SECTION F

TRPA APC and GB Meeting Notes

TRPA Advisory Planning Commission Meeting
(October 11, 2006)

TRPA Governing Board Meeting
(October 25, 2006)

Final – 11/29/06

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER AND MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT EIR/EIS/EIS

TRPA ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION SCOPING MEETING

SUMMARY COMMENT NOTES

DATE: Wednesday, October 11, 2006
TIME: 9:30 am
LOCATION: Kings Beach Conference Center

ATTENDEES:

Rick Robinson, CTC	Curtis Alling, EDAW
Jacqui Grandfield, CTC	Gina Hamilton, EDAW
Mike Elam, TRPA	Mike Rudd, Entrix
APC Members	

Meeting Purpose:

Environmental document scoping meeting with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Advisory Planning Commission.

Major Points Expressed in Comments:

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
		Presentations
Mike Elam, TRPA		Introduced project, mentioned other UTR projects. Project team is initiating public scoping process.
Rick Robinson, CTC		Project background and history.
Curtis Alling, EDAW		Notice of Preparation, project out to public. Introduced project team members. EIR/EIS/EIS. Purpose & Need, historical disturbances. Objectives. Alternatives. Project objectives. Alternative Descriptions. No preferred alternative. Content of environmental document. Public involvement. Timeline
Teri Jamin, City of South Lake Tahoe		City is interested in this project. Wants recreation available to people on both sides of the river, if not available, people will “make it available”.

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
Alan Tolhurst, Chairman, El Dorado County Supervisor		Encouraged recreation.
Lauri Kemper, Lahontan RWQCB		What about the Tahoe Keys Corporation yard? Rick: The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) has a 99 year lease for the yard. Restoration would involve cooperation of TKPOA. Discussions are in the works. Supports relocating corporation yard. Complaints from public to RWQCB. Encourages Rick to work with TKPOA to find new location. Rick: Actively looking for new location for corporation yard.
Lauri Kemper		Encourages TRPA to find a better site for corporation yard.
Rick Robinson		Lahontan staff is involved in the project.
Lauri Kemper		Lahontan staff is involved in design of restoration, quantitative load reductions. Hoping EIS will discuss quantification of impacts/changes during construction, turbidity. Need a certain level of detail.
Rick Robinson		Looking forward to Lahontan staff involvement
Shane Romsos, TRPA		The project should consider: Non-native species issues related to the lagoon and other areas. Also, coordination with other projects [on UTR]. Rick: Coordinating with other agencies working on other reaches. Feasibility of reconnecting water supply to Pope Marsh? Rick: Would require an active pumping system, probably not feasible to reconnect. TKPOA has looked into this to some degree. Maintenance of such a system = high cost. Not part of this project. Encourage potential for building this into alternatives to help Pope Marsh. Environmental document should consider bald eagle thresholds.

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
Alan Tolhurst		Oxbows near airport. Asks about current UTM diagrams. Rick: Conceptual/representative graphics – schematics for the environmental process. EIR/EIS/EIS including flooding projections? Rick: Yes, including WQ benefits and existing housing in 100 year floodplain. Mentioned flooding objective. Hurricane Katrina actually resulted in some benefits to wetlands. Rick: Breaches in levees can benefit wetland systems, lead to sediment accumulation. Flat areas in systems collect sediment. Currently: No sediment collection. Hoping for modeling of existing deposition and change due to project
Shane Romsos		Chapter 5 of the watershed assessment identifies this area as an ecologically significant threshold marsh system.
Virginia Mahacek		Shane asked about Pope Marsh. Discusses in the Process & Functions study [for the UTM], difficult to reconnect. Pope Marsh is groundwater supported. New studies would be needed for Pope. Lauri mentioned evaluation of WQ performance. Dependent on Concepts modeling timing, including simulation of No Project/No Action. Concepts modeling *may* provide info for alternatives; may not. The Marsh is difficult to model. Alan mentioned the airport reach and sinuosity. The valley [where the airport reach is located] seems flat but the Marsh is the flattest spot. Near the airport: an alluvial valley stream reach. The Marsh is a transition area; marsh/delta area. Difficult to model behavior in this reach. Somewhat represented by single-channel modeling but not exactly. Current UTM graphics: Actual channel will not be highly sinuous.
Alan Tolhurst		When you engineer changes in the stream, the stream will take its own course at that point? Virginia: Yes. Alt 1 nudges the stream. Alt 2, construction/future dynamics. Alt 3, facilitating the channel taking over marsh. Different levels of predictability and long-term needs. We will model. But modeling has limitations. Need to consider natural dynamics. The barrier beach is part of the process and design.
Lauri Kemper		Benefit of Alt 3 = using the naturally functioning marsh there today. Well protected due to less disturbance. More concerned about alternatives [that place the channel] at the edge [of the site]. Virginia: It's a trade off: Predictability and engineering.

