

**SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR PHASE 2B
SAWMILL II BIKE PATH AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT**

Summary: Staff recommends authorization of a site improvement grant of up to \$350,000 to El Dorado County to construct Phase 2B of the Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project.

Location: Meyers, between U.S. Highway 50 and the Echo View Estates subdivision, along the west and southern side of Sawmill Road, El Dorado County (El Dorado County Assessor Parcel Numbers 33-090-12, 13, 14, 16; 33-100-15; 33-180-04, 06, 21, 35, 36) including public and privately owned parcels and the County's Right of Way of Sawmill Road (Attachment 1).

Fiscal Summary: \$350,000 in Lake Tahoe License Plate funds

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 13-06-09 (Attachment 2)

Background

El Dorado County seeks funding for Phase 2B of the Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project (Phase 2B Project), which consists of an off-roadway path for cyclists and pedestrians traveling between Meyers and the Tahoe Valley area of the City of South Lake Tahoe and drainage infrastructure to reduce soil erosion (Attachment 3).

In 2012, El Dorado County (County) constructed the first section of the Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project (Phase 2A), which began at the intersection of Lake Tahoe Boulevard and Sawmill Road and ended at the Echo View Estates Subdivision. The proposed Phase 2B Project will continue the path from the subdivision along the west and southern side of Sawmill Road to U.S. Highway 50, where it will connect to the bridge to Meyers crossing the Upper Truckee River. That bridge was the terminus of the Sawmill I Bike Path that extended the Pat Lowe Memorial Bike Path in Meyers (built in the early 1990s) an additional 1.7 miles. The County anticipates constructing future phases of the bike trail network that will connect Phase 2A with the City of South Lake Tahoe (City). Phase 2B Project and the eventual construction of the path parallel to

Lake Tahoe Boulevard will complete the bike trail network between the community of Meyers and the City (Attachment 3A).

Trail usage by both visitors and residents is expected to increase incrementally as sections of the network are constructed and then increase substantially when the entire network is completed. Gaps in the bike trail network currently force trail users to merge with vehicular traffic along Sawmill Road and Lake Tahoe Blvd, which can feel unsafe and ultimately discourages use.

Planning and acquisition contributions for Phase 2A and 2B, and construction funding for Phase 2A are outlined below:

Conservancy	\$ 906,000
Caltrans	737,000
U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU)	520,000
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)	299,200
Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization	348,000
Total	\$2,810,200

Project Description

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board authorize a grant of up to \$350,000 to El Dorado County to construct the Phase 2B Project.

Proposed improvements include the construction of a Class 1 bicycle and pedestrian path along the south side of Sawmill Road from Echo View Estates to U.S. Highway 50. The bike path will be a paved eight-foot wide path with two-foot compacted shoulders (clear zone) consistent with the *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 1999*, published by the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The project also includes stormwater drainage infrastructure intended to improve water quality to nearby waterways through the construction of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the County’s right-of-way and easement areas. Native vegetation will be used throughout the site to restore existing disturbed areas, as well as areas disturbed by construction activities. The bike path and erosion control features will be constructed on three California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), three private parcels, a National Forest parcel, three Conservancy-owned parcels and a County right-of-way.

The County intends to bid the project in fall 2013 with construction starting in summer or early fall 2014 and concluding within one construction season.

Project Budget

The County’s estimate for construction of the Phase 2B Project is \$1,278,059 with an additional \$273,041 for project management and administration, materials testing, inspection, and vegetation establishment monitoring for a total of \$1,551,100. This grant will provide roughly 22% of the total project cost. County staff has done a tremendous job of seeking and securing funding from many sources at the State, Federal, and regional levels as discussed above.

Proposed Grant Budget

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Construction	\$315,000
Administration	35,000
Total	\$350,000

Project Schedule

Close Escrow on Easements	December 2013
Final Plans and Specifications	July 2013
Bid Project	October 2013
Award Construction Contract	December 2013
Begin Construction	July 2014
Complete Construction	October 2014
Annual Monitoring Report	December 2015
Second Year Irrigation	October 2015
Final Report	December 2016

The budget and schedule may be adjusted, but total expenditures under this grant will not exceed \$350,000.

Project Implementation

The Conservancy will enter into a standard agreement with El Dorado County for the Phase 2B Project implementation. In recent agreements, site improvement grants provide for an advance of up to 90% for administration and construction.

