

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 7b
September 15, 2011

**TAHOE PINES WATERSHED RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT:
APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM**

Summary: Staff recommends adoption of a resolution expressing the California Tahoe Conservancy's support for, and future participation in, the Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project.

Location: Northeast corner of South Upper Truckee Road and U.S. Highway 50 intersection in Meyers, California (El Dorado County Assessor Parcel Number 034-300-10) (Attachment 1).

Fiscal Summary: Incidental staff costs.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 11-09-02 (Attachment 2).

Background

In the fall of 2007, the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) acquired the former Tahoe Pines Campground parcel, approximately eight acres of land adjoining the Upper Truckee River, for \$4,180,000. The California Wildlife Foundation (CWF) provided financial assistance for the acquisition. Conservancy staff contracted for basic environmental services relating to topographic and site feature surveys and preparation of conceptual site designs for watershed restoration and recreation opportunities. The purpose of these efforts was to explore site restoration and public recreation options within existing constraints. Results show the site possesses substantial opportunities for habitat restoration and recreation, including public river access.

Project Description

Proposed improvements to the property include the provision of parking, trails, restrooms, interpretive information, and day-use picnic tables and benches. Abundant passive recreational opportunities will be afforded from this minimal level of access improvement. Restoration components would include the stabilization of eroding

banks in addition to enhancement of existing riparian vegetation. Further, an inset floodplain feature may be constructed adjacent to the river that would create wetland areas for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat.

The Conservancy successfully procured a \$200,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to advance the planning and evaluation (under the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA) of restoration elements of the Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project (Project). If the Conservancy successfully obtains a grant from the River Parkways Program, the funding can be applied to both planning and construction of the public access and SEZ restoration project elements. The grant may also provide funds for interpretation of the natural environment and the restoration of natural hydrologic functions.

Staff is requesting the Board formally support the submission of a request for funds to the California River Parkways Grant Program and adopt the proposed resolution shown in Attachment 2. The grant funds would be used to finish project design, environmental review, and construction of site improvements. The resolution demonstrates the Conservancy's support of the River Parkways grant application by:

1. Approving the filing of a funding application to the Resources Agency for the Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project (Project);
2. Appointing the Executive Officer, or his designee, to execute and submit the application;
3. Certifying that the Conservancy, if it authorizes submittal of said grant request and upon execution of a subsequent grant agreement, will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project consistent with the land tenure requirements, or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifying that the Conservancy is aware of the assurances and certifications contained in the application and acknowledges that it must agree to specified conditions in a future grant agreement.

Project Evaluation

Acquisition of the Tahoe Pines Property was consistent with the objectives established under the Conservancy's Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) and Watershed Restoration and Public Access and Recreation Programs. The acquisition provided the first step

towards SEZ restoration of approximately eight acres adjoining the Upper Truckee River and a new opportunity for public access to the largest tributary to Lake Tahoe.

The project supports numerous interagency goals and policies for the Basin. Proposed project elements include the restoration of disturbed SEZ and upland areas, the reduction of sediment and nutrient loads to Lake Tahoe, the management of open space areas to protect watersheds, the improvement of aquatic and wildlife habitat, the improvement of forest vegetation, and the reduction of fire fuels. The promotion of public access to Lake Tahoe and to other waterways and natural areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin also is consistent with the Basin's environmental thresholds, as is the anticipated improvement of scenic quality of the U.S. Highway 50 corridor.

Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended resolution to support the application for project implementation funding is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.9 authorizes the Conservancy to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of land under its ownership or control with local public agencies, State agencies, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, individuals, corporate entities, or partnerships, and to enter into any other agreements authorized by State or federal law. Section 66908 authorizes the Conservancy to accept grants from private and public sources.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Adoption of the proposed resolution does not, at this time, authorize acceptance of project funding nor commit the Conservancy to implement the project. The Natural Resources Agency will not release grant funding until the Lead Agency (in this instance, the Conservancy) adopts a CEQA document, and it, as a Responsible Agency, has considered and concurred with the Initial Study and its Notice of Determination. Any future actions authorizing site improvements to the land by the Conservancy are subject to separate review under CEQA. Nevertheless, it is appropriate to evaluate this discretionary action by the Board under the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code Regulations section 15000 et seq.) as if the proposed resolution has been authorized.

Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, certain classes of activities are categorically exempt from CEQA because they have been determined by the Secretary for Natural Resources not to have a significant effect on the environment. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082, the Conservancy has also adopted regulations (Title 14, California Code

of Regulations section 12100 et seq.) to implement, interpret, and make specific the provisions of CEQA. In staff's opinion, the proposed Resolution is categorically exempt from CEQA. This project qualifies for an exemption under Class 6 (sections 15306 and 12102.6, information collection) and Section 15262, (feasibility and planning studies). If the Resolution is approved by the Board, staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project Map

Attachment 2 – Resolution 11-09-02

Attachment 3 – Conceptual Project Site Plan

Attachment 4 – Notice of Exemption

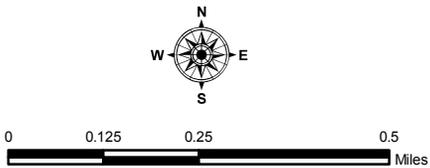
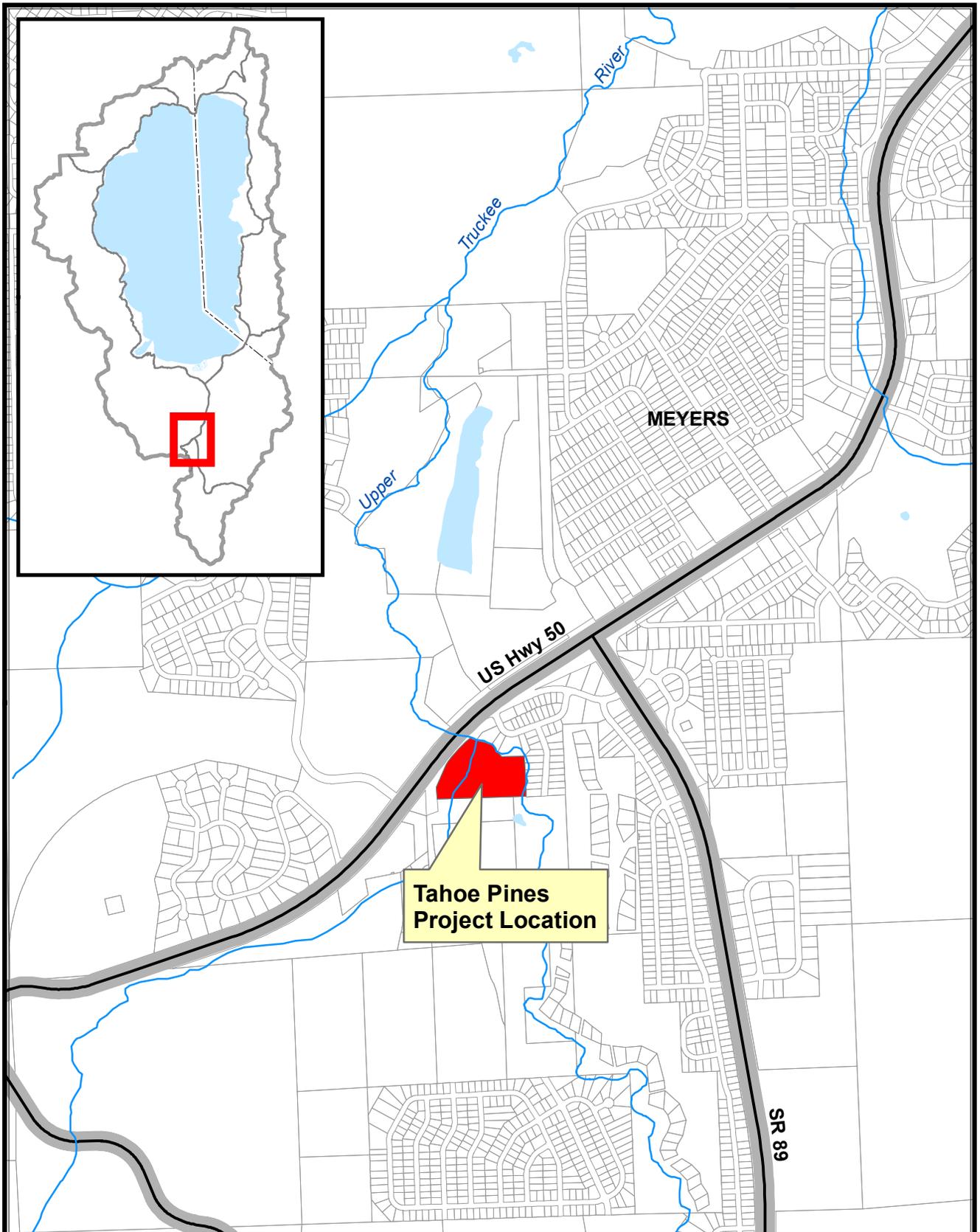
Conservancy Staff Contact:

Peter Eichar, AICP

(530) 543-6046

peichar@tahoe.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 1
Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project



California Tahoe Conservancy
September 2011
Map for reference purposes only.
Sources: El Dorado County, TRPA



ATTACHMENT 2

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution
11-09-02
Adopted: September 15, 2011

TAHOE PINES WATERSHED RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT: APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the California River Parkways Grant Program Under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84); and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Applicant's) governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Tahoe Conservancy

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project ("the Project"); and,
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application; and,
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s) consistent with the land tenure requirements or will secure the resources to do so; and,

4. Certifies that it will comply with all provisions of Section 1771.5 of the California Labor Code; and,
5. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained; and,
6. Certifies that applicant will work towards the State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and
7. Appoints the Executive Officer, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

Approved and adopted the 15th day of September 2011. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 11-09-02 was duly adopted by the California Tahoe Conservancy.

Patrick Wright
Executive Officer

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____
 Nos: _____
 Absent: _____

Clerk/Secretary
California Tahoe Conservancy Governing Board

PROGRAM:

Parking

- 29 Parking Spaces (2 Handicap)
- 1 Bus Parking
- Bus/RV Turn Ability

Picnic Areas

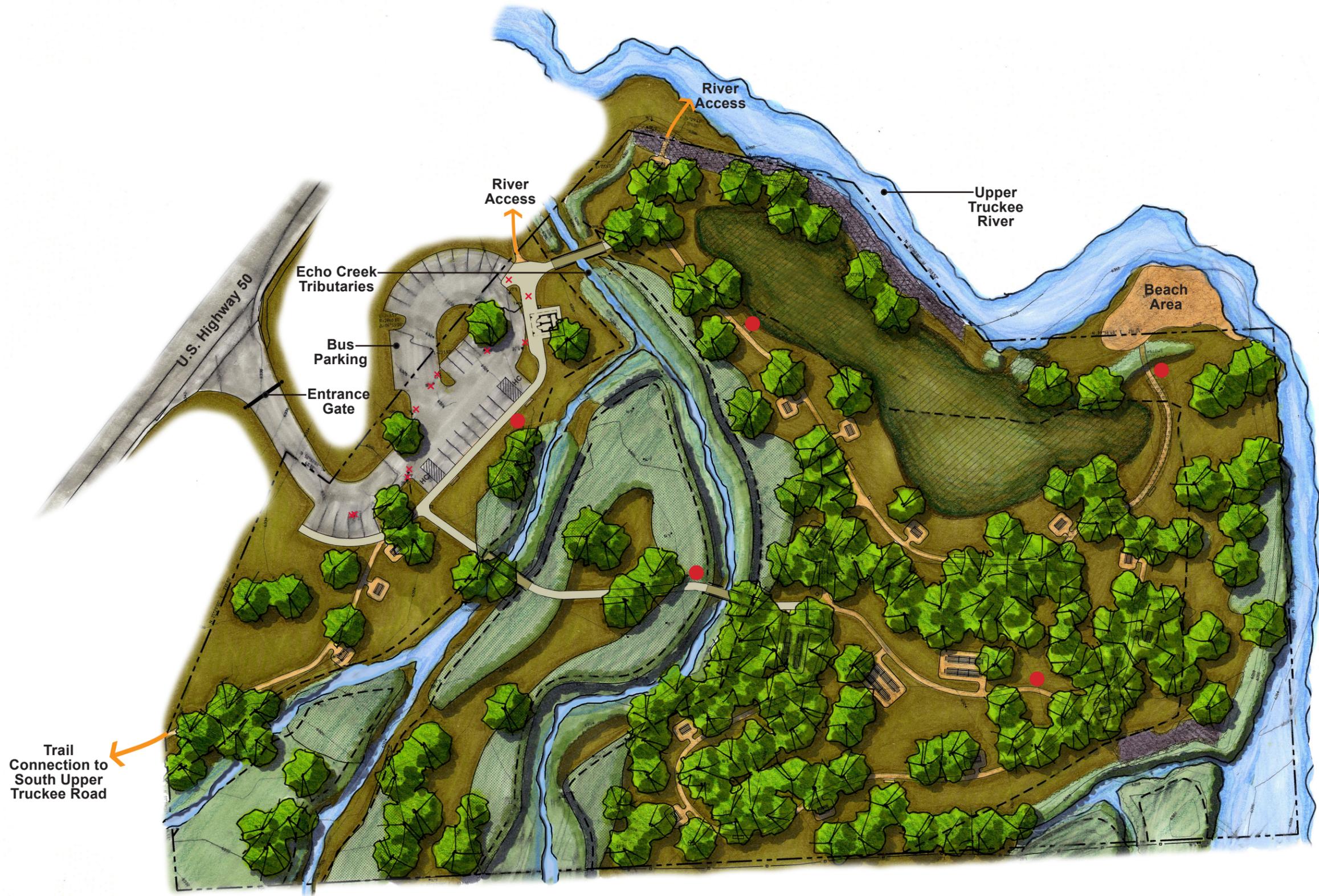
- 16 Single Sites (3 near parking)
