ignore and abuse the rules that the Conservancy has posted at every entrance to protect this valuable habitat. We continually observe unleashed dogs, cigarette butts on the trail, alcoholic drink litter on the beach, dog feces in the meadow, beach users trampling the yellow cress, and inappropriate noise levels. Many of the users of the meadow seem to think it is an off leash dog park, using chuckers to throw balls or Frisbees into the interior of the meadow for their pets. Your own document states that "Unleashed dogs are a recognized issue for recreation use management in the study area." I suggest that dogs and wildlife habitat are incompatible, and that dogs should not be allowed to enter the Marsh or the beach, even on designated trails, since dog owners have proven that they do not respect the rules already in place.

Re: Impact 3.12-2 Potential need for Additional Public Services.

I disagree with the findings contained in the study. The public services provided currently are inadequate to handle the demand. El Dorado County Animal Control refuses to respond to unleashed dogs on the Marsh. They will only respond to an animal bite or dangerous animal. The contract the El Dorado County Sheriff is not effective because too few hours are spent in active surveillance of the Marsh. Offenders begin to learn the schedule of visits and use the meadow at off hours, weekends, evenings, holidays, etc. Even when the patrol hours vary, they are inadequate. Calls to the Sheriff's office or CSLT police department get put to the back of the queue and rarely get a response, certainly not a timely one. We honestly don't know who to call when we see dogs chasing the ducks, beer parties on the beach, or people having sex in the meadow. I suggest that the Conservancy contract with a public or private agency for substantially increased hours of education, surveillance and citing of offenders, not just for off leash dogs, but smoking, drinking, litter and noise. I think this is especially important during the early part of the season, holidays, weekends, and evenings. In addition, surveillance cameras could be mounted at the entrances and beach area. My husband has suggested this to the CSLT Police department with no response.

15-3

Re: **Impact 3.16-2** Near the Eastern boundary of the study area, parking demand would remain similar to existing demand.

I disagree with these findings. I think that four years of construction on the Marsh will draw tremendous interest and curiosity from locals and visitors alike. It won't be a secret, and many more people will be drawn to see what is going on both during and after the construction phase. Parking is already a problem in the neighborhood on narrow, crumbling streets. Visitors to the eastern side of the Marsh continually park on both sides of Argonaut and up San Francisco preventing normal flow of traffic. This is especially problematic in the summer. Disrespectful visitors park on private property, trample vegetation and leave trash in the street. This area differs significantly from the western boundary of the Marsh. This is a neighborhood with private (not commercial) homes directly bordering the meadow. I suggest that the Conservancy use their property at the end of Lily as a designated parking lot and open the Lily gate as the main entrance to the Marsh. Most visitors are headed for the beach and some even breach this gate illegally to avoid a longer walk. Alternatively, the city could post "NO PARKING" signs on one side of the streets in the vicinity so that traffic could flow normally.

15-4

Re: **Current State of the "social trail" along the eastern edge of the Marsh.**

The existing main trail running along the edge of the Marsh paralleling El Dorado Street, Argonaut Avenue, and Bellevue Ave. is in varying states of usability. Some areas are flooded much of the year; some parts are muddy, branched or severely compacted. Many visitors do not respect the trail and access the interior of the meadow or private property.

15-5

Summary and Conclusion: We have been watching this project since 2006 and are hopeful that the Conservancy now has the resources to bring it to conclusion. I believe this could be a very beneficial project for the community, and certainly for wildlife habitat and the clarity of the lake. I would endorse a trail upgrade such as presented in **Alternative 3** (with respect to the recreation aspects only) to preserve the integrity of the meadow. In addition, if it were built in such a way as to keep people from accessing the interior of the meadow, that would be even more beneficial. Small viewpoints with signage would be desirable if they were maintained in good repair. In addition, I would ask that the Conservancy consider the following as critical actions regardless of which Alternative is chosen.

15-6

- Actively manage the property including the beach by hiring personnel to enforce the rules already in place and educate the public about the Marsh habitat. If you can provide millions of dollars for this project, can you not find a few thousand each year for its protection?
- Consider opening the Lily Street gate and provide adequate parking to reduce on street neighborhood parking and degradation of private property
- Consider banning dogs from the Marsh permanently, especially if no active enforcement is planned
- Provide increased trash pick-up during summer, weekends, and holidays.

15-7

15-8

15-9

We have been "neighbors" of the Conservancy for seven years and hope to see some improvements in the management of their property in terms of active supervision.

