## California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 8b March 20, 2014

## LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

**Summary**: Staff recommends authorization to grant up to \$211,613 to El Dorado County for construction of the Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project.

**Location**: The Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project is located in the southern portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, extending approximately one to three miles west of the "Y" intersection of U.S. Highway 50 and State Route 89, along Lake Tahoe Boulevard and bordered by D Street/Viking Road to the northeast and Clear View Drive to the southwest (Attachment 1)

**Fiscal Summary**: Proposition 50 funds, up to \$211,613

**Recommended Action**: Adopt Resolution 14-03-05 (Attachment 2).

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## **Background**

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) has awarded a total of \$355,000 in previous planning grants to El Dorado County (County) for the initial planning efforts for the Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project (Project), which includes erosion control, Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) enhancement, and bike trail components. In addition, the Project received Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) mitigation funds, totaling roughly \$146,000, and the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit provided \$250,000 in planning funding through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA).

Historically, staff brought the Soil Erosion Control Program grant awards to the Conservancy Board on a yearly basis. In July 2008, the Board authorized the release of the Soil Erosion Control Grants Program Announcement and Guidelines for the 2008-2009 round of grants. The Announcement and Guidelines requested applications from

the local jurisdictions for the highest priority erosion control projects listed in the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). For numerous reasons, including the State bond freeze and the development of the Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM), not all of the funding approved in the 2008-2009 round was awarded immediately. The funds for this recommendation remain from this 2008-2009 authorization.

This Project includes EIP project numbers 10036 and 10065, which improve naturally functioning SEZ and water quality. The Project is a high priority because of the direct connectivity of the project area to surface waters draining to Lake Tahoe and the large fine sediment load estimated to discharge from the project area.

### **Project Description**

The County requests a \$211,613 site improvement grant from the Conservancy to implement water quality and SEZ elements of the Project. The Project will assist in achieving water quality improvements necessary for meeting load reductions required by the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The County has begun their Final Design, which applies the Conservancy's Preferred Design Approach (PDA) to achieve the greatest benefit to improving water quality, is in progress. The bike trail component of the Project is being funded by other sources and is anticipated for construction in 2014.

The County designed the Project to treat direct discharges of stormwater runoff to surface waters by infiltrating and treating the stormwater runoff within the Right-of-Way (ROW) on existing roadways that currently discharges directly into Angora Creek. The Project's design incorporates infiltrating sediment traps to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff and reduce the volume of fine and coarse sediments entering the Lake and its tributaries. The Project will also stabilize eroding slopes and ditches within the ROW with revegetation and rock. In addition, the Project will reduce impervious coverage in an SEZ (Attachment 3).

### **Project Budget**

The Conservancy will fund this Project from available Proposition 50 funding sources. The State Treasurer's Office has approved Conservancy Erosion Control/Water Quality Projects as eligible for use of Proposition 50 bond funds.

To date, the Conservancy has funded \$233,000 for the planning efforts towards the Project's erosion control and SEZ enhancement components, as well as \$122,000 for the planning of the bike trail in the project area. The County requests \$211,613 for direct

water quality improvement installation expenses. The water quality improvements are anticipated to be constructed during fall 2015.

The total project construction cost is estimated as follows:

Activity	Amount
Administration	\$ 200,000
Construction	822,802
Plant Establishment	35,000
Monitoring	25,000
Contingency	110,000
TOTAL	\$1,192,802

The County is pursuing additional funding for the Project, with potential sources including the Regional Surface Transportation Program, the State's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, and the United States Forest Service Erosion Control Program. If adequate funding is not secured to construct the entire project, the County would use the recommended Conservancy funding to construct a portion of the Project, targeting discrete elements which result in substantial water quality benefits.

## **Project Schedule**

Main Milestone	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Pre-Final Plans, Specifications and Reports	October 2014
Final Plans, Specifications and Reports	December 2014
Construction, Notice of Completion	October 2015
Record Drawings/Final Construction Report	January 2016
Post Construction Monitoring Report	December 2017

### **Project Implementation**

Standard agreements entered into by the Conservancy and individual grantees will govern implementation. As in recent agreements, new site improvement grants provide for an advance of up to 90% for administration and construction.

