

SECTION E

Scoping Meeting Presentation



Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project

EIR/EIS/EIS Public Scoping Meetings

October 24, 2006



California Tahoe Conservancy
Department of General Services



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Purpose and Need

The need for the project originates from the environmental degradation that the Upper Truckee River has historically experienced as a result of human alterations to the river and watershed.

The purpose of the proposed action is to restore natural geomorphic processes and ecological functions in this lowest reach of the Upper Truckee River and the surrounding marsh to improve ecological values of the study area and help reduce the river's discharge of nutrients and sediment that diminish Lake Tahoe's clarity.



Key Accomplishments

- Constructed Lower West Side Restoration as a first-phase project in 2001/2002.
- Evaluated existing natural processes and functions of the river and marsh in 2000 and 2001
- Defined restoration opportunities and constraints in 2002 and 2003
- Conducted a design charette in 2003 to receive input on priorities, concerns, and design ideas.

Key Accomplishments

- Conducting hydraulic modeling to support the development and evaluation of alternatives.
- Developed and evaluated four conceptual alternatives in 2004 and 2005.
- Held regulatory agency review of alternative concepts for key regulatory requirements in 2005.
- Further refined and evaluated the alternatives, and prepared Concept Plan Report (July 2006).

Presentation Objectives

- Share information about the proposed project and the project alternatives
- Describe the environmental review process and timeline
- Seek public and agency stakeholder input on the content and scope of the environmental analysis

Environmental Review Requirements and Lead Agencies

- Project subject to
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Compact and Code of Ordinances (Chapter 5)

- Project-level Joint EIR/EIS/EIS
 - CEQA lead agency: California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy)
 - NEPA lead agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
 - TRPA

Why Conduct Environmental Review?

- Disclose environmental impacts and compare alternatives
- Identify alternatives and/or mitigation to reduce significant effects
- Assess relationship of project to TRPA thresholds
- Disclose agency decision making
- Enhance public participation

Project Objectives

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

Project Objectives (continued)

Objective 6. Provide public access, access to vistas, and environmental education at the Lower West Side and Cove East Beach

Objective 7. Avoid increasing flood hazard on adjacent private property

Objective 8. Design with sensitivity to the site's history and cultural heritage

Objective 9. Design the wetland/urban interface to help provide habitat value and water quality benefits

Objective 10. Implement a public health and safety program, including mosquito monitoring and control

Preliminary EIR/EIS/EIS Alternatives

- Alternative 1. Channel Aggradation and Narrowing (Maximum Recreation Infrastructure)
- Alternative 2. New Channel – West Meadow (Minimum Recreation Infrastructure)
- Alternative 3. Middle Marsh Corridor (Moderate Recreation Infrastructure)
- Alternative 4. Inset Floodplain (Moderate Recreation Infrastructure)
- Alternative 5. No Project/No Action