Project Evaluation

The Phase 2B Project meets the Conservancy's Public Access and Recreation Program Guidelines and Objectives, first adopted on December 19, 1986 and modified on May 29, 2009.

The Phase 2B Project will increase and enhance regionally significant public access and recreational opportunities in addition to providing non-motorized transportation access to civic and commercial areas including: Washoe Meadows State Park and Tahoe Valley State Recreation Area; South Tahoe High School, the U.S. Post Office in Meyers, Meyers Elementary School, Tahoe Paradise Park, Sawmill Pond and commercial properties in the Town Centers of Meyers and the South "Y" (Tahoe Valley).

The Phase 2B Project is the highest priority trail in the County, and is consistent with the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and the Lake Tahoe Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The County is scheduled to consider and adopt a resolution on June 4, 2013 that commits the County to operating and maintaining the trail facilities and properties for a minimum of 20 years. The County is currently securing the necessary easements to construct improvements on private lands.

Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

A site improvement grant is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies for purposes consistent with its mission, which includes providing public access and recreational facilities.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The County, acting as the lead agency, prepared an Initial Study (IS) and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this project to comply with CEQA. The County's Board of Supervisors adopted the MND on December 10, 2009, and a Notice of

Determination (NOD) was filed on December 14, 2009 with the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2009102016). In May 2010, the Conservancy drafted an Addendum to the MND incorporating amendments to the CEQA Guidelines. The findings in the Addendum were based on information provided by the County's memo addressing the CEQA amendments. The Conservancy considered and concurred with the findings of the IS/MND and Addendum and filed an NOD following the July 15, 2010 Board meeting for the purpose of giving an easement to the County for improvements on a Conservancy parcel. An NOD was filed again on September 15, 2011 for easements on three additional Conservancy-owned parcels. At the March 15, 2012 Board meeting, the Board, for the third time, considered and concurred with the findings of the IS/MND to award up to \$85,000 for easement acquisitions in support of the Sawmill II Bike Path project, and filed an NOD on March 19, 2012. This will be the fourth time the Conservancy Board is being asked to consider and concur with the IS/MND and Addendum and authorize staff to file a new NOD.

A copy of the IS/MND, Addendum, and previously filed NODs have been provided to the Board on CD (Attachment 4) and are available for public review at the Conservancy Office, 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

As a responsible agency, the Conservancy must consider the IS/MND prepared by the County, along with the Addendum prepared by the Conservancy, and reach its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the project. Staff reviewed the IS, MND, and Addendum once again and believes the analyses of the proposed improvements in the document are adequate. Staff has determined that the Phase 2B Project, as proposed, would not cause a significant effect on the environment. Since completion of the MND and Addendum, there is no new information, substantial changes to the proposed project, or changes to the project implementation that would involve any new significant effects not analyzed in the MND or Addendum. As a result, no new mitigation measures are necessary to find that the project, as mitigated, would have no significant environmental impacts. The mitigation measures are located in *Appendix B, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*, of the MND.

Staff recommends the Board review and consider the IS/MND and Addendum, together with any comments received during the public review process; certify that it has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the project; make the findings as set forth in the Resolution (Attachment 2); and authorize the recommended site improvement grant. If the Board considers and concurs with the IS/MND and authorizes the actions described above, staff will file an NOD with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines,

section 15096. Attachment 5 contains the Conservancy's proposed NOD.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Location Map

Attachment 2 – Resolution 13-06-09

Attachment 3A – Bike Trail Network

Attachment 3B – Project Map (Figure C1)

Attachment 3C – Project Map (Figure C2)

Attachment 4 – IS/MND and Addendum (on attached CD)

