

## **PROPOSITION 1 GRANT AWARDS**

**Summary:** Staff recommends Board approval of the following Proposition 1 planning, acquisition, and site improvement grants:

- Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Tahoe RCD;
- Johnson Meadows Acquisition, Tahoe RCD;
- Meeks Meadow Restoration Project, Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada;
- Lake Tahoe West Collaborative, National Forest Foundation;
- Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project, Lake Valley Fire Protection District;
- Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration, California State Parks;
- Tahoe Stormwater Resource Plan, Tahoe RCD.

**Location:** The seven recommended projects are located throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, in Placer and El Dorado Counties (Attachment 2).

**Fiscal Summary:** Staff recommends a total of up to \$7,161,568 in Proposition 1 funding for award at this time.

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolutions 16-03-03.1 through 16-03-03.7 (Attachments 3.1c, 3.2d, 3.3c, 3.4c, 3.5c, 3.6c, 3.7b)

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### **Background**

In November 2014, California voters passed Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. This legislation requires the development of a competitive grants program to award the \$15 million in Proposition 1 funding allocated directly to the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) under Water

Code section 79731(b). The competitive grants program must support multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects statewide priorities.

In February and April 2015, Conservancy staff brought draft grant guidelines to the Board for discussion. In March, after the proposed guidelines were available to the public for a thirty day review, staff held three public workshops (one of which was simulcast as a webinar) for potential grantees and other interested parties on the draft guidelines and likely revisions. In June 2015, the Conservancy Board approved the Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines (Guidelines) and authorized staff to solicit applications. These Guidelines established a competitive grants program that supports implementation of the Lake Tahoe Basin's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) by providing funding for multi-benefit storm water, watershed and ecosystem restoration, aquatic invasive species, forest health, and sustainable communities projects.

Staff posted the grant solicitation announcement, grant application package and grant agreements on the Conservancy's website on July 21, 2015. Staff also sent an email blast to over 225 parties providing them with the announcement. Staff also held two grant application workshops in late July 2015 and offered potential grant applicants the opportunity to meet to discuss questions they might have about the application process, grant agreements or the Guidelines.

Thirteen different applicants submitted thirty-two applications by the October 9, 2015 deadline, totaling more than \$30 million in funding requests. After deducting statewide bond processing and program delivery costs, the Conservancy has \$13,950,000 in Proposition 1 funding to award to high priority projects at this time.

Conservancy staff performed an initial evaluation of the applications for eligibility and completeness, requested clarifications for evaluation purposes, and developed initial funding recommendations.

In early December, the External Review Team (External Team) received the applications, including the clarifying information, to review and score. The External Team consisted of seven people from state, federal, and regional agencies or non-profits. Each member of the External Team individually scored the applications based on the evaluation criteria in the Guidelines. These criteria included project benefits/state priorities, readiness/feasibility, leveraged funding, innovation and science, organizational capacity, and public and stakeholder support. Conservancy staff compiled the External Team's individual scores, and the External Team met on January 15, 2016 to discuss the scoring and develop funding recommendations.

The External Team recommended full funding for several projects and partial funding for other projects, in order to best utilize the limited amount of funding available for the Basin’s highest priorities. In making the following recommendations to the Board, the Conservancy staff largely followed the recommendations of the External Team, but made adjustments to recommended award levels based on the potential availability of funding from other sources.

### **Project Description**

Conservancy staff recommends Board approval of up to \$7,161,568 in Proposition 1 funds for the following seven projects:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Proponent</b>	<b>Maximum Recommended Grant Amount</b>
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Tahoe RCD	\$700,000
Johnson Meadows Acquisition	Tahoe RCD	\$4,234,000
Meeks Meadow Restoration Project	Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada	\$228,530
Lake Tahoe West Collaborative	National Forest Foundation	\$849,100
Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project	Lake Valley Fire Protection District	\$850,000
Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration	California Department of Parks and Recreation	\$149,938
Tahoe Storm water Resource Plan	Tahoe RCD	\$150,000

Attachment 1a includes a description of the primary focus area, grant type, and funding request for each project. Attachments 3.1 through 3.7 provide details on each project recommended for funding, including a project description, expected benefits, budget, and schedule.