Recreation/Public Access

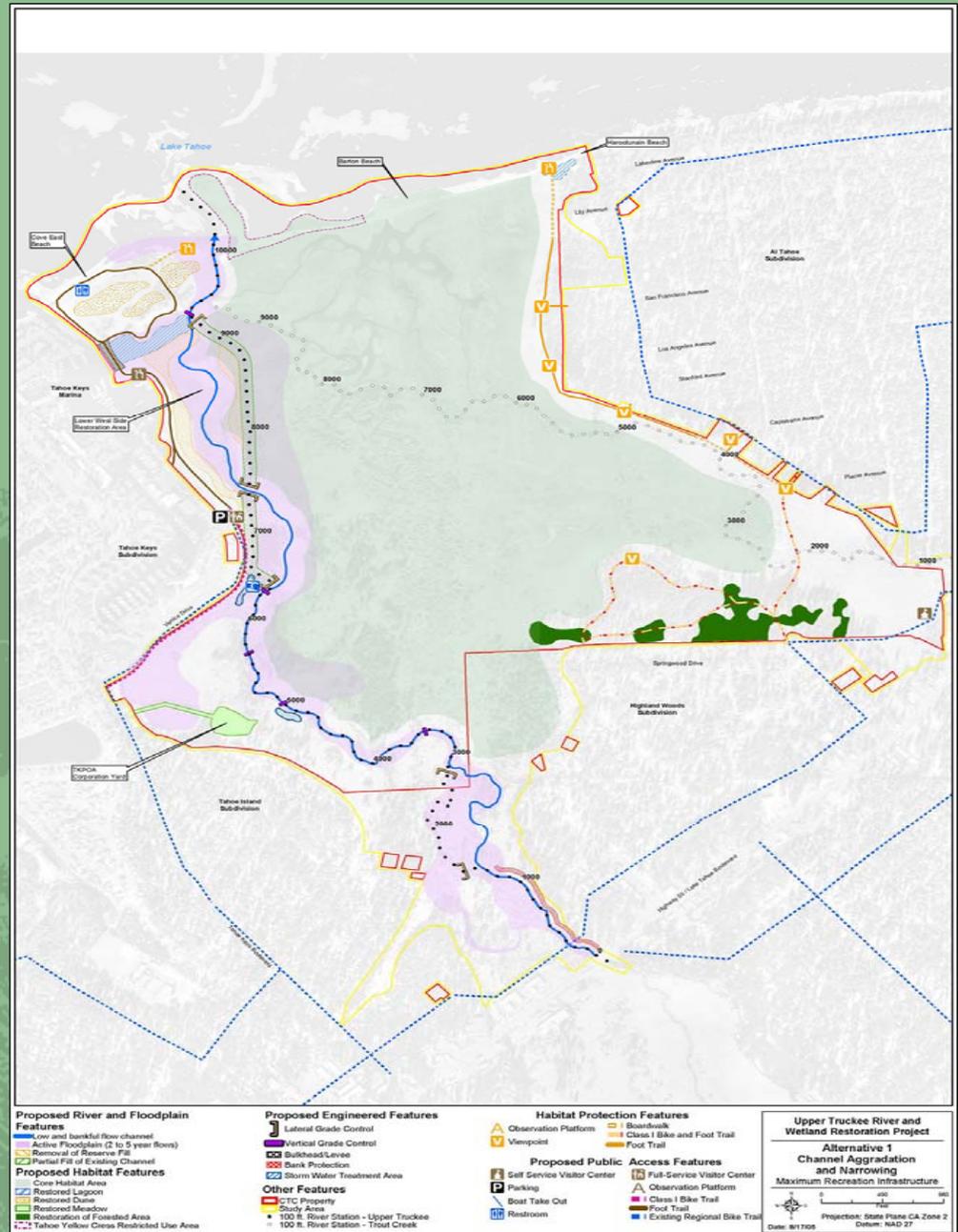
Recreational/public access components are ‘modular’ and could be transferred between alternatives, or recombined after environmental review to formulate different variations of the alternatives.

The level of public access and recreational facilities included in the alternative selected for implementation would need to be compatible with that alternative’s river and marsh restoration strategy.

Alternative 1.

Channel Aggradation and Narrowing

(Maximum Recreation Infrastructure)



Alternative 1. Channel Aggradation and Narrowing (Maximum Recreation Infrastructure)

- Raise the bed elevation of the existing channel.
- Sinuous, single thread channel excavated through the LWS.
- Reduce capacity of river mouth (existing location).
- Reconfigure two sections of split channel.
- Reconfigure the relationship between the sailing lagoon and the Upper Truckee River.
- Full-service visitor and interpretive center

Alternative 1. Channel Aggradation and Narrowing (Maximum Recreation Infrastructure) (cont'd)

- New trails and boardwalks.
- Pedestrian/bicycle loop trail north of Highland Woods.
- Construct a river corridor barrier near the current river alignment.
- Remove fill behind Harootunian Beach.
- Restore sand ridges (“dunes”) at Cove East.

Alternative 2. New Channel – West Meadow (Minimum Recreation Infrastructure)

- New geomorphic bankfull capacity channel.
- Sinuous, single thread channel excavated east of the LWS.
- Reduce capacity of river mouth (new location)..
- Excavate portions of the meadow/terrace separating the split channel.
- Reconfiguring the relationship between the sailing lagoon and the Upper Truckee River.
- Interpretive program and signage.