As I sit at my computer and look out the window at the Marsh, I see a family of two adults, three small children and one leashed dog. This is what I want the future to look like, not the interaction I had yesterday with two adults and four (count 'em, four) dogs off leash who thought it was OK because they lived "just up the street"!

Thank you for the opportunity to respond and comment on the Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration Project. We will be watching the project with interest and excitement for the future.

Sincerely,



Jean Bergner

PO Box 18548

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151



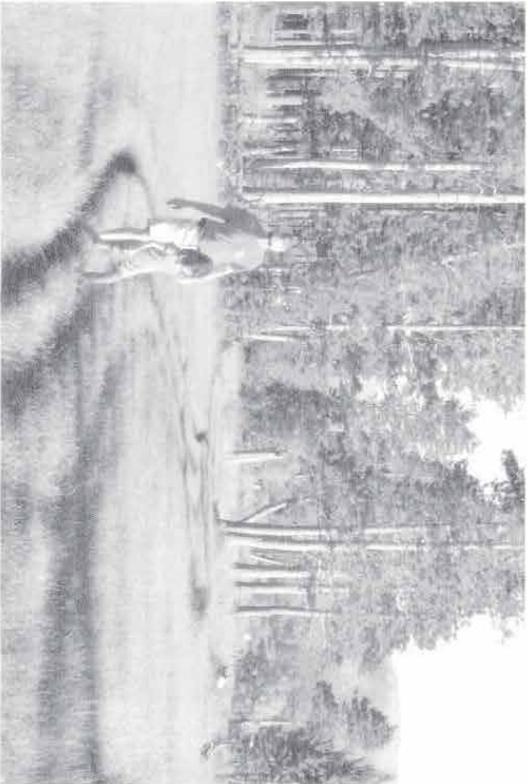
Parking on Argonaut Ave. on a summer day



Off leash dog; owner throwing frisbee; April 2013



After a warm May weekend on the Upper Truckee Marsh, 2009



Muddy braided trails; July 2012

- I5-1 The commenter’s support for reducing sediment flowing into Lake Tahoe is noted.
- This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I5-2 The commenter’s opposition to Alternative 1 is noted. The commenter’s concern about off-leash dogs in the Upper Truckee Marsh is noted.
- As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate recreation on the west side of the marsh, similar to existing conditions, and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side. Alternative 3 is the recommended restoration approach under the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.1, “Selecting a Preferred Alternative,” of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a description of the approach to selecting recreation and restoration components of the Preferred Alternative. See Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of animal control services in the study area.
- I5-3 The commenter believes that the existing public services provided for the marsh are inadequate.
- See Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of police protection services in the study area.
- I5-4 The commenter disagrees that the demand for parking would be similar to existing demands and suggests additional parking in Conservancy lots to the east.
- See response to Comment AO2-7 for a discussion of parking needs associated with minimum, moderate, and maximum recreation levels of use.
- I5-5 The commenter’s opinion of the user-created trails east of the marsh is noted.
- As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate infrastructure on the west side of the marsh and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side. In addition, the Conservancy would continue to manage and reduce the impacts of recreational use and new trails on the east side while maintaining and expanding on-site signage.
- This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I5-6 The commenter’s support of Alternative 3 recreation components is noted.
- As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate recreation on the west side of the marsh, similar to existing conditions, and no additional recreation access on the marsh’s east side. Alternative 3 is the recommended restoration approach under the Preferred Alternative. See Section 2.1, “Selecting a Preferred Alternative,” of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a description of the approach to selecting recreation and restoration components of the Preferred Alternative. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

- I5-7 The commenter recommends hiring enforcement personnel in the study area.
- See Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of police protection services in the study area.
- I5-8 The commenter suggests additional parking in Conservancy lots to the east.
- See response to Comment AO2-7 for a discussion of parking needs associated with minimum, moderate, and maximum recreation levels of use.
- I5-9 The commenter’s opposition to allowing off-leash dogs in the Upper Truckee Marsh and suggestion for additional trash pickup in the study area is noted.
- See Section 3.1.4, “Management,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of trash pickup and animal control services in the study area.

From: Jim Carlson [jim_carlson1999@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 12:22 AM
 To: Carroll, Scott@Tahoe
 Subject: EIR/EIS for Truckee River Marsh

Mr. Carroll and CTC,

I write today concerning your Draft EIR/EIS for the Truckee River Marsh. You cannot honestly adopt "findings of no significant impact" for this project unless you are going to prohibit DOGS from using any and all new recreation elements that you construct.

