

## **ATTACHMENT 3.1a**

### **Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project**

**Grant Type:** Implementation

**Applicant:** Tahoe Resource Conservation District

**Recommended Funding:** \$700,000

**Location:** Lakeside Marina, Lakeside Swim Area, and Ski Run Channel

### **Project Description**

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control Project (Project) proposes to treat three sites for aquatic invasive plants identified in the *Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species with Lake Tahoe (Implementation Plan)* and implement rapid response control efforts on new aquatic invasive plant infestations in Lake Tahoe. The three locations are Lakeside Beach, Ski Run channel, and Lakeside Marina.

Approved control techniques used at Lake Tahoe and proven successful are:

1) bottom barriers, 2) diver-assisted hand or suction removal, 3) hand removal, or 4) a combination of these methods. The Project uses the most appropriate technique for each site's conditions.

The Project is the continuation of a multi-year lake-wide strategy to locally eradicate invasive plant populations. In addition to plant removal work, effectiveness monitoring will be conducted at all of the locations. Successful control of aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe requires synchronized survey and control treatment efforts and repeated treatment of infestations to significantly reduce source populations and locally eradicate satellite infestations.

Effectiveness monitoring surveys for plant composition and extent were conducted in 2015 in two of the three proposed treatment sites. Permission has been obtained to access all of the proposed treatment sites for surveys and/or control work in 2015, and it is anticipated that access will be granted in the future for these sites, due to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District's (RCD) positive working relationships with private and public partners.

## **Background and Context**

The proposed Project is a part of a larger, comprehensive lake-wide project to control aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. It stems from a long-term systematic planning effort by the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (AISCC). The AISCC is composed of 40 public, private, and tribal stakeholders. In 2009, the AISCC developed *the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (Management Plan)* which was updated in 2014. In 2015, members of the AISCC authored the *Implementation Plan*. The *Implementation Plan* tiers to the *Management Plan* and identifies species and specific locations and strategies for aquatic invasive species removal and control.

## **Project Evaluation**

The objectives of the Project are to: 1) control aquatic invasive plant infestations in select sites throughout Lake Tahoe, 2) successfully remove 100 percent of aquatic invasive plant material within the Project area, and 3) conduct effectiveness monitoring for each treatment site. In addition, the Project will implement rapid response control efforts on new infestations in Lake Tahoe. Aggressive treatment of new and small infestations greatly increases the likelihood of controlling satellite populations. Addressing plant infestations when they are small through rapid response will be less costly over the long-term than using control measures after plant populations are well-established. The benefit of treating these non-native infestations before they become larger is that there will be fewer plant fragments to infest other locations.

Success will be measured in acres of invasive species treated (removed) and acres of invasive species inventoried (data gathered from effectiveness monitoring). Aquatic invasive plants may be contributing to increased phytoplankton, reductions in water clarity, and increased algae production. Benefits to nearshore water quality will also be realized due to the resultant decline in Colored Dissolved Organic Material levels, which indicates a reduction in the amount of decomposition of organic matter.

In addition, removing invasive plants is a critical component of restoring Lake Tahoe's nearshore fish habitat because invasive plants provide a favorable environment for other invasive species, such as warm-water fish.

## **Project Schedule**

### **Activity**

### **Date**

Install barriers and remove plants

April-November 2016-2018

Conduct pre-project effectiveness monitoring

April-July 2016-2018

Conduct post-project effectiveness monitoring

October-November 2016 -2019

Matching funds from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (SB630), the Tahoe Fund, and potentially the Bureau of Reclamation would be used for scheduled tasks that need to be completed before implementation begins. This Project is currently permitted through several authorizing agencies, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Nevada Division of State Lands, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Lands Commission, and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

## **Project Budget**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Implementation	\$538,370
Equipment	\$30,000
Monitoring	\$65,000
Project Fees	\$3,000
<u>Project Management</u>	<u>\$63,630</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>

The final budget amounts may vary between individual items from those shown, but the total expenditures for the Project will not exceed the grant award.

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

Tahoe RCD, acting as the lead agency, prepared an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Lake-Wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project (Project) to comply with CEQA. Tahoe RCD adopted the MND on July 23, 2014, and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) on July 24, 2014.

A copy of the IS and MND have been provided to the Board on an attached CD and are available for public review at the Conservancy office, 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 (Attachment 3.1d).

As a responsible agency, the Conservancy must consider the MND prepared by Tahoe RCD and reach its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the Project. Staff has reviewed the MND and believes that the Project has been adequately analyzed in this document. Staff has determined that the Project, as mitigated, would not cause a significant effect on the environment. The mitigation measures for the Project can be found on pages 10 and 14-20 of the MND.

Staff recommends the Board review and consider the MND prepared and adopted by the Tahoe RCD as 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; and authorize the grant. If the Board considers and concurs with the MND and authorizes the funding, staff will file a NOD with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA guidelines, section 15096. Attachment 3.1e contains the Conservancy's proposed NOD.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 3.1b – Location Map