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
John Singlaub, TRPA Executive Director		Things have to happen in the next few years. Boardwalks – design implications? Virginia: We'll need to investigate how realistic some changes are (boardwalking, boat takeout locations).
		Public Comments
Michael Donahoe, Sierra Club		Great project. The environmental benefits should be outstanding. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy and protect natural resources. Major mission: enjoyment participating in recreation, public outings. Encourage creating a system where the public can enjoy the area, not create rogue trails that will destroy source. Looking at public process and public access. Should look at what's good for local access but this is also a national resource. Public access may be limited to serve environmental benefits.

Final – 11/29/06

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER AND MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT EIR/EIS/EIS

TRPA GOVERNING BOARD SCOPING MEETING

SUMMARY COMMENT NOTES

DATE: Wednesday, October 25, 2006
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
LOCATION: TRPA Governing Board Rooms, Stateline, NV

ATTENDEES:

Mike Elam, TRPA	Sydney Coatsworth, EDAW
Rick Robinson, CTC	Gina Hamilton, EDAW
Mike Rudd, Entrix	Patricia Hickson, EDAW
GB Members	

Meeting Purpose:

Environmental document scoping meeting with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board.

Major Points Expressed in Comments:

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
		Presentations
Mike Elam, TRPA		Introduces project
Rick Robinson, CTC		Provided historical perspective. Identifies UTM as a high priority project and as the last opportunity on the UTR to capture sediment before it winds up in Lake Tahoe. Provided an overview of the EIR/EIS/EIS.
Gina Hamilton, EDAW		Project objectives. Alternative Descriptions.
Rick Robinson		No preferred alternative identified going into the environmental document. The idea is to use the CEQA/NEPA process to select the preferred.

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
		Board Comment
Steven Merrill, Governor of California Appointee		Expressed surprise at the inclusion of recreation since the purpose of the project is to restore water quality. Rick: Trails to be on the periphery of the site. Mentions the presence of special-status plants and that recreation management is necessary for success of restoration project. Which alternative is going to have the most immediate and maximum effect on (improving) water quality? Will each alternative have the same impacts? Rick: They will have a range of benefits and impacts.
Norma Santiago, El Dorado County Supervisor		Commends CTC for having the alternatives and studying their impacts to choose the preferred alternatives.
Jim Galloway, Washoe County Commissioner		Requests study of: Total nutrient load and total solids load compared to No Project.
Shelly Aldean Carson City Board of Supervisors		Until you know the net effects of changing the channel configuration – is there any merit to the idea of delaying the recreational improvements until you know the impact of what the recreational impacts would be? Rick: Doing it separately would be more costly. There might be some variables that are unanticipated in regards to the impact of recreation.
Kim Bettis,		Recommends that there be an educational component to the recreational portion of the project.
Jim Galloway		Mentions failure of Rosewood Creek. Asks that there be consideration for the amount of disturbance required to implement each alternative. Make sure the disturbance does not outweigh the gain (in regards to construction). Rick: We will be careful.
		Public Comment
John Friedrich, League to Save Lake Tahoe		League is fully in support of project. Intends to provide written comments in full support of the project.

