

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 8e
July 17, 2014

**ANNUAL PLANNING AUTHORIZATION
FISCAL YEAR 2014/15**

Summary: Staff recommends authorization to expend up to \$496,600 in Fiscal Year 2014/15 for the purposes of securing supplemental consultant and technical expertise and resources needed for program and project development and review (including planning activities such as technical studies, conceptual designs, and environmental document preparation) and to assist in regional planning efforts including the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), climate change, and sustainability; to update or replace aging information technology components; to enhance Conservancy outreach and communications; and for marketing the Lake Tahoe License Plate.

Location: Program and project development activities throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, as well as statewide Lake Tahoe License Plate outreach and marketing.

Fiscal Summary: Up to \$496,600 from State sources, including up to \$345,200 in support funds, and up to \$151,400 in capital outlay funds.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 14-07-05 (Attachment 1).

Background

This is the 28th annual authorization sought by staff for preliminary project costs and certain yearly program costs. Since its inception, the Conservancy has requested authorizations that allow staff to arrange for delivery of supplementary consultant and contract services and resources during the upcoming fiscal year 2014/15 in support of: 1) the development and implementation of acquisition and site improvement projects and coordination of regional planning efforts; 2) information technology and telecommunications maintenance, 3) enhancement of Conservancy communications and outreach; and 4) continued marketing of the Lake Tahoe License Plate.

If the Board approves this authorization request, staff will arrange, pursuant to State contracting and procurement procedures, to obtain the necessary specialized expertise and resources to further program and project development. Arrangements will be made with a variety of public or private sources, including other public agencies, university research institutes, and private contractors.

Project Description

Staff recommends the approval for allocation of funds for the initial feasibility analysis and conceptual development of new acquisition and site improvement project proposals; to arrange access to supplemental technical expertise and resources necessary for the development and implementation of Conservancy programs and projects; and for other contractual needs for support of the Conservancy’s outreach and communication efforts, and marketing activities for the Lake Tahoe License Plate. As summarized in the table below, these funds will help obtain the following:

		Support Funds	Capital Funds
I.	Program Support		
	• Appraisals, title review, site surveys, environmental assessments, and other pre-acquisition activities		\$ 80,000
	• Initial project feasibility and conceptual development		61,200
	• Arrangement for other supplemental, specialized, and technical expertise and resources	\$125,400	10,000
	Subtotal	125,400	151,200
II.	Information Technology	50,000	
III.	Communication/Outreach	50,000	
IV.	Lake Tahoe License Plate Marketing	120,000	
	TOTALS	\$345,400	\$151,200

1. A total of \$276,600 in item I. Program Support is recommended for planning, environmental review, Geographic Information System (GIS), and other specialized technical support for development and implementation of EIP projects under the various Conservancy programs. This expenditure will allow

the initial feasibility analysis and conceptual development of new acquisition and site improvement project proposals to be brought to the Board. It will also allow access to outside supplemental expertise and resources needed in the development and implementation of existing projects, as well as for participation in broader, region-wide efforts such as an Upper Truckee River restoration strategy, Integrated Regional Watershed Management, climate change and sustainability and other activities consistent with the EIP and Conservancy program guidelines.

2. A total of up to \$50,000 is being recommended for continuing maintenance and modernization of the Conservancy's information technology and telecommunications infrastructure. This includes routine replacement of existing components that have reached the end of their expected service life, as well as pursuing opportunities to increase efficiencies through technological advances.
3. A total of up to \$50,000 is being recommended for activities consistent with a Strategic Plan strategy to increase the Conservancy's visibility, communication and outreach. This could include preparation of an annual report and a 30-year report; participation in cooperative and collaborative communication and outreach efforts in furtherance of achieving EIP objectives; and other actions to enhance partnerships and foster public engagement with Conservancy programs.
4. Finally, a total of \$120,000 is being recommended to continue outreach and marketing activities for the Conservancy's Lake Tahoe License Plate. The launch of a new plate design in summer 2010 has underscored the need to aggressively market the plate in order to maintain and/or increase sales. To date, the Lake Tahoe License Plate has generated more than \$17,000,000 for the Conservancy. A total of over \$1,108,000 in revenues was generated during the 12/13 fiscal year; through 10 months of the current 13/14 fiscal year (i.e., through April 2014) another \$911,000 has been collected. These revenues are used to fund non-motorized trails and restoration projects.

Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended planning activities are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Pursuant to Government Code section 66907.10, the Conservancy is authorized to improve and develop acquired lands for a variety of purposes, including protection of the natural environment, provision of public access or recreational facilities, preservation of wildlife habitat areas, or providing access to or management of acquired lands. The Conservancy is also authorized to award grants to other public agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, specific transportation organizations, and nonprofit entities for these purposes pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7(a). Under Government Code section 66906.8, the Conservancy is authorized to select and hire private consultants or contractors as necessary to achieve these purposes.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

While the proposed action itself does not require CEQA review, each project implemented pursuant to this staff recommendation will be subject to CEQA review. Staff will evaluate each project prior to implementation to determine whether the project is statutorily or categorically exempt from CEQA, or whether the project requires a negative declaration or environmental impact report. Staff will bring such CEQA determinations to the Board for review and adoption of environmental findings prior to expending funds to implement the project.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution 14-07-05

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ATTACHMENT 1

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

14-07-05

Adopted: June 20, 2013

ANNUAL PLANNING AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2014/15

“The California Tahoe Conservancy hereby authorizes Staff to expend up to \$496,600 for the purposes of program and project development, review, and implementation (including planning activities such as technical studies, conceptual designs, and environmental document preparation); to assist in regional planning efforts including the Environmental Improvement Program, climate change, and sustainability; to update or replace aging information technology components; to advance Conservancy outreach and communications, and for marketing of the Lake Tahoe License Plate.”

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 17th day of July 2014.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of July 2014.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director