- 3 Group Sites (50 persons per group)

LEGEND:

-  Picnic Table Area
-  Group Picnic Area
-  Restroom
-  Bench
-  Wildlife Resistant - Trash/Recycle Container
-  Unpaved Trails
-  Paved Trails
-  Paved Parking
-  Trees to be Removed
-  SEZ Boundary
-  Interpretive Opportunities

COVERAGE TABLE:

Proposed Coverage		
On-Site	Class 5	SEZ 1b
Parking	14,230 sq.ft.	
Paved Trails	6,475 sq.ft.	1,325 sq.ft.
Unpaved Trails	15,635 sq.ft.	620 sq.ft.
Total	36,340 sq.ft.	1,945 sq.ft.
Off-Site		
Parking	3,575 sq.ft.	



Attachment 3 - Concept Plan



ATTACHMENT 4

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 - 10th Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Project Title:

Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project: Board authorization to submit an application to the California River Parkways Grant Program.

Project Location: - Specific -

Northeast corner of South Upper Truckee Road and US Highway 50 intersection in Meyers, California (El Dorado County Assessor Parcel Number 034-300-10)

Project Location - City

Unincorporated Area

Project Location - County

El Dorado

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Authorization to submit grant application for the Tahoe Pines Watershed Restoration and Public Access Project

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy

Exempt Status:

Ministerial (Sec. 15073)

Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071 (a))

Emergency Project (Sec. 15071 (b) and (c))

Categorical Exemption. Class 6 (sections 15306 and 12102.6-information collection) and section 15262, (feasibility and planning studies).

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Action involves the authorization to submit a grant application to seek funding to implement a restoration and public access project, resulting in no change in use or existing condition.

Contact Person

Peter Eichar

Area Code

(530)

Telephone

543-6046

Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright, Executive Officer