It may be true that the proposed restoration project will reduce fine sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants headed for Lake Tahoe, and it may be true that the proposed restoration project would improve certain habitat attributes. I applaud you for taking on those issues, and I support aggressive restoration to protect Lake Tahoe and the Marsh itself. But building any new trails, trailheads, parking areas, boardwalks, or any new facilities that will facilitate increased recreational access to the Marsh will encourage, abet, and invite significantly more DOGS. And the increase in dog use will result in greater impacts to wildlife and significantly more bacteria and pathogens in the waters of the Marsh, River, and Lake.

The signs you have posted along the Cove East trail are a miserable failure. Dogs are routinely off leash, and seen wading/swimming in the water. And it is obvious to anyone who uses the trail that people often do not "pick up" after their dogs. Persons walking on the trail largely miss out on the view because they must constantly look down at the ground to avoid stepping in dog feces.

Signs therefore are not and cannot be considered sufficient mitigation for increasing access by dogs. Signs about dogs are routinely ignored and do not work.

I6-1

You should either:

- (1) prohibit dogs on any and all new trails or boardwalks that you build;
- (2) dedicate a hard-wired & mandatory budget for full-time ranger presence and enforcement of dog rules; or
- (3) be honest and admit that you will create significant impacts to wildlife and water quality by inviting more dog access, and be honest enough to write findings of over-riding consideration if it truly is so important for our society to allow dogs to increasingly pollute the Marsh and Lake.

Any other action besides the three listed above would be a dishonest cop-out, a disingenuous head fake, a bureaucratic sham --- and would be unlawful.

Please prohibit dogs on any and all new recreation facilities that you build as part of this project.

Dogs and their pollution do not belong in the Marsh, and the public deserves to have dog-free areas to enjoy the Marsh and Lake shore.

Thank you for this opportunity to share comments as you design your project.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Carlson
 Roundhill, NV

- I6-1 The commenter's opposition to allowing off-leash dogs in the Upper Truckee Marsh is noted.
- See Section 3.1.4, "Management," in Chapter 3, "Master Responses," of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of animal control services in the study area.

Letter 17

From: Leslynn Catlett [pozartoo@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 07, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Carroll, Scott@Tahoe
Subject: Upper Truckee Marsh

I understand that there are several possible projects that are being considered for the Upper Truckee Marsh. I have enjoyed this area for many years and feel that it is perfect as it is. The peaceful beauty that changes with the weather and sun light through out the days is hard to find around Lake Tahoe any longer. Hikers, strollers, bikers, pets and wildlife seem to all find time and space to coexist. I have never heard anyone ask 'where is the nearest kiosk'. nor do people seem to miss any infrastructure that does not presently exist in the meadow. The meadow AS IT IS is why we all enjoy it. Building any structures would be disruptive and only serve to bring more expense to the community due to construction and upkeep costs. I am sure there are many other projects that could benefit our community. I don't understand why building kiosks that could shelter the homeless in this natural wonderland is a better idea than building actual shelters and providing jobs for the same homeless population.

17-1

Thank you for your time and attention,
Leslynn Catlett, O.D.

I7-1

The commenter's opposition to installing kiosks and additional infrastructure is noted.

As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Description," of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative is proposing moderate infrastructure on the west side of the marsh and no additional recreation access on the marsh's east side. In addition, the Conservancy would continue to manage and reduce the impacts of recreational use. See response to Comment IO4-5 on kiosks.

California Tahoe Conservancy
ATTN: Scott Carroll
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Subject: Comments on Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project (Project)

Note: Withhold my home address from public disclosure to the extent allowed by law

I am a resident and/or property owner in the Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision. I believe the Project planning and its environmental impact report (Report) do not adequately address the following possible real impacts to me and my neighborhood:

1. **Construction noise in Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision:** this is a quiet residential neighborhood. Use of California Avenue as a haul route, and CTC neighborhood lots for the California Avenue Staging site, will generate abnormal and unacceptable local noise preventing my reasonable use and enjoyment of my home and property. The Report implies this noise could occur at any time, or continuously, from 8 AM to 6:30 PM, daily, for four years. Nevertheless, the Report assesses the short-term noise impact, for all project alternatives, as Less Than Significant, No Mitigation Needed. This finding defies common sense for significant residential impact, and the locations cited in Appendix J of the Report that were analyzed for noise impact do not include any streets in the vicinity of California Avenue or its proposed staging site. I strongly disagree with this finding for this neighborhood and consider the noise impact analysis for this neighborhood inadequate since it does not include any nearby locations.
2. **Traffic in Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision:** California Avenue, designated as the only haul route in this subdivision, is one of its narrowest streets. California Avenue is heavily used by residents, people walking their children and pets, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The street is too narrow for large vehicles to pass each other or turn around, or even for normal vehicles to navigate without evasive maneuvers. When cars are parked along it, it is effectively single lane. Yet the Report assesses the short-term potential for conflict between construction traffic, local traffic, pedestrians, and bicycles as Less Than Significant, No Mitigation Needed. For this neighborhood, I strongly disagree with this finding and consider the analysis it is based on to be inadequate. The finding defies common sense, does not seem to address the residential nature of the neighborhood, and the traffic impact assessment discussions in the Report cite only the Al Tahoe, Hidden Woods, and Tahoe Keys Neighborhoods, but not this neighborhood.
3. **Disruption of established neighborhood values in Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision:** the proposed California Ave Staging site makes use of small undeveloped residential lots acquired by the CTC because of, and to prevent damage to, their environmental sensitivity. The neighborhood had a reasonable expectation that they would never be used by the CTC as a construction site for staging heavy equipment and fill materials. The aesthetic fundamental nature of the neighborhood would be devastated for four years by this use. This impact is not recognized or assessed in the Report. I strongly object to use of the subject CTC lots by the Project for this or other construction purposes.

18-1

18-2

18-3

- 4. Neighborhood safety in Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision: construction activity on the subject CTC lots in conjunction with neighborhood children playing near their homes creates a safety hazard that does not appear to be identified or analyzed in the Report. I strongly object to unnecessary multi-year heavy construction in the neighborhood and feel that the Report has not adequately assessed the impact to the safety of neighborhood children. *Will a four year old neighborhood child not be able to play catch outside his or her home in the summer until he or she is 8?* 18-4
- 5. Increased Flood Risk in Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision: The models cited in the Report predict no increased residential flood risk as a result of the Project. If the models prove incorrect, no assessment has been included of how expensive the damages to property owners would be or whether the lead Agencies would be responsible, and have the funds, to financially compensate the property owners 18-5
- 6. Neighborhood notification in Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision: even though my neighborhood is potentially highly impacted by Project construction, I was not directly notified of the Report or public comment period. Even if agency outreach and notification satisfied the letter of the law, it certainly did not satisfy the spirit of notifying impacted parties so they could comment. Few of my neighbors are aware of the possible impacts even now, and there has been little public response to the few recent outreach meetings. I feel the notification process has been inadequate and ineffective, at least near the potential California Ave Staging site. 18-6

I believe these and other potential impacts to my neighborhood are excessive, unnecessary, and unacceptable. Therefore, I respectfully request that the preferred alternative and final plans, include the features below. If this isn't done, I respectfully request that additional impact analyses and public comment be undertaken to address the inadequacies cited above from these features.

- 1. No use of the CTC lots designated as California Ave Staging for any Project construction activities. It is not necessary for either environmental or practical reasons. The CTC has other alternatives that do not require disrupting this, or other, residential neighborhoods. 18-7
- 2. No use of California Ave as a haul route for Project construction activities.
- 3. No use of any streets or parcels in the Tahoe Island Park 4 subdivision as Project haul routes or staging sites.
- 4. Locating internal haul routes for river work on the east side of the river to the maximum extent possible to minimize impact to close-by residential neighborhoods which are primarily on the west side of the river.
- 5. Posting a bond or securing insurance to compensate property owners for damages and loss of property value, if the Project increases residential flood risk and the FEMA 100-year floodplain.

Respectfully submitted,

Name:

Jesse Chamberlain

Date:

4/7/13

Address:

- I8-1 The commenter has concerns about construction noise associated with the use of California Avenue for staging and access.
- Hauling and staging would occur within the project area as shown in Exhibit 2-2 in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS. The Preferred Alternative does not propose construction staging areas or access points on California Avenue. See Section 3.1.3, “Construction Noise,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of construction-related noise.
- I8-2 The commenter’s concern about construction traffic is noted.
- See Section 3.1.2, “Traffic, Access, and Staging,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of construction-related traffic.
- I8-3 The commenter’s concern about aesthetic impacts associated with construction staging proposed on Conservancy lots on California Avenue is noted.
- As shown in Exhibit 2-2 in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative does not propose construction staging areas or access points on California Avenue.
- The scenic quality of an area is determined based on the variety and contrasts of the area’s visual features, the character of those features, and the scope and scale of the scene. The analysis in the 2013 Draft EIR/EIS/EIS used a qualitative descriptive method to characterize and evaluate the visual resources of the areas that could be affected by the project. Project features were considered to have a substantial effect on visual resources if they would be visually prominent, threaten the attainment of a TRPA threshold, or be incompatible with the natural landscape. Section 3.14, “Scenic Resources,” of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS states that residents and recreationists near the storage/staging areas shown would also experience short-term changes to their views. Although there would be changes in views associated with construction, these changes would be temporary and would not substantially degrade the visual character of the area or reduce the threshold ratings from any shoreline or travel units.
- I8-4 The commenter’s concern about construction-related traffic safety is noted.
- The Preferred Alternative would use main arterials to access the study area, including U.S. Highway 50, Venice Drive, and Tahoe Keys Drive. Hauling and staging would occur within the project area as shown in Exhibit 2-2 in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS. The Preferred Alternative does not propose construction staging areas or access points on California Avenue. See Section 3.1.2, “Traffic, Access, and Staging,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of construction-related traffic.
- I8-5 The commenter’s concerns about financial liability associated with flooding are noted.
- See Section 3.1.1, “Flooding and Flood Hazards,” in Chapter 3 of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS. The analysis of the proposed project is consistent with CEQA, NEPA and TRPA requirements because the project would not change the existing flood hazards of the surrounding properties.

See “Flooding and Flood Hazards,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS. Furthermore, financial responsibility for flood damages is not an issue relating to effects on the environment that requires an analysis under CEQA. I8-6 The commenter’s concerns about the notification process are noted.

As described in Chapter 1, “Introduction,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Conservancy, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and TRPA followed CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA requirements on full disclosure, transparency, and due process. See response to Comment AO2-4 for a discussion of the project’s history, planning context, and public outreach.

I8-7

The commenter requests changes to proposed construction access and staging, and financial compensation for potential damages and/or loss of property value resulting from flooding.

As shown in Exhibit 2-2 in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS, the Preferred Alternative does not propose construction staging areas or access points on California Avenue. See Section 3.1.1, “Flooding and Flood Hazards,” in Chapter 3 of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion on flooding. The analysis of the proposed project is consistent with CEQA, NEPA and TRPA requirements because the project would not change the existing flood hazards of the surrounding properties. See “Flooding and Flood Hazards,” in Chapter 3, “Master Responses,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS. Furthermore, financial responsibility for flood damages is not an issue relating to effects on the environment that requires an analysis under CEQA.

See Section 3.1.2, “Traffic, Access, and Staging,” in Chapter 3 of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of construction-related traffic.

From: sarah chisholm [sarah_chisholm2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 07, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Carroll, Scott@Tahoe
Subject: Comments on Draft EIR/EIS for Upper Truckee River Marsh

April 7, 2013

California Tahoe Conservancy
ATTN: Scott Carroll
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Mr. Carroll,

My primary concern about the Upper Truckee River Marsh Draft EIR/EIS is dogs. Dogs on the trails, dogs on the beach, dogs chasing wildlife, dogs off leash, dogs "pooping" everywhere (people not picking it up), and dogs harassing visitors.

This winter & spring, I could hardly walk ten feet on the Cove East trail without stepping around (or in, yuk) dog feces. When the snow melted, I took a shovel and spent a half day shoveling all the dog feces off the trail. Your signs do not work. Most dogs are off leash, and people do not pick up after their dogs. The take-home message is that signs do not work, and cannot be considered adequate mitigation for allowing more dogs into the Marsh.

I do not like it when dogs come running up to me barking and growling. My sister, visiting from the Bay Area last year, was bitten by an off-leash dog at Cove East, and the owner was completely unconcerned and more threatening than the dog, which only added insult to injury.

I do not like it when dogs run up to me from behind and put their dirty wet nose on my hands. I do not like it when off-leash dogs jump on me and/or shove their nose into my crotch. I do not like it when off-leash dogs go running down the beach splashing water on me and my group.

I know that people love their dogs, and not all dogs exhibit bad behavior. But that doesn't mean dogs should be allowed on public trails or in the River Marsh. My strong preference would be that you ban all dogs from CTC property. If you cannot summon the political will to do that, then there should be at least some trails or boardwalks where dogs are not allowed, so those of us who don't want to deal with dogs can enjoy a dog-free experience. And you must actively enforce the rules about leashes and dog poop: your signs do not work!