The Project's budget and schedule are preliminary and subject to change. However, such changes will not exceed the total amount awarded in each grant. Any remaining

funds for site improvement projects will be used, if necessary, to extend improvements to adjoining areas.

### **Project Evaluation**

The Project is consistent with the Conservancy's Erosion Control Program Guidelines and followed the PDA during planning. Further, modeling completed as part of the County's Pollutant Load Reduction Strategy (PLRS) has shown that the project area is a significant contributor of fine sediment particles and the County anticipates a large improvement in water quality following Project construction.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended site improvement grant is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorize the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies, State agencies, federal agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, the Tahoe Transportation District, and nonprofit organizations for purposes consistent with its mission, which includes water quality and soil erosion control projects.

## Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

El Dorado County, acting as the lead agency, prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this Project to comply with CEQA. The County adopted the MND on June 4, 2013, and a Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed with the State Clearinghouse on June 11, 2013.

A copy of the IS and MND 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 MND prepared by the County and reach its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the Project. Staff has reviewed the MND and believes that the Project proposed was adequately analyzed. Staff has determined that the Project, as proposed, would not cause a significant effect on the environment. The mitigation measures for the Project can be found on pages 3-22 of the MND CEQA Checklist.

Staff recommends that the Board review and consider the MND prepared and adopted by El Dorado County as the lead agency, together with any comments received during

the public review process; certify that it has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project; make the findings as set forth in the attached resolution (Attachment 2); and authorize the site improvement grant. If the Board considers and concurs with the MND and authorizes the grant, staff will file an NOD with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., title 14, § 15000 et seq.), section 15096. Attachment 5 contains the Conservancy's proposed NOD.

### **List of Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Project Area Map

Attachment 2 – Resolution 14-03-05

Attachment 3 – Proposed Improvements

Attachment 4 – El Dorado County Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (on attached CD)

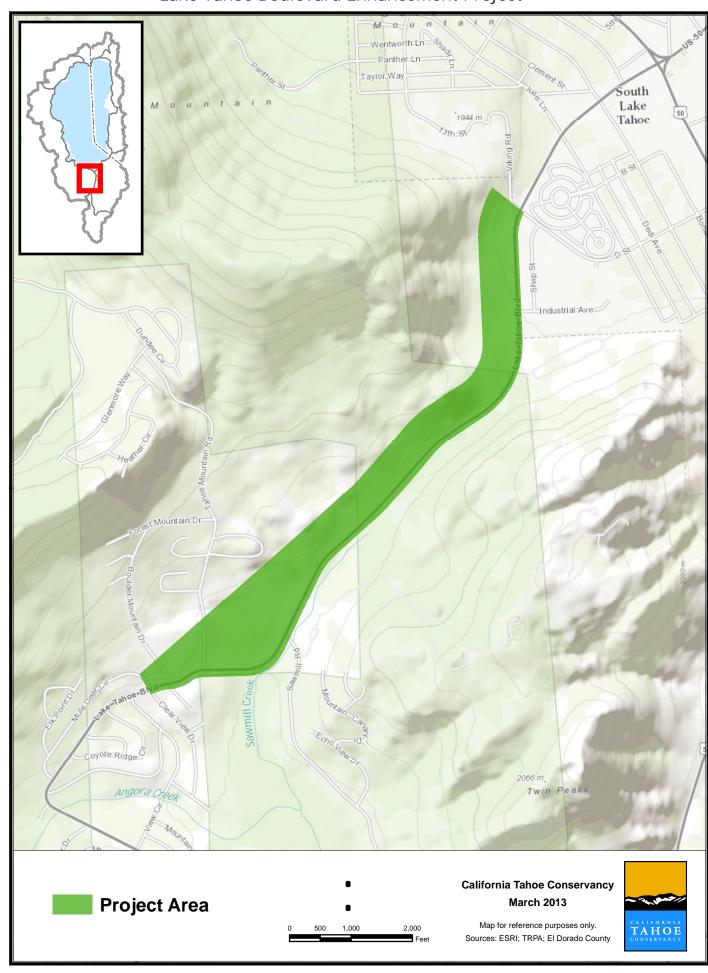
Attachment 5 - Conservancy Notice of Determination

## **Conservancy Staff Contact:**

Mark Sedlock (530) 543-6048

mark.sedlock@tahoe.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 1
Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project



California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 14-03-05

Adopted: March 20, 2014

# LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Staff recommends that the Conservancy make the following findings 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 Policy Act, has independently reviewed and considered the environmental impacts of the Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project as described in the EL Dorado County's Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) certified by El Dorado County on June 11, 2013. The Conservancy has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed project and finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. The Conservancy incorporates the mitigation measures described in the MND as a condition for approval of the project. The Conservancy hereby directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse for this project."