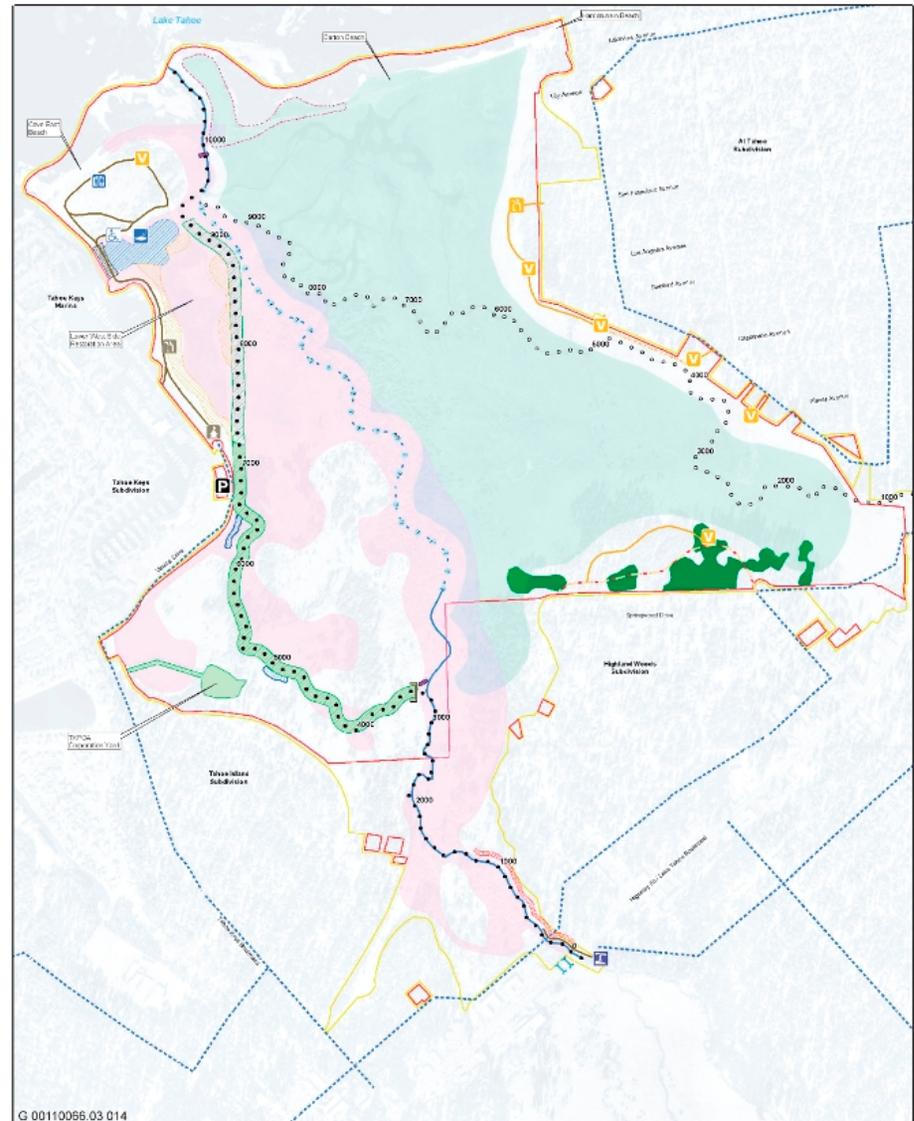
Alternative 2. New Channel – West Meadow (Minimum Recreation Infrastructure) (cont'd)

- Re-route public access trail.
- View points on the eastern margin of the site.
- Maintain existing bicycle trails around the perimeter of the study area.
- Construct a river corridor barrier near the current river alignment.
- Remove fill behind Harootunian Beach
- Restore sand ridges (“dunes”) at Cove East.

Alternative 3.