Please do something about the large number of dogs at Cove East trail and beach, and please do not take any action(s) that will increase the large number of dogs already using the Truckee River Marsh.

Thank you,
Sarah Chisholm
South Lake Tahoe

19-1

I9-1

The commenter's concern about off-leash dogs along trails in the Upper Truckee River Marsh is noted.

See Section 3.1.4, "Management," in Chapter 3, "Master Responses," of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for a discussion of animal control services in the study area.

3/27/13

Letter I10

Dear Commetty on Environment.

Sorry I misplaced your letter regarding the situation concerning the upper Truckee River and the meadows.

I purchased my home in 1963 + bought it because (partially) the beauty of the view over a stream + the trees which belonged to the Barton System at that time.

I see the problem with the residences bordering the river. I am fortunate I did not or will not have a problem if the owners of the land give me permission to install a Riparian Wall of Gravel Blocks to stop erosion when the spring melts occur. I am not happy that someone foolishly

I10-1

installed a coffer DAM had diverted the H₂O
across the meadow that caused the erosion
that you'd have never happened. If I had ^{KNOWN} ~~known~~
I would have dug out the stream to keep a moderate
amount of erosion. Your action now is 30 years
too late. However, I am in favor of putting
up a Riparian wall of Riprap or some
type of barrier along the ex-bow natures meadow
for creating meadows - with permission of land owners.

110-1
cont.

Sorry I am unable to
attend your meeting
as I am handicapped + 93.

Richard O. Cornwell Major USAF
Retiree
1050 River Dr SHT

received
4/15/13

I10-1 The commenter discusses historic channel erosion and identifies his support for actions to address erosion, including a riparian wall.

As discussed in Section 3.9, “Geomorphology and Water Quality,” of the 2013 Draft EIR/EIS/EIS, the Upper Truckee River and Trout Creek have been affected by watershed-scale changes in land use, hydrology, and sediment loads that have degraded the watershed’s fluvial geomorphic and ecologic functions. As listed in Section 1.3.2 of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS, two primary objectives of the project are to “restore natural and self-sustaining river and floodplain processes and functions” and “protect, enhance, and restore naturally functioning habitats.” The Preferred Alternative includes an approach to improve physical processes and ecologic function through both active and passive restoration means. The Preferred Alternative also includes various measures to address areas with actively eroding streambanks (e.g., streambank stabilization techniques), as well as to reduce hydraulic stress along the banks during high flows (e.g., reconnecting secondary high-flow channels and lowering floodplains to allow floodplain activation at lower flows).

Public Comment Form
Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project

AGENCIES: California Tahoe Conservancy, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Comments on the DEIR/DEIS/DEIS will be accepted throughout the review period in compliance with the time limits mandated by State law and TRPA. Your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, but received no later than April 8, 2013.

Oral and written comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, will be made available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

SEND COMMENTS TO: All comments will be combined and addressed in the Final EIR/EIS/EIS. It is only necessary to send comments to one agency.

Please submit comments via email to Scott.Carroll@tahoe.ca.gov.

- Subject Line: Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project
(1) Attach comments in an MS Word document
(2) Include commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address in MS Word.

Written comments can be sent to the following address:

California Tahoe Conservancy
ATTN: Scott Carroll
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150



COMMENTS:

Name: RICHARD DEVRIES
Address: PO Box 17815 South Lake Tahoe Ca. 96151
Email (optional):

I like the art. 3 east side boardwalks next to
all Tahoe subdivisions as people will access the meadow
in the spring and prevent damage to the muddy
meadow. People will always want access to that health.

I11-1

It would be nice to have a bike trail to Morona/
Vernice Dr. and Long East on West side of meadow
So as to not have to ride bike down Kings Blvd. The
trail would be behind highland woods and Tahoe Island
Sub division.

I11-2

I am a all Tahoe subdivision resident / property owner

- I11-1 The commenter’s support for the Alternative 3 eastside access is noted.
- The Preferred Alternative does not include construction of additional recreation access on the east side; however, existing user-created trails would continue to provide access. See Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of the alternative selection process.
- I11-2 The commenter’s support for a bike trail from Al Tahoe to Venice Drive is noted.
- The Preferred Alternative does not include construction of new bicycle trails. See Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this Final EIR/EIS/EIS for further discussion of the alternative selection process.