Attachment 5 – Conservancy's Notice of Determination

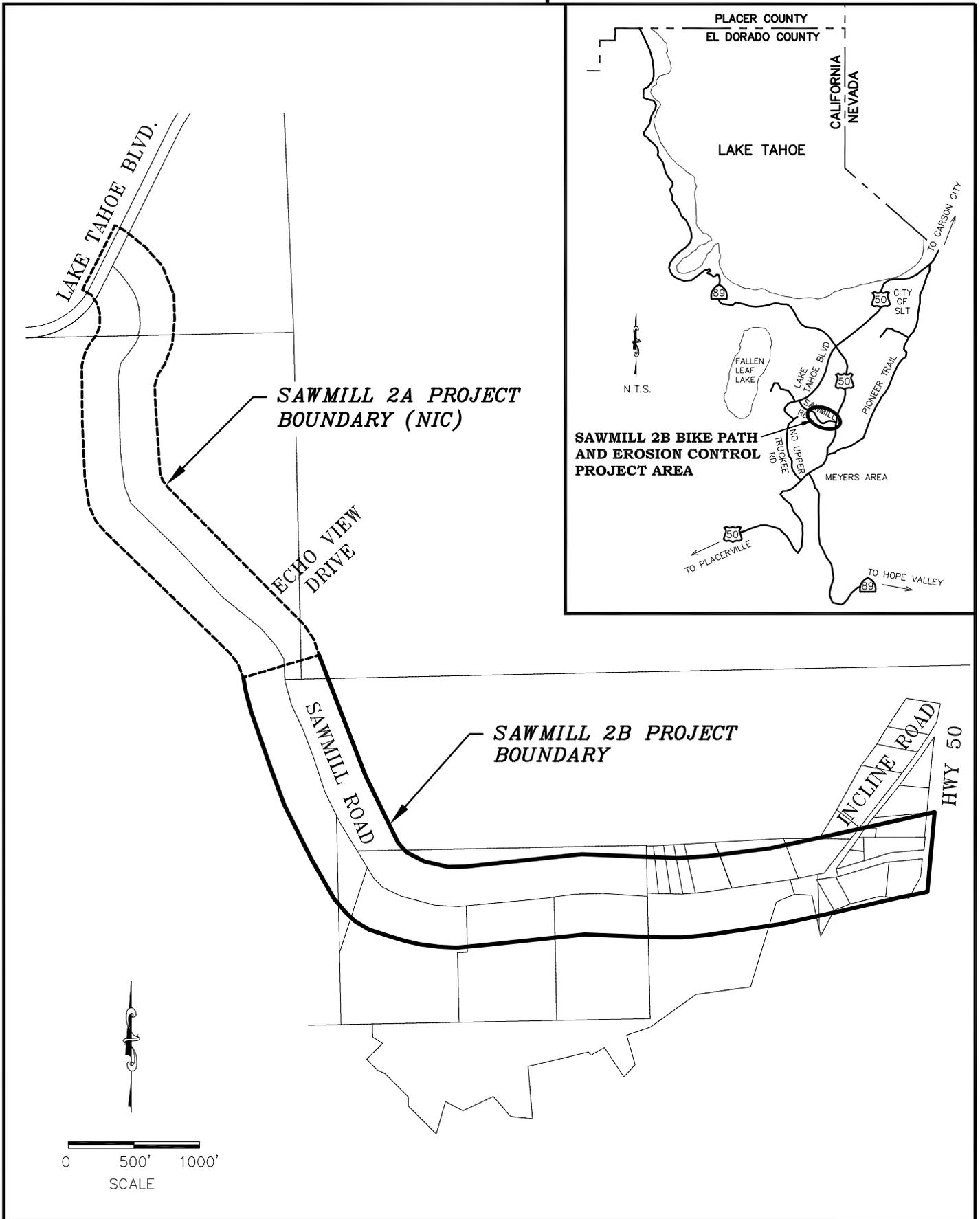
Conservancy Staff Contact:

Peter Eichar, AICP

Phone: (530) 543-6046

Email: peter.eichar@tahoe.ca.gov

**ATTACHMENT 1
Location Map**



EL DORADO COUNTY
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE OFFICE



**SAWMILL 2B BIKE PATH
AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT
LOCATION MAP**

FIGURE

A

DATE: 04/2013

PROJECT NO.: 95192

BY: ALD

ATTACHMENT 2

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

13-06-09

Adopted: June 20, 2013

SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR PHASE 2B SAWMILL II BIKE PATH AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy make the following finding based on the accompanying staff report pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.:

"The California Tahoe Conservancy, in its role as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, has independently reviewed and considered the environmental impacts of the Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project as described in El Dorado County's Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) certified by El Dorado County on December 10, 2009. In May 2010, the Conservancy drafted an Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration incorporating amendments to the CEQA Guidelines. The Addendum addresses new questions added to Appendix G, Environmental Checklist. The Conservancy has independently considered and reached its reviewed the IS/MND and Addendum and related documents and finds that the improvements proposed have been adequately analyzed in the IS/MND and Addendum. The Conservancy finds that no new substantial changes to the proposed project or other changes to the project implementation would involve any new significant effects that were not analyzed in the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Addendum. The Conservancy hereby directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse for this project."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7:

"The California Tahoe Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a site improvement grant, of up to \$350,000 to El Dorado County for the purposes of constructing a Class 1 bicycle and pedestrian path in addition to erosion control infrastructure associated with the Sawmill II

Bike Path and Erosion Control Project, Phase 2B. Further, the Conservancy authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement, and to take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation.”

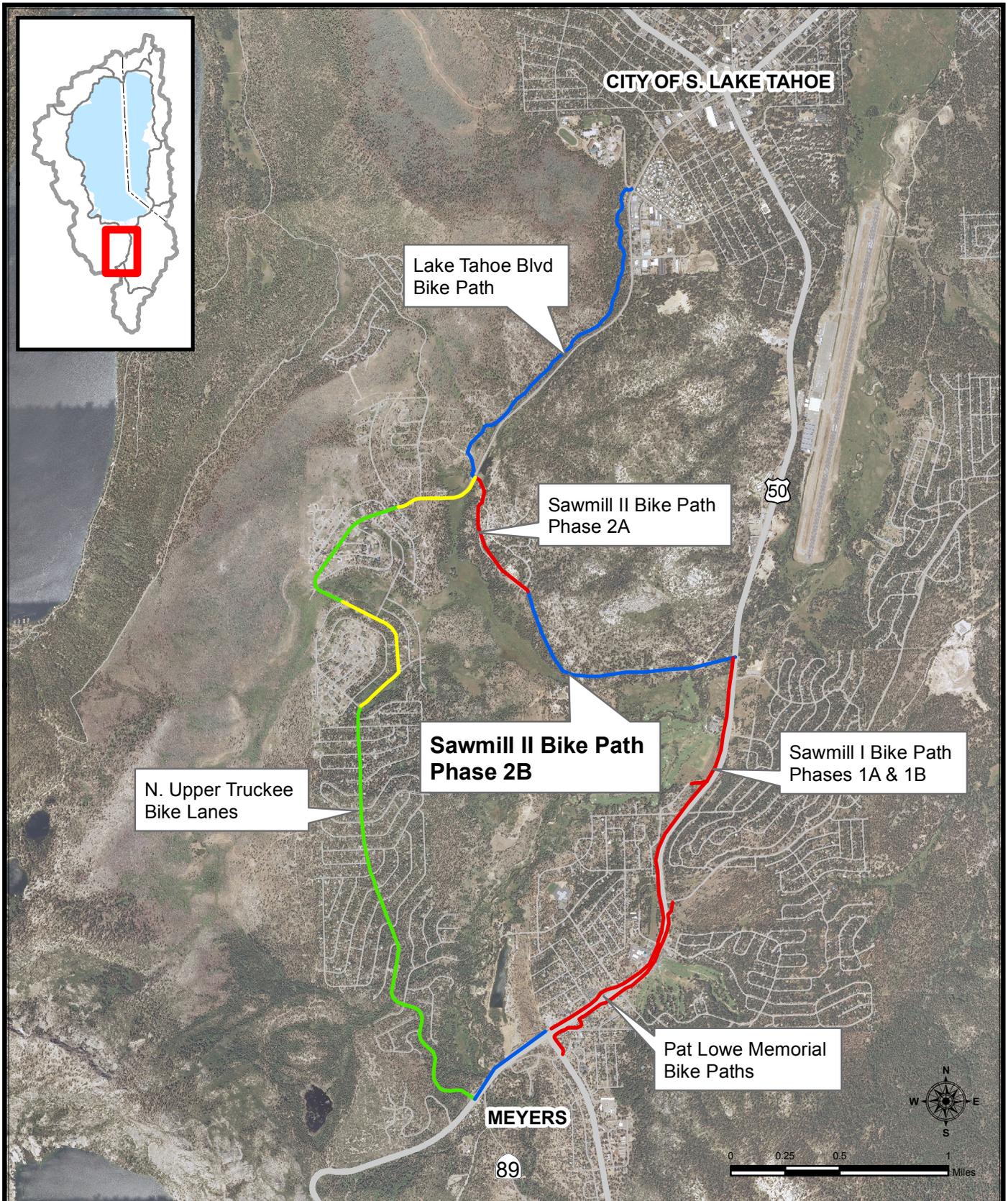
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly and regularly adopted by the California Tahoe Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 20th day of June 2013.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June 2013.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 3A

Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project, Phase 2B



Bike Trails

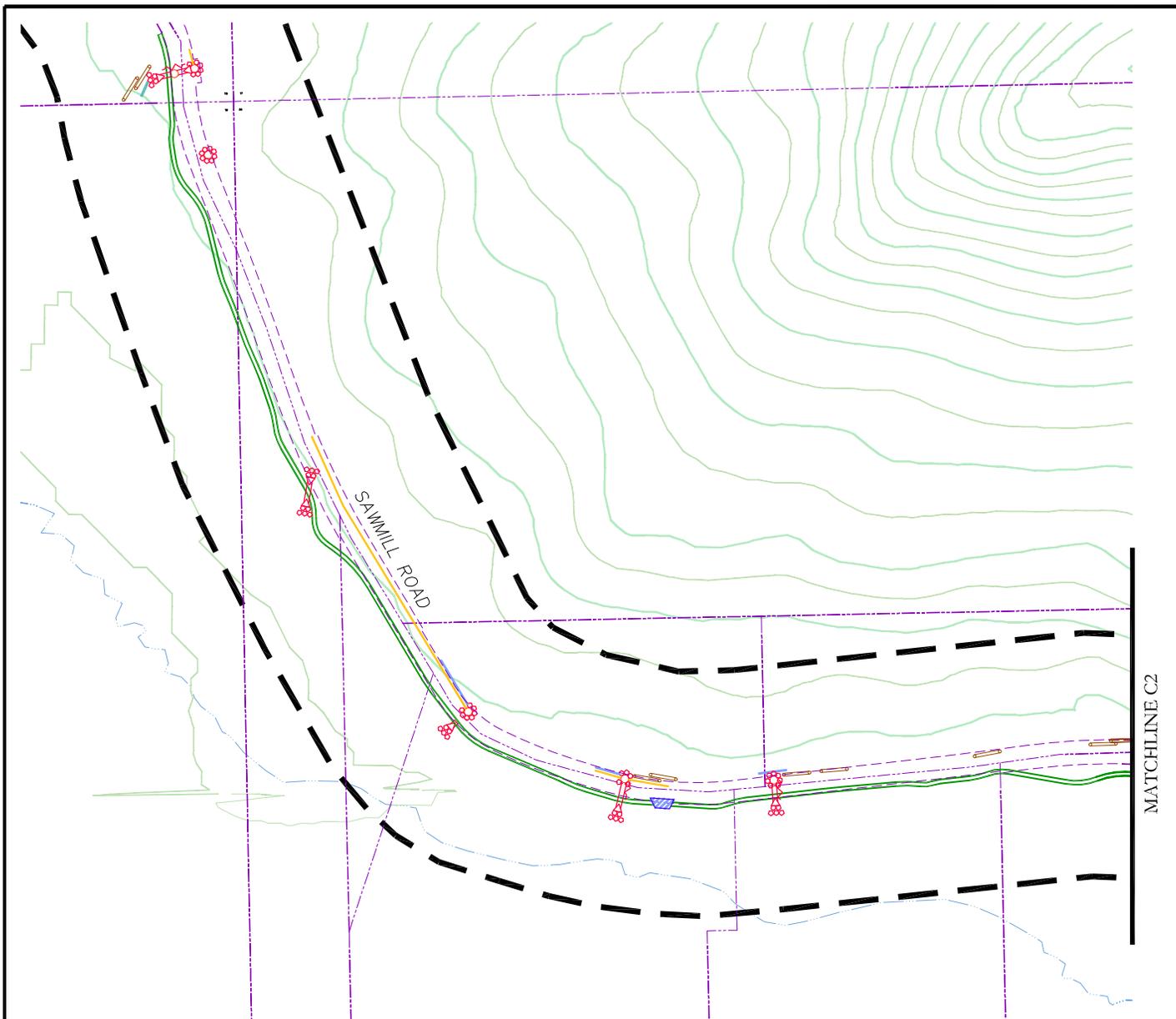
- Class I, Existing
- Class II, Existing
- Class I, Proposed
- Class II, Proposed