In addition to today’s recommendations, Attachment 1a identifies three projects that the External Team and Conservancy staff ranked highly but are not ready for Board review or approval because they have not yet completed the required environmental review documents under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff will prepare recommendations on Board approval of these projects once environmental review is completed and all supplemental information is received. The seven projects currently

recommended for funding and the three anticipated to be recommended for funding in the future are consistent with the recommendations of the External Team.

Attachment 1b lists the applications received that are not recommended for funding. After the Board's initial authorization of Proposition 1 grants, Conservancy staff will share, upon request, the External Team's comments with applicants.

### **Evaluation**

The projects recommended for funding were highly ranked and are considered high priority projects by the External Team and Conservancy staff. These seven projects represent a broad cross section of efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin and include a large Upper Truckee River land acquisition, new approaches to forestry efforts, a multi-benefit approach to storm water projects, a unique opportunity related to ecosystem restoration and water supply, and continued efforts in the fight against aquatic invasive plants. The individual project descriptions describe each project's multiple benefits.

Consistent with the Guidelines, the seven projects recommended for approval and the three projects anticipated for future recommendations cover all five focus areas and spread funding geographically throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin as shown in Attachment 2. Three of the projects address the entire region. There are two acquisition grants, three implementation grants, and five planning grants recommended for grant awards. There are no monitoring grants recommended for funding.

### **Fiscal**

As stated above, the Conservancy has \$13,950,000 in Proposition 1 funding available for the grants program. The above recommendations will award up to \$7,161,568 of that amount. Staff anticipates bringing future recommendations to the Board to award the balance of available funding.

Projects recommended for partial funding were determined to be good candidates for other matching funding sources, such as federal Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) funds and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Storm Water funding. The Conservancy's funding would provide leveraged or match funding for these projects to be more competitive for these grant programs. In addition, staff is recommending that the Conservancy reserve \$488,432 for projects that do not receive expected levels of funding from other sources, or for other eligible purposes.

The recommended Proposition 1 funding for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant (AIP) Control Project qualifies as matching funds required for the Conservancy's use of Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (SB630) funds. The recommended grant of \$700,000 will match the Conservancy's SB630 funding of \$300,000 in the current (2015-16) fiscal year, as well as an anticipated SB630 appropriation of \$400,000 proposed for next (2016-17) fiscal year. The SB630 Stakeholder Group considers continued funding of Aquatic Invasive Species control efforts a priority for the SB630 funding and supports this recommendation.

### **Grant Implementation**

The Conservancy administers grants in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Board authorization, the staff recommendation, the Guidelines and project application, and a standard Conservancy grant agreement. A planning grant agreement requires a work plan including a detailed budget and description of specific needs, products, and delivery dates. A site improvement implementation grant agreement requires an interest in the project site prior to construction sufficient to allow operation and maintenance in accordance with an approved operation and maintenance plan for the useful life of the improvements. Acquisition grant agreements require operation and maintenance of the property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the grant and Proposition 1 in perpetuity. Any transfer of any interest in the property or change in use requires additional Board approval. Consistent with the Guideline's application submittal requirements, the Conservancy may approve advance requests for a percentage of the grant funds in certain instances. An expense reimbursement requires appropriate documentation such as product deliverables or invoices. All grants require periodic reporting of progress. Data based deliverables must be submitted in the appropriate format.

Additionally, during the course of implementation, a project budget in a project description may deviate from the individual line items. However, the total expenditure of Conservancy funds for each project will not exceed the grant award.

### **Authority**

The projects recommended for funding are consistent with the Conservancy and California Natural Resources Agency approved Guidelines. In addition, the recommended projects will provide multiple benefits, meet state and regional priorities and have received high scores consistent with the External Team's recommendations.