SECTION G

Public Scoping Meeting Notes and Sign-in Sheets

Public Scoping Meeting (October 24, 2006 – afternoon)

Public Scoping Meeting (October 24, 2006 – evening)

Upper Truckee River & Marsh Restoration Project

NOP/NOI Scoping Meeting

October 24, 2006
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

No.	Name (Please Print)	Address	Phone and E-Mail
	John Greenhut	City of South Lake Tahoe	jgreenhut@cityofslt.us 542-6030
	Ron Rettus	803 Michael Dr. 96150	RONCRETTUS @ aol.com
	Courtney Walker	3080 Deer Trail South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150	channon1181@hotmail.com
	DAWN ARMSTRONG	BOX 612006 SLT CA 96152	tahoedawn@sbcglobal.net
	BOB BARNESON		
	Michael Weare	2784 Springwood Dr. SLT CA 96150	544-6134 Wearentahoe@hotmail.com
	Mike Phillips	2907 SPRINGWOOD DR. SLT. CA. 96150	LAKETAHOE@charter.net 530-542-0559
	Penny Weare	2784 SpringWood DR	530-545-0957
	Mike Elam	TRPA	775-588-4547
	JOHN COBOURN EMAIL	UNR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION COBOURNJ@UNCE.UNR.EDU	775 832 4144

Upper Truckee River & Marsh Restoration Project

NOP/NOI Scoping Meeting

October 24, 2006
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

No.	Name (Please Print)	Address Mailing	Phone and E-Mail
	BILL OTTMAN	CITY: PARKS & REC. COMM	541-3121
	BMP CONSTRUCTION INC	BOX 466A 89449	BMP@LAKETAHOE.COMM
	Gloria Hartmann	750 El Dorado Ave 96150	541-2622

Upper Truckee River & Marsh Restoration Project

NOP/NOI Scoping Meeting

October 24, 2006
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

No.	Name (Please Print)	Address MAILING	Phone and E-Mail
	MARO ABBOT		MaroAbbot@aol.com
	Kay Edwards	you have it →	
	Mike Fedor	1676 PLATEAU CIR. SLT, CA 96150	MSF800@yahoo.com
	Erik Ram	PO BOX 8711, CSLT 96158	
	John E Kupton	954 Edgewood Circle, S.LT. 96150	Rkupton@aol.com

Upper Truckee River & Marsh Restoration Project

NOP/NOI Scoping Meeting

October 24, 2006
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

No.	Name (Please Print)	Address MAILING	Phone and E-Mail
	Jerome Evans	4/4 Lane 18	
	Laurel Ames	PO Box 7443 SLT Ca 96158	
	Bob Sleppy	Dept of Fam. Services	on file

Final

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER AND MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT
EIR/EIS/EIS
EVENING PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

SUMMARY COMMENT NOTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 24, 2006
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM
LOCATION: Inn By The Lake Conference Center, South Lake Tahoe

ATTENDEES:

Rick Robinson, Conservancy	Curtis Alling, EDAW
Jacqui Grandfield, Conservancy	Gina Hamilton, EDAW
Mike Elam, TRPA	Patricia Hickson, EDAW
Myrnie Mayville, Reclamation	Mike Rudd, ENTRIX
	Virginia Mahacek, Valley and Mountain Consulting
Agency Staff and Public Commenters:	12 people

Meeting Purpose:

Environmental document public scoping meeting held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Inn by the Lake Conference Center.

Major Points Expressed in Comments:

Comment by:	#	Description of Major Points, Decisions or Actions:
		Presentations
Rick Robinson		Provided historical background of the Upper Truckee River and Marsh and intent of the proposed restoration.
Gina Hamilton		Introduced the purpose of the meeting to provide comments on the scope of the environmental document. Introduced the project location, purpose and need, alternatives, and general parameters of the proposed project.
		Public Comment
Ron Rettus		Please overlay streets on the web maps so people can get more easily oriented.
Dawn Armstrong		How will this affect the meadow south of the bridge? A: Rick indicated that this project would not directly address the issues of the meadow south of the bridge, because it is outside the Conservancy's property. One of the alternatives will consider increasing the capacity of culverts under U. S. 50, so there may be an indirect influence. This will be studied in the environmental document.