California Tahoe Conservancy
June 2013

Map for reference purposes only.
Sources: TRPA; NAIP 2010 Imagery



ATTACHMENT 3B Project Map



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY | | PROPOSED CONTOUR LOG |
| | EXISTING ROADWAY EASEMENT | | PROPOSED CULVERT |
| | EXISTING PROPERTY LINES | | PROPOSED FLARED END SECTION |
| | PROPOSED ROCK-LINED CHANNEL | | PROPOSED CULVERT REMOVAL |
| | PROPOSED GRASS-LINED SWALE | | PROPOSED BIKE PATH |
| | PROPOSED SEDIMENT TRAP | | PROPOSED ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION |
| | PROPOSED DRAINAGE INLET | | PROPOSED PAVING |
| | PROPOSED ROCK DISSIPATOR | | PROPOSED CURB AND GUTTER |
| | PROPOSED ROCK BOWL | | |



SCALE: 1"=400'

EL DORADO COUNTY
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE OFFICE



SAWMILL 2B BIKE PATH
AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Proposed Improvements

DATE: 04/2013

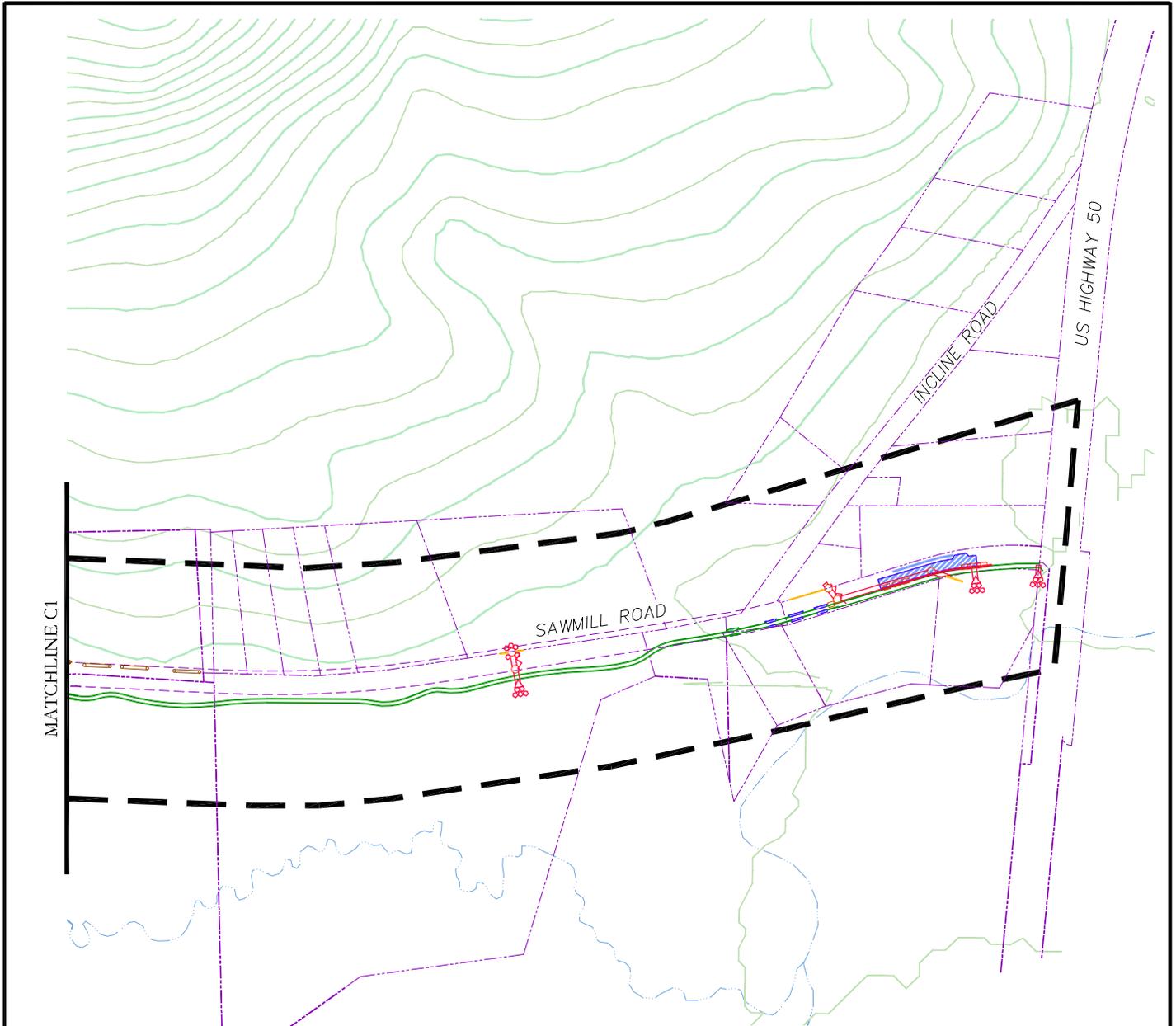
PROJECT NO.: 95192

BY: ALD

FIGURE

C1

ATTACHMENT 3C Project Map



LEGEND

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROPOSED PROJECT BOUNDARY EXISTING ROADWAY EASEMENT EXISTING PROPERTY LINES PROPOSED ROCK-LINED CHANNEL PROPOSED GRASS-LINED SWALE PROPOSED SEDIMENT TRAP PROPOSED DRAINAGE INLET PROPOSED ROCK DISSIPATOR PROPOSED ROCK BOWL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROPOSED CONTOUR LOG PROPOSED CULVERT PROPOSED FLARED END SECTION PROPOSED CULVERT REMOVAL PROPOSED BIKE PATH PROPOSED ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION PROPOSED PAVING PROPOSED CURB AND GUTTER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROPOSED FLARED END SECTION PROPOSED CULVERT REMOVAL PROPOSED BIKE PATH PROPOSED ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION PROPOSED PAVING PROPOSED CURB AND GUTTER |
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SCALE: 1"=400'

EL DORADO COUNTY
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE OFFICE



SAWMILL 2B BIKE PATH
AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Proposed Improvements

DATE: 04/2013

PROJECT NO.: 95192

BY: ALD

FIGURE

C2

ATTACHMENT 4

**SAWMILL II BIKE PATH PHASE 2B
AND EROSION CONTROL SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

El Dorado County Initial Study and
Mitigated Negative Declaration
Addendum to Mitigated Negative Declaration
El Dorado County NOD

Conservancy Notice of Determination, 7/15/2010
Conservancy Notice of Determination, 9/15/2011
Conservancy Notice of Determination, 3/15/2012

Department of Fish and Wildlife
2009 Environmental Filling Fee Receipt

On attached CD

