

California Tahoe Conservancy
Agenda Item 8b
June 18, 2015

**ANNUAL PLANNING AUTHORIZATION
FISCAL YEAR 2015/16**

Summary: Staff recommends Board authorization to expend up to \$1,206,200 in Fiscal Year 2015/16 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)
- Assisting with regional planning efforts including the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), climate change, and sustainability.
- Seeking authorization to contract for up to \$120,000 in outreach and marketing services for the Lake Tahoe license plate.

Location: Program and project development activities throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Fiscal Summary: Up to \$1,206,200 from State sources, including up to \$1,086,200 in capital outlay funds including Tahoe Conservancy Fund, Habitat Conservation Fund, and various Bond Funds; and up to \$120,000 in support funds including Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF) and Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account (LTCA).

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 15-06-03 (Attachment 1).

Background

This annual planning authorization is sought by staff for preliminary project costs and certain yearly program costs. Since its inception, the Conservancy has requested these authorizations to allow staff to arrange for delivery of supplementary consultant and contract services and resources during the upcoming fiscal year in support of

1) the development and implementation of acquisition and site improvement projects and coordination of regional planning efforts; and 2) continued marketing efforts on behalf of the Lake Tahoe license plate.

Project Description

As summarized in the table below, these funds will provide the following services:

		Support Funds	Capital Funds
I.	Program Support		
	• Appraisals, title review, site surveys, environmental assessments, and other pre-acquisition activities		\$ 775,000
	• Initial project feasibility and conceptual development		311,200
	Subtotal	<u>0</u>	<u>1,086,200</u>
II.	Lake Tahoe License Plate Marketing	120,000	
	TOTALS	\$120,000	\$1,086,200

Program Support

Staff recommends Board authorization of a total of \$1,086,200 in Program Support for planning, environmental review, and other specialized technical support for development of projects under various Conservancy programs. These expenditures will support the initial feasibility analysis and conceptual development of new acquisition and site improvement project proposals to be brought to the Board.

These proposed expenditures include the following:

- \$375,000 - Pre-acquisition staff time, appraisals, site surveys, title review, and relocation planning
- \$400,000 – Environmental assessments and analysis related to acquisitions, including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation
- \$300,000 – Initial feasibility and conceptual development assistance for watershed, recreation, and public access projects
- \$11,200 – Permits, UC Davis detention basin monitoring, and miscellaneous expenses

These expenditures will also give Conservancy staff 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 Integrated Regional Watershed Management, climate change and sustainability and other activities consistent with the EIP and Conservancy program guidelines.

License Plate Marketing

Staff also recommends Board authorization of a total of \$120,000 to continue outreach and marketing activities for the Conservancy's Lake Tahoe License Plate. Continuing an active marketing effort is important in retaining existing plate owners and attracting new ones. To date, the Lake Tahoe License Plate has generated more than \$18.6 million for the Conservancy. A total of over \$1,081,000 in revenues was generated during the FY2013/14; through ten months of the current FY2014/15 (i.e., through April 2015) another \$881,000 has been collected. These revenues are used to fund non-motorized trails and restoration projects; Up to 25 percent of the revenue may be used for marketing on an annualized basis.

Implementation

Upon Board approval of this authorization request, the funding will be used for specialized expertise and resources to further program and project development including feasibility analysis, conceptual planning and project or program development services. These resources could be applied to either a project implemented directly by the Conservancy, as lead agency, or a project implemented by a basin partner, if consistent with Conservancy program objectives, including the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program.

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 15-06-03

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ATTACHMENT 1

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

15-06-03

Adopted: June 18, 2015

ANNUAL PLANNING AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2015/16

Staff recommends the California Tahoe Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code Sections 66906.8, 66907.8, 66907.9, and 66907.10:

“Conditioned upon and subject to the passage of the 2015/16 Budget Act, the California Tahoe Conservancy hereby authorizes Staff to expend up to \$1,206,200 for the purposes of program and project development, review, and implementation (including planning activities such as initial feasibility analysis, conceptual designs, and environmental document preparation for new acquisition and site improvement projects); to assist in regional planning efforts including the Environmental Improvement Program, climate change, and sustainability; 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 18th day of June 2015.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of June 2015.

Patrick Wright
Executive Director