John Greenhut, City of South Lake Tahoe, Public Works		Each of the alternatives need to show high water lines for flood analysis. Potential for flood hazard is an important issue for the City. A: Virginia summarized the modeling to be conducted, including the 100-year event.
John Coburn, UNR		How far upstream is the river incised? He heard it extends to the airport. A: The U. S. 50 bridge provides a grade control. Incision and widening problems occur in different reaches well upstream of the marsh, all the way up to the golf course. A suggestion would be to investigate the energy of flows up and down the river to assess the potential for upstream and downstream impacts.
Dawn Armstrong		Would the Conservancy acquire property where the meadow would be flooded? A: The Conservancy is not proposing to increase flood hazard such that private properties would experience increased flooding, so there would be no damage. New property acquisition is not proposed.
Gloria Harootunian		Where is the split channel that will be restored? The banks of Trout Creek fall into the stream. Will there be future plans for restoration of Trout Creek? A: The split channel is immediately downstream of U.S. 50. Regarding Trout Creek, the section of the stream downstream of U.S. 50 is part of the project study area. The creek is relatively stable, so substantial direct restoration needs are not anticipated at this time. However, a Resource Management Plan will be prepared as part of the project that would include specific actions to manage the site's natural resources, such as resources of Trout Creek, including site specific restoration, if conditions warrant.
Mike Phillips, City Planning Commission		The concept of flooding the meadow has been known for some time and there are concerns by the neighbors that there has not been much notice, and there may be walkways throughout the site. Is the public sufficiently aware? Meeting the minimum requirements isn't effective sometimes. He suggests a posted sign at the access points of the property.
John Greenhut		Can we schedule a briefing to the City Council? A: Yes, we can do that and present the alternative.
Gloria Haretoonian		Will there be an opportunity in spring and summer to provide input?
John Greenhut		How will the recreation facilities and site maintenance be maintained? Who will be responsible? A: The Conservancy will be responsible and will use stat
Mike Phillips		What is the official name of the marsh? Is this the same place where "Clean Tahoe" comes to help with maintenance? A: Yes, the Conservancy does now contract with "Clean Tahoe" to help with trash pick-up.

Michael Weare		We were not notified in the Highlands Woods neighborhood. She supports the restoration of the meadows, but is concerned and disturbed about laying walkways in the meadow that would increase recreation access. A: The alternatives have a range of recreation levels and the environmental document will address impacts to the neighbors. The natural sensitivities will also be carefully studied.
Ron Rettus		The mailout approach did not work for this meeting. The mail list must be flawed.
Mike Phillips		He suggested using an email distribution approach to get word out to the neighbors.
John Coburn		When the water from an incised channel comes in from upsteam, where would it break out of the channel for flooding the meadow? Does the U.S. 50 bridge cause problems upstream? John supported filling in the old channel and building a new channel of the appropriate size and design. John remarks that the method of restoration proposed under Alternative 4 is not as supported by research as much as the restoration methods proposed for the other alternatives. A: Virginia provided a summary of the overbanking concepts and how the designs would avoid flood hazard to developed properties.
Unknown		Will there be enough water from upstream to overbank at this location, considering other restoration projects farther up the river (i.e., with upstream projects taking water out of the river, too). A: The environmental document will examine this in the cumulative analysis.
Ron Rettus		Is there something in the modeling that says the flooding will not get any worse? Will we look at the creek that comes into the river from the side, near Colorado Court, to be sure we do not worsen the flooding hazard? A: The study will look at both the regulatory floodplain and flooding based on existing physical conditions. The Conservancy surveyed high water marks in the 1997 flood to help validate the models.
Dawn Armstrong		Will the meadow be wetter so people will not be out in the meadow much anyway? A: Rick summarized the recreation approach for the recreation and access facilities to be focused on the west side of the river (Cove East) and generally to protect the interior of the main marsh meadow.