Implementation of this grant program is consistent with Proposition 1 and with the Conservancy's statutory authority. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants for purposes consistent with its mission as reflected in the Guidelines, including multi-benefit storm water, watershed and ecosystem restoration, aquatic invasive species, forest health and sustainable communities, consistent with the *California Water Action Plan* and other state priorities. Eligible grantees include public agencies such as cities, counties, special districts, joint powers authorities, state agencies or departments, and other political subdivisions of the State of California; federally recognized Indian tribes; and tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organizations, as defined in Government Code section 66905.9.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance**

The Conservancy is required to determine CEQA compliance and make certain findings prior to taking action on a project. Each project's description (Attachments 3.1 through 3.7) explains the project's compliance with CEQA .

#### **List of Attachments:**

Attachment 1a – Proposed Funding

Attachment 1b – Projects Not Recommended for Funding

Attachment 2 – Location Map

Attachment 3.1 – Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project

Attachment 3.1a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.1b – Project Location Map

Attachment 3.1c – Resolution 16-03-03.1

Attachment 3.1d – CEQA documentation (on attached CD)

Attachment 3.1e – Notice of Determination

Attachment 3.2 – Johnson Meadows Acquisition

Attachment 3.2a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.2b – Project Location Map

Attachment 3.2c – UTR Public Ownership

Attachment 3.2d – Resolution 16-03-03.2

Attachment 3.2e – Notice of Exemption

Attachment 3.3 - Meeks Meadow Restoration Project

Attachment 3.3a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.3b – Project Location Map

Attachment 3.3c – Resolution 16-03-03.3

Attachment 3.3d – Notice of Exemption

Attachment 3.4 - Lake Tahoe West Collaborative

Attachment 3.4a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.4b – Project Location Map

Attachment 3.4c – Resolution 16-03-03.4

Attachment 3.4d – Notice of Exemption

Attachment 3.5 - Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project

Attachment 3.5a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.5b – Project Location Map

Attachment 3.5c – Resolution 16-03-03.5

Attachment 3.5d – Notice of Exemption

Attachment 3.6 - Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration

Attachment 3.6a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.6b – Project Location Map

Attachment 3.6c – Resolution 16-03-03.6

Attachment 3.6d – Notice of Exemption

Attachment 3.7 – Tahoe Stormwater Resource Plan

Attachment 3.7a – Project Description, budget, schedule, and CEQA

Attachment 3.7b – Resolution 16-03-03.7

Attachment 3.7c – Notice of Exemption

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## ATTACHMENT 1a

### Proposition 1 Grants - Proposed Funding

<b>FUNDING AWARDS RECOMMENDED FOR MARCH 2016</b>					
Project	Organization	Primary Focus Area	Grant Type	Requested Amount	Maximum Recommended Funding
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Aquatic Invasive Species	Implementation	\$2,068,221.10	\$700,000.00
Johnson Meadow Acquisition	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Acquisition	\$4,234,000.00	4,234,000.00
Meeks Meadow Restoration	Washoe Tribe	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	\$228,530.00	228,530.00
Lake Tahoe West Collaborative: A Multi-Jurisdictional Landscape Restoration Strategy	National Forest Foundation	Forest Health	Planning	\$1,238,428.00	849,100.00
Lake Tahoe Basin Wildfire Protection and Water Quality Enhancement Project	Lake Valley & North Tahoe Fire Protection Districts	Forest Health	Planning	\$1,206,240.00	850,000.00
Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration, Burton Creek State Park	California Department of State Parks	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	\$149,938.15	149,938.00
Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Storm Water Quality	Planning	\$237,328.84	150,000.00
<b>Total March 2016 Maximum Recommendation</b>					<b>\$7,161,568.00</b>