Middle Marsh Corridor

(Moderate Recreation Infrastructure)



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<p>Proposed River and Floodplain Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low and beneficial low channel Estimated Low Flow Channel Active Floodplain (2 to 5 year flows) Removal of Existing Fill Partial Fill of Existing Channel <p>Proposed Habitat Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cove Habitat Area Restored Lagoon Restored Meadow Restoration of Forested Area Tahoe Yellow Cross Restricted Use Area 	<p>Proposed Engineered Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lateral Grade Control Vertical Grade Control Submerged Weir Bank Protection Storm Water Treatment Area Overbank Conveyance Bridge Modification 	<p>Habitat Protection Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewpoint Observation Platform Boardwalk Class I Bike and Foot Trail Foot Trail <p>Proposed Public Access Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation Platform Restroom Self Service Visitor Center ADA Accessible Fishing Access Foot Trail Existing Regional Bike Trail 	<p>Other Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTC Property Study Area 100 ft River Station - Upper Truckee 100 ft River Station - Trout Creek
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Alternative 3

Middle Marsh Corridor

Moderate Recreation Infrastructure

Projection: State Plane, CA Zone 2
 Date: 8/17/06
 Datum: NAD 27

Alternative 3. Middle Marsh Corridor (Moderate Recreation Infrastructure)

- New geomorphic bankfull capacity pilot channel.
- Reduce capacity of river mouth (existing location).
- Maintain the low-flow channel between US 50 and the “Big Bend.”
- Reconfigure the relationship between the sailing lagoon and the Upper Truckee River.
- Small visitor/interpretive center.
- Interpretive program and signage.

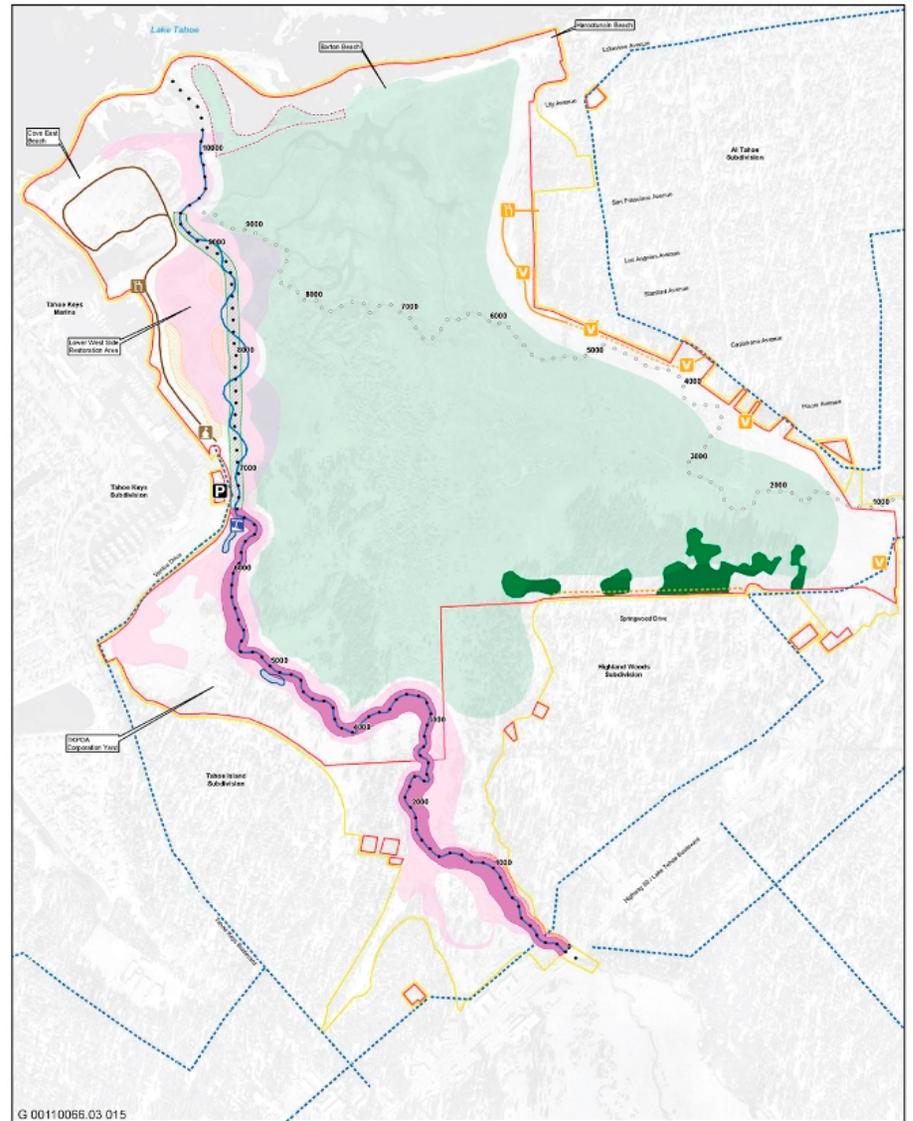
Alternative 3. Middle Marsh Corridor (Moderate Recreation Infrastructure) (cont'd)