Gloria Harootunian		The willows and lodgepole pine are reestablishing on the site already, since the cattle has been removed, and there may be very dense willow in spots, like behind Carrows. This will interfere with access. A: The Conservancy has been considering the future vegetation conditions for a long time. The environmental document will consider ways to manage the resources and support native vegetation. Willows along the river may be very thick.
Bill Ottman		He is concerned about recreation and would like to have more raised trails on the project site. He is concerned recreation is being pushed into the background. A: Rick summarized his discussion with the Park and Recreation Commission, including consideration of a bicycle trail along the beach and whether this is feasible or not.

Draft – 11/2/06

UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER AND MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT
EIR/EIS/EIS
EVENING PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Jacqui Grandfield, Conservancy	Gina Hamilton, EDAW
Myrnie Mayville, Reclamation	Patricia Hickson, EDAW
Bob Sleppy, RESD	Mike Rudd, ENTRIX
	Virginia Mahacek, Valley and Mountain Consulting
Agency Staff and Public Commenters:	7 people

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		Public Comment
Laurel Ames		I have seen a severe amount of down cutting by the river. Which alternative brings the bed back up? A: Rick answered that all alternatives are designed to reconnect the river with its floodplain. Three alternatives would explore different alternatives to raise the river up to the floodplain. One alternative would lower the elevation of land along the river corridor to create an inset floodplain. What is the sailing lagoon's function now and what do we have in mind? Wasn't it just dredged out?

		A: A 1930 aerial photograph shows a lagoon where the sailing lagoon is located, but it is not clear how much modification had occurred.
John Upton, Mayor Pro-Tem – SLT		John observed very high water coming down Trout Creek this last year.
Jerome Evans		Jerome is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. This is a tremendously important project and it needs to receive as much importance as any project on the South Shore. There appears to be four themes: stream restoration and protection of sensitive areas are two where the Conservancy has done very well. Controlled and intelligent recreation and long-term site management are another two themes, and the Conservancy does not have as much experience in these. The City wants to have a boardwalk behind the beach and will push for that feature. We need to deal with these issues with great detail and attention.
John Upton		Does the project involve restoration of Trout Creek? A: We are looking at the whole site, but we are not proposing to do too much on Trout Creek because it is in relatively good shape.
Laurel Ames		She would like to see the best possible restoration of all the public land, including habitat and water quality function.
John Upton		The City is interested in a bicycle path crossing directly along the beach crossing the mouths of Trout Creek and the Upper Truckee River. A: This was not in our original set of alternatives, because of regulatory restrictions related to the sensitive resources of the site, including Tahoe yellow cress, bald eagle, and waterfowl. Also, the hydrological dynamics would make the construction difficult to avoid flood flows and cope with changing beach conditions.
Maro Abbott		She helps keeps the meadow clean, and has a dog that she cleans up after. Will dogs be excluded from the marsh? Are there too many people out there now? Can cross-country skiing be harmful? A: The capacity of the site is an important question and sometimes public use is harmful. Sensitive resources have been lost in the past, but informed and respectful use can be compatible with the natural resources. We hope a balance can be achieved.
Kay Edwards		Sensitive places are not allowed to be walked upon directly and boardwalks are the way they are protected.
John Upton		An elevated boardwalk, above the habitat on the ground and above the flood, could control public access and direct it to less sensitive locations. This should be examined.
Out of Town Friend of Maro		Are there no cost constraints on what is designed? A: Yes, cost will be considered. The EIR will not incorporated costs, but the Conservancy's consideration of a preferred alternative will consider cost.
Kay Edwards		The cost to the lake is what is of greatest concern.

Eric Larson		Will the inset floodplain limit the area within which the river may meander? The interest is to recreate the most natural conditions as possible. Maintain natural conditions in the center, and restrict the public use to the edges. A: Yes, but it will meander within a larger floodplain area than it does now. Were the alternatives informed by upstream disturbance? Have we considered the conditions of the river upstream. A: The work has considered watershed conditions, but is not proposing changes to the river upstream of the U. S. 50 bridge. The bridge provides a significant constriction of flow. We will look at cumulative effects of projects upstream in the watershed. Sediment transport estimates will consider upstream restoration projects. Other influences, like tree removal and the resulting changes in transportation rates, will be considered, as well.