<b>APPLICATIONS UNDERGOING FURTHER REVIEW FOR ANTICIPATED FUTURE PROPOSITION 1 BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS</b>					
Project	Organization	Primary Focus Area	Grant Type	Requested Amount	Maximum Recommended Funding
Bijou Park Creek Watershed and SEZ Restoration Project	City of South Lake Tahoe	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Implementation	\$4,670,000.00	\$4,000,000.00
Griff Creek Corridor and Public Access Project - Acquisition	Placer County	Sustainable Communities	Acquisition	3,200,000.00	1,300,000.00
Meyers SEZ Restoration/Erosion Control Project	El Dorado County	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Implementation	1,342,000.00	1,000,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$6,300,000.00</b>
<b>Total Anticipated Recommendations</b>					<b>\$13,461,568.00</b>
<b>Proposition 1 Funds Remaining</b>					<b>\$488,432.00</b>



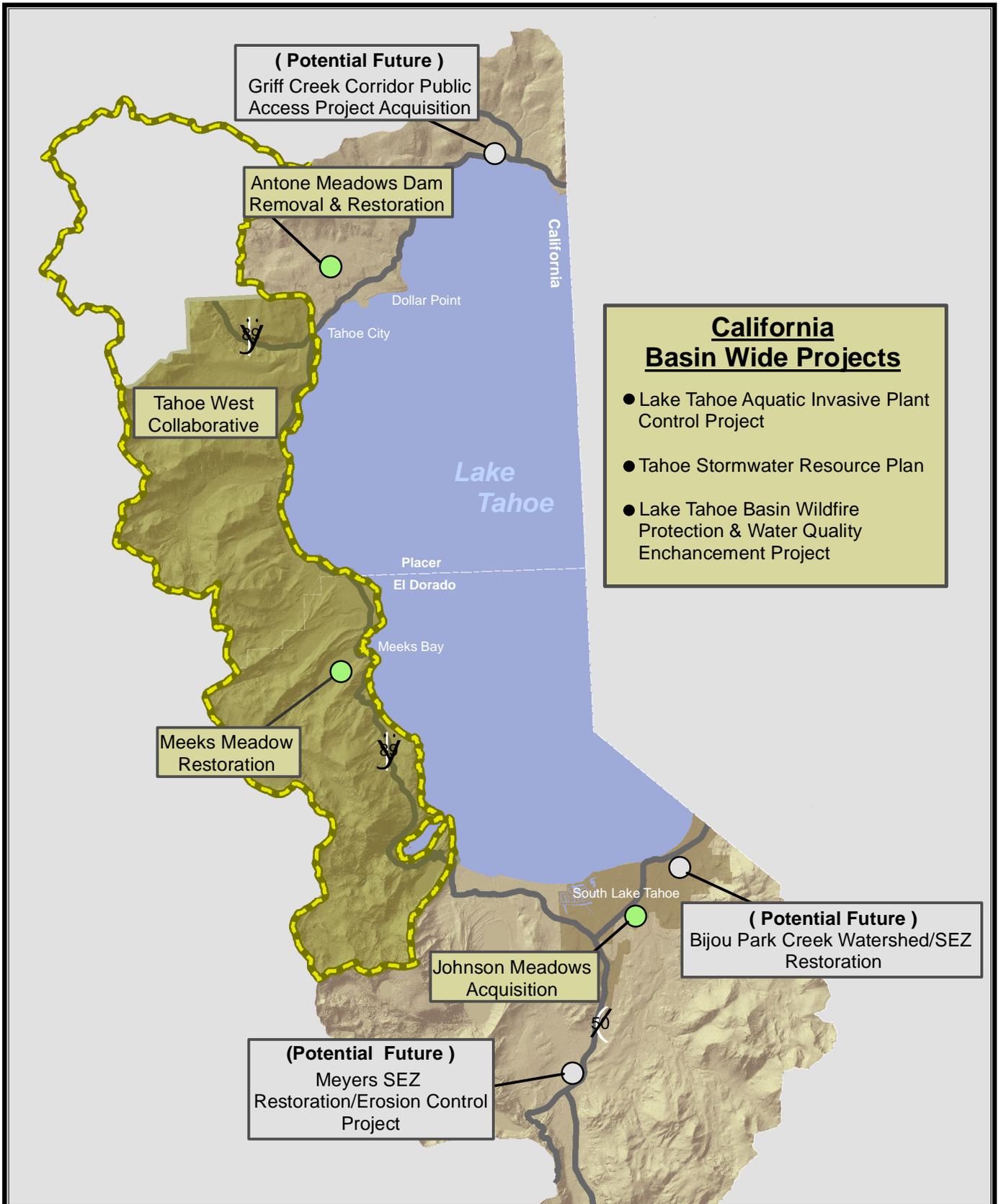
## ATTACHMENT 1b

### Applications Not Recommended For Funding

Project Name	Organization	Primary Focus Area	Grant Type	Requested Amount
Planning for Native LCT Restoration in Emerald Bay	UC Davis	Aquatic Invasive Species	Planning	\$1,139,689.00
Tahoe Keys Comprehensive Public Education and Outreach Program	South Tahoe Public Utility District	Aquatic Invasive Species	Implementation	315,946.49
Waterfowl and Wildlife Study for the Future Management of Water-Related Habitat in the Tahoe Keys Lagoons	Tahoe Institute for Natural Science	Aquatic Invasive Species	Planning	104,281.50
Planning for Continued Control of Asian Clams in Emerald Bay	UC Davis	Aquatic Invasive Species	Planning	92,830.00
Monitoring the Behavior and Distribution of Lake Trout and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in Lake Tahoe with Acoustic Telemetry	UC Davis	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Monitoring	1,456,388.00
Tahoe Valley Greenbelt Project	City of South Lake Tahoe	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Implementation	596,700.00
Coon Street Stream Environment Zone Improvement Project	Placer County	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Acquisition	313,550.00
Coon Street Stream Environment Zone Improvement Project	Placer County	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Implementation	270,500.00