- Re-route public access trail.
- Trails and boardwalks along the eastern perimeter of the site.
- No trail connection across the wetland.
- Maintain existing bicycle trails around the perimeter of the study area.
- Pedestrian/bicycle loop trail north of Highland Woods.

Alternative 4.

Inset Floodplain

(Moderate Recreation Infrastructure)



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- Proposed River and Floodplain Features**
- Low weed bankfull flow channel
 - Active Floodplain (2 to 5 year flow)
 - Area of Inset Floodplain
 - Removal of Reserve SF
 - Partial Fill of Existing Channel
- Proposed Habitat Features**
- Core Habitat Area
 - Restoration of Forested Area
 - Truckee Yellow-Cross Restricted Use Area

- Proposed Engineered Features**
- Bank Protection
 - Cross-Weir Treatment Area
- Habitat Protection Features**
- Observation Platform
 - Viewpoint
 - Boardwalk
 - Class I Bike Trail
 - Foot Trail

- Proposed Public Access Features**
- Observation Platform
 - Self-Service Visitor Center
 - Parking
 - Boat Take Out
 - Restroom
 - Class I Bike Trail
 - Foot Trail
 - Existing Regional Bike Trail

- Other Features**
- CTIC Property
 - Study Area
 - 100 ft. River Station - Upper Truckee
 - 100 ft. River Station - Trout Creek

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Alternative 4

Inset Floodplain

Moderate Recreation Infrastructure

Projection: State Plane CA Zone 2
Datum: NAD 87

Date: 01/17/05

Alternative 4. Inset Floodplain (Moderate Recreation Infrastructure)

- Excavate meadow surface along existing channel.
- Reduce capacity of river mouth (existing location).
- Sinuous, single thread bankfull channel (similar alignment).
- Maintain the low-flow channel in the same alignment.
- Retain the open connection between the sailing lagoon, the marina, and Lake Tahoe.
- Small self-service visitor/interpretive center.

Alternative 4. Inset Floodplain (Moderate Recreation Infrastructure) (cont'd)

- Interpretive program signage along the eastern perimeter of the site.
- No connection is provided north across the wetland.
- Maintain existing bicycle trails around the perimeter of the study area.
- Construct a perimeter Class I bike trail along the southern border of the site.
- Create a river corridor barrier near the current river alignment.

Alternative 5. No Project/No Action

- Existing conditions projected into the future



EIR/EIS/EIS Content

- All alternatives will be evaluated; preferred alternative recommended in Final EIR/EIS/EIS
- Full scope of environmental issues
- Combined CEQA/NEPA/TRPA requirements, including contribution to threshold attainment

Environmental Process Timeline

NOP and NOI Issued	October 4, 2006, October 19, 2006
Public Scoping Period for NOP/NOI Ends	November 2, 2006
Alternatives Refinement and Environmental Analysis	Fall 2006 – Winter 2007
Public Information Meeting	Winter/Spring 2007
Draft EIR/EIS/EIS Released, Public Meetings and Review Period	Spring 2007
Final EIR/EIS/EIS Issued (Response to Public/Agency Comments)	Summer/Fall 2008 (tentative)
Final EIR/EIS/EIS Certified, Project Decisions (CEQA NOD, NEPA ROD)	Fall 2008/Winter 2009 (tentative)

Project Information

For project information throughout the EIR/EIS/EIS process:

- Visit the project website at:
www.uppertruckeemarsh.com
- Upper Truckee Updates
- Email the Conservancy at:
upper_truckee_marsh@tahoecons.ca.gov



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Thank you for your participation!



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