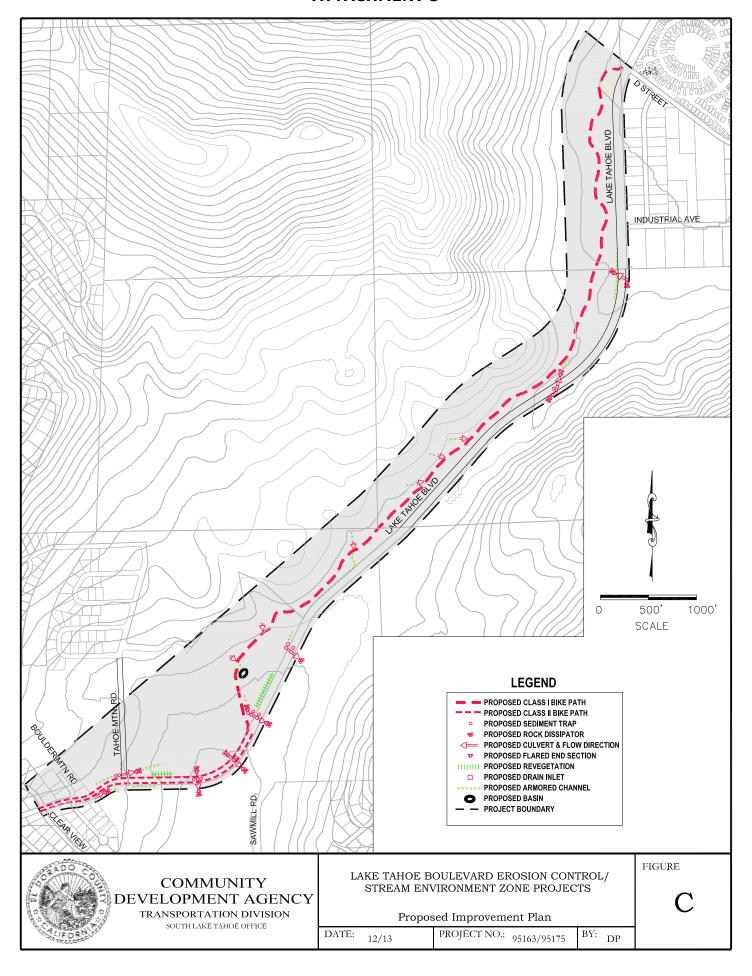
Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7:

"The California Tahoe Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a site improvement grant, up to \$211,613, to El Dorado County for the purposes of constructing the Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project. 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 March 2014.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this  $20^{th}$  day of March 2014.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director



# LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

El Dorado County Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

(On attached CD)

#### **NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**

TO: Office of Planning and Research 1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA. 95814 FROM: California Tahoe Conservancy

1061 Third Street

South Lake Tahoe, CA. 96150

### Subject:

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

### **Project Title:**

Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Project

State Clearinghouse Number:Contact Person:Telephone Number:2013032066Mark Sedlock(530) 543-6048

### Project Location:

Along Lake Tahoe Blvd. between D Street/Viking Road to Clear View Dr. in an unincorporated area of El Dorado County.

## Project Description:

The Project will implement erosion control and water quality improvements that will reduce sediment and pollutant discharges to Lake Tahoe from County administered rights-of-way 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 March 20, 2014 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 June 4, 2013 and a Notice of Determination was filed on June 11, 2013. The Notice of Determination, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and record of project approval may be examined at the County of El Dorado Department of Transportation 924 B Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. The California Tahoe Conservancy reviewed and considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration that was prepared by the El Dorado County prior to project approval.
- 3. Mitigation Measures were made a condition of the approval of the project by El Dorado County and the California Tahoe Conservancy.

Fish and Game Fees: A California Department of Fish and Game 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	