



PRESS RELEASE

**December 15, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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North Tahoe Public Utility District Approves Points of Agreement with Placer County for Firestone Property

(Tahoe Vista, CA) At their December 11, 2014 meeting the North Tahoe Public Utility District (District) Board of Directors approved the points of agreement with Placer County for transfer of the Firestone property to Placer County. The District and Placer County had been in discussions since August related to transfer of the property.

This transfer will allow the County to move forward with construction of 2.4 miles of the Dollar Creek Shared Use Trail. When completed, Dollar Creek Shared Use Trail will commence at SR28/Dollar Hill, where the current Tahoe City Public Utility District trail ends, and end at Fulton Crescent. The County has received a Federal Lands Access Program grant for the project and anticipates breaking ground in 2015.

As part of this agreement the County agrees to assume the District's full responsibility for the planning, permitting, construction, operations and maintenance responsibility for the North Tahoe Bike Trail that was assigned to the District in the 1988 grant agreement with the California Tahoe Conservancy for purchase of the Firestone property.

Residents in neighborhoods adjoining the property were concerned with the transfer due to a Placer County study that had looked at the possibility of moving operations from Burton Creek to this property. A point of this agreement will also state that if any change in land use is contemplated beyond construction and operation of the planned multi-use trail, a public process will be carried out.

“The District is pleased that an agreement was reached to allow the County to move forward with this project,” says Lane Lewis, President of the Board of Directors of the North Tahoe Public Utility District. “This agreement is a win/win for North Tahoe Public Utility District residents as it will bring a much anticipated and desired amenity to our community at no cost to District ratepayers.”

Other December Board Actions:

- The Board reported in open session that in closed session they voted unanimously to give direction to the members of the Personnel Committee (Directors Ferrell and Thompson) to recruit for a new lead counsel for the District. Neil Eskind will stay on to complete certain projects and cases as needed. It is expected that he will be working with the District for several months while recruitment takes place.
- The Board reported in open session that Paul Schultz is currently on paid leave while the Personnel Committee works on the details of a new job description.
- Director Sue Daniels and President Lane Lewis were sworn in and began new four (4) year terms.
- In response to customer requests, Board meetings will be moved to Tuesday at 3:00 PM in order to allow more residents to attend. This will be a three (3) month trial period and the Board is looking for input from our residents to see what else could be done to encourage more public participation at District Board meetings. For the past few years Board meetings have started at 9:30 AM.
- Adopted Resolution 2014-14 appointing Larry Marple as Interim General Manager/CEO and Clerk of the Board, and Will Stelter as Treasurer.
- Discussed recruitment of the General Manager position including finalizing the job description and the timeline for recruitment. It is anticipated that resumes from potential candidates will be due mid-January, but that timing will be finalized for the job posting and recruitment brochure. Recruitment will focus on the northern California region, including regular media and California industry specific publications.
- Approved a request from the Placer County Deputy Sheriff’s Association to name Ballfield #2 at the North Tahoe Regional Park for fallen Placer County Detective Mike Davis. Detective Davis grew up in Kings Beach, CA and was killed in the line of duty while working for Placer County Sheriff’s Department. Detective Davis also worked for the North Tahoe Public Utility District at the North Tahoe Community Conference Center (now North Tahoe Event Center) from 1991-1995 and volunteered as a firefighter for North Tahoe Fire Protection District until leaving the District to work in law enforcement.

The Recreation and Parks Commission had originally heard the request under Public Comment and supported the idea, asking that it be sent to the Board for consideration.

- Heard a request from Mark Ferris of the Tahoe Expeditionary Academy (TEA) regarding their interest in a portion of the property off of Stewart Street in Kingswood where the District's new 1.2 million gallon water tank was recently completed. At the time the District purchased the property for the tank, the sale of the unused portion of the property following construction, was discussed. Interim General Manager Larry Marple was instructed to discuss this more fully with TEA and bring information back to the Board.
- Pam Emmerich, Technology and Public Information Administrator, was recognized for ten (10) years with the District.
- Congratulated the North Tahoe Public Utility District for receiving the 2014 California Water Environment Association, Sierra Section Safety Award and Sebastian Ramirez, Operations Maintenance Worker 2, as California Water Environment Association, Sierra Section Collection System Person of the Year.

The North Tahoe Public Utility District provides sewer and water service to the residents of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, Cedar Flat and Agate Bay. The North Tahoe Regional Park, Tahoe Vista Recreation Area and Boat Launch and North Tahoe Event Center are owned and operated by the District and provide recreation opportunities to residents and visitors.

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Approved By: 
Larry Marple, Interim General Manager