Attachment 3.1c – Resolution 16-03-03.1

Attachment 3.1d – Environmental Documentation

Attachment 3.1e – Notice of Determination

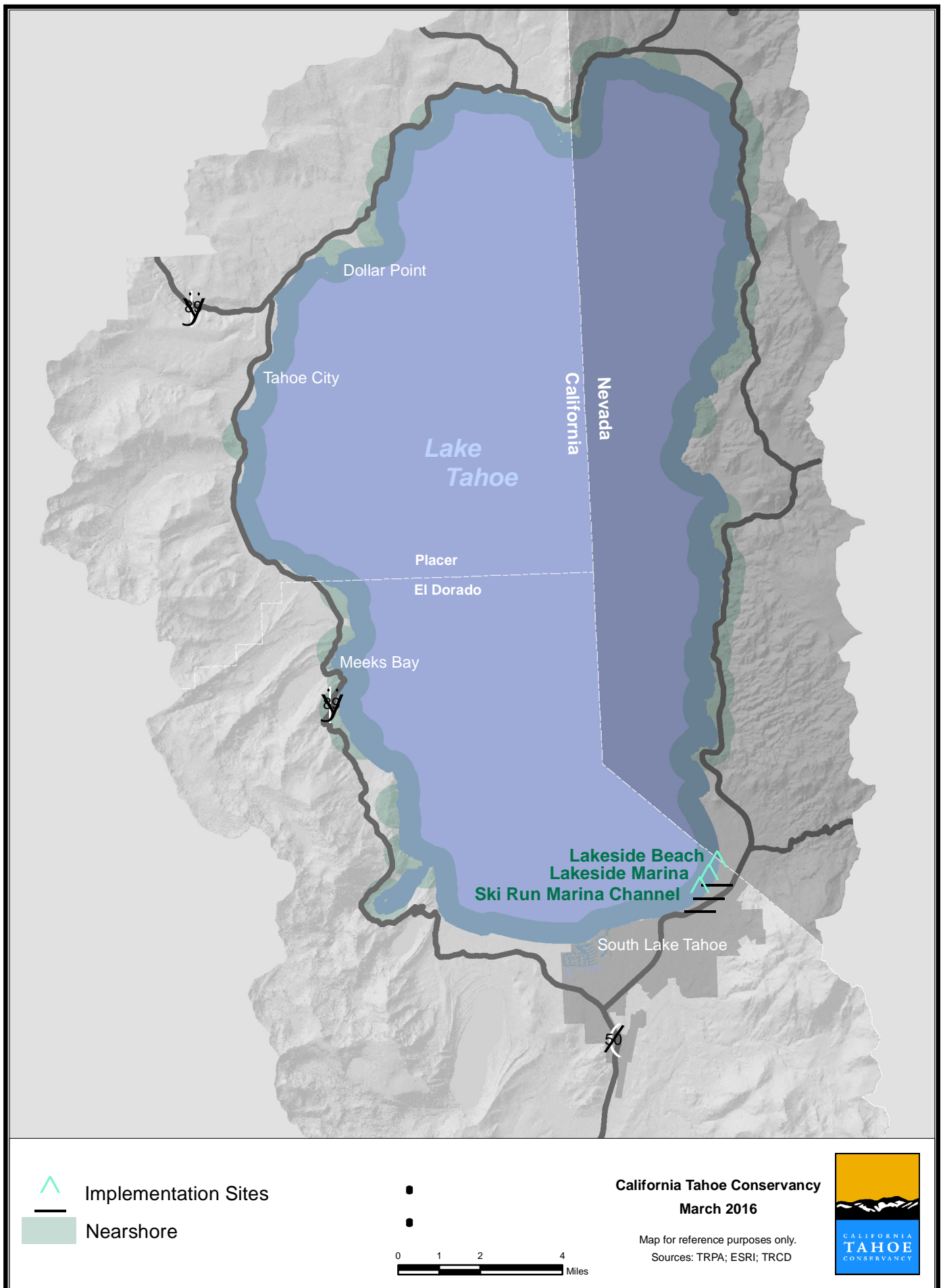
## **Staff Contact**

Whitney Brennan

530-543-6054

[whitney.brennan@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:whitney.brennan@tahoe.ca.gov)

ATTACHMENT 3.1b  
AIS Implementation Grant



### **ATTACHMENT 3.1c**

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

16-03-03.1

Adopted: March 17, 2016

### **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

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 Quality Act, has reviewed and considered the Lake-Wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) adopted by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District on July 23, 2014.

The Conservancy finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project, as mitigated, 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, and 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 sections 66907.7:

“The California Tahoe Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of an implementation grant in the amount of \$700,000 to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District for the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project, and authorizes staff 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT 3.1d**

**LAKE TAHOE AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROJECT**

Tahoe Resource Conservation District's  
Lake-wide Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project

Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Notice of Determination  
CDFW Environmental Filing Fee Receipt

(On attached CD)





## **ATTACHMENT 3.1e**

### **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

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***Subject:***

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resource Code.

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***Project Title:***

Lake-Wide Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control Project

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***State Clearinghouse Number:***

2014042043

***Contact Person:***

Penny Stewart

***Telephone Number:***

(530) 543-6013

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***Project Location:***

Lake Tahoe, near shore at Ski Run Channel and Lakeside Marina/Beach, El Dorado County, as shown on the attached map

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***Project Description:***

Provide funding to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and its partners to implement invasive plant removal measures in Lake Tahoe shore zone areas that are typically up to 11 meters in depth and perform effectiveness monitoring.

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This is to advise that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy), acting as a responsible agency, has approved the above described project on March 17, 2016 (Agenda Item 8a) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. The Tahoe Resource Conservation District, acting as the lead agency, prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project to comply with CEQA. The Tahoe Resource Conservation District Board adopted the MND on July 23, 2014, and a Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed on July 24, 2014. The NOD, MND, and record of project approval may be examined at the District office, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 108, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.
3. Mitigation Measures were made a condition of the approval of the project by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the California Tahoe Conservancy.

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Fish and Wildlife Fees: A California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Filing Fee was paid for this project. A copy of the receipt will be filed with this Notice.

***Date Received for Filing:***

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