Upper Truckee River Watershed Strategic Plan	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	200,952.40
Monitoring the Impact of the UTR Restoration Project on Lake Tahoe's Water Quality	UC Davis	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Monitoring	198,365.00
Remote Sensing Tool for Measuring Meadow Restoration Benefits	California Department of State Parks	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	197,407.85
Sugar Pine Point State Park (Lower General Creek) Watershed Improvement Implementation	California Department of State Parks	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Implementation	196,696.43
Stream Environment Zone Restoration	South Tahoe Public Utility District	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	173,931.50
Tallac Creek Sewer Line Crossing Protection Project	South Tahoe Public Utility District	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	78,170.00
Upper Truckee Marsh Sewer Facilities Protection, Phase 3	South Tahoe Public Utility District	Ecosystem and Watershed Management	Planning	74,004.50
Coon Clean Water Pipe Project, Phase 2	Placer County	Storm Water Quality	Implementation	2,878,720.00
Camelian Woods Tank Access Road Erosion Control Project	North Tahoe Public Utility District	Storm Water Quality	Implementation	740,755.60
A&A Motel Demolition and Restoration	Placer County	Storm Water Quality	Implementation	302,930.00
Planning Tools for New Hydrology, Changing Lake Conditions, and New Lake Levels Under Extremes of Climate	UC Davis	Storm Water Quality	Planning	296,432.00
Kingswood West Tank Access Road Erosion Control Project	North Tahoe Public Utility District	Storm Water Quality	Implementation	168,660.00
Griff Creek Corridor and Public Access Project/Planning	Placer County	Sustainable Communities	Planning	650,000.00
Sierra Boulevard Enhancement Project	City of South Lake Tahoe	Sustainable Communities	Planning	283,140.00
<b>Total Not Recommended</b>				<b>\$10,730,050.27</b>

**ATTACHMENT 1b**

**Applications Not Recommended For Funding**



 Lake Tahoe West Collaborative



California Tahoe Conservancy  
March 2016

Map for reference purposes only.  
Sources: TRPA; ESRI; TRCD