ATTACHMENT 5

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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

Subject:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title:

Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project

State Clearinghouse Number:

2009102016

Contact Person:

Peter Eichar

Telephone Number:

(530) 543-6046

Project Location:

Southern side of Sawmill Road between U.S. Highway 50 and Echo View Estates Drive, in the unincorporated area of El Dorado County

Project Description:

The Sawmill II Bike Path and Erosion Control Project, Phase 2B involves the award of up to \$350,000 for site improvement activities to the County of El Dorado to construct a Class 1 bicycle and pedestrian path and associated erosion control features within the project area.

This is to advise that the California Tahoe Conservancy, acting as a responsible agency, has approved the above-described project on June 20, 2013 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
 2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project was prepared and approved by El Dorado County on December 10, 2009, and a Notice of Determination was filed on December 14, 2009. The Notice of Determination, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and record of project approval may be examined at El Dorado County Department of Transportation, 924 B Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. In May 2010, the Conservancy prepared an Addendum to the MND to address amendments to CEQA. The California Tahoe Conservancy reviewed and considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum prior to project approval. The Addendum to the MND may be examined at the California Tahoe Conservancy, 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.
 3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project by El Dorado County and the California Tahoe Conservancy.
 4. The Conservancy finds that no substantial changes are proposed in the project, and no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being implemented that would result in any potentially significant environmental effects. Furthermore, there are no changes regarding the project that would require new or different mitigation measures.
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Fish and Game Fees: A California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Filing Fee was paid for this project. A copy of the receipt will be filed with this notice.

Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright
Executive Director