

ATTACHMENT 3.6a

ANTONE MEADOWS DAM REMOVAL AND RESTORATION PROJECT

Grant Type: Planning Grant

Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Recommended Funding: \$149,938

Location: This project is located in the Burton Creek Watershed, just north of State Route 28 near Tahoe City on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, as shown on the attached map. (Attachment 3.6b)

Project Description

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Antone Meadows Dam and Restoration Planning Project (Project) evaluates restoration opportunities at Burton Creek and the Antone dam site area. The proposed project planning includes project design and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation enabling the DPR to compete for project implementation funding.

The existing Antone Meadows dam blocks fish passage and dries Burton Creek and valuable riparian habitats below the dam. The dam is in poor condition, exhibiting cracks and concrete degradation. The road at the dam outflow crosses with an undersized bridge in poor condition and unusable for emergency fire response or fuels management activities. The area around the dam exhibits thick conifer growth encroaching into the willow, aspen, and meadow, causing increased fire hazard and impaired meadow and riparian habitats.

The Project will evaluate the impacts of the dam and water intake diversion and restoration of a natural stream gradient and floodplain to this section of Burton Creek. The Project will also evaluate removal of the water piping system extending approximately one mile through Burton Creek State Park, as well as removal of conifers encroaching into the stream environment zone (SEZ). DPR may also evaluate replacement of the existing undersized bridge and restoration deteriorated road accesses to the site.

Background

The DPR acquired Burton Creek State Park (Park) in 1978 to provide resource protection and outdoor recreation opportunities on the north side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Park consists of typical mixed conifer forest, the Antone Meadows wet meadow complex, and two stream courses. The Park has remained relatively undeveloped with no park facilities, although in the winter a cross-country ski concession operation utilizes the Park in conjunction with the adjacent Conservancy-owned Dollar Property.

In 1901, the owners of the Tahoe Tavern hotel constructed the Antone Meadows dam on Burton Creek because they found water from local springs insufficient to fulfill water demands. In 1932, homeowners in a new subdivision entered into a contract with the Tahoe Tavern to use the Antone Meadows system. However, when new business owners wanted to raise the rates in 1938, the homeowners decided to form a public utility district. Thus, the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) became the first local government within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Today, TCPUD utilizes water from the Antone Meadows system to supply irrigation water for the Tahoe City Golf Course.

TCPUD is currently planning and designing a project to relocate the existing Tahoe City Golf Course water source to Lake Tahoe. This relocation of water rights will allow DPR to achieve multiple resource benefits through restoration of the dam, creek, and adjacent areas.

Project Evaluation

The Project has the potential to provide several benefits, including the restoration of in-channel flow and natural processes to Burton creek and the Antone Meadows area. By removing the dam and water intake, DPR could remove a fish migration barrier and restore channel function and habitat conditions for about 200 linear feet of stream and 0.2 acres of SEZ. Returning flows to Burton Creek will also improve creek and riparian habitats downstream in the watershed, as more water will reinvigorate these currently dried areas. Through the removal of the dam, pipe, and portions of road, DPR could reduce existing land coverage to improve water quality. The Project will reduce fire hazard and improve forest health in one half of an acre by removing encroaching conifers from riparian hardwood stands and meadow edges, and the replaced bridge would improve access for forestry work and wildfire response.

Project Schedule

Upon execution of the planning grant, Conservancy staff will work with DPR staff on the workplan. The workplan will specifically list the deliverables supported by the grant. The schedule below reflects anticipated completion dates for major deliverables.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
Surveys and Studies	December 31, 2016
Preliminary Plans	December 31, 2017
CEQA	December 31, 2017

Project Budget

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Surveys and Studies	\$ 30,000
Preliminary plans	\$ 74,000
CEQA	\$ 24,181
<u>Project Management and Administration</u>	<u>\$ 21,757</u>
TOTAL	\$ 149,938

The final amounts may vary between individual line items. However, total expenditures for the Project will not exceed the grant award.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., title 14, § 15000 et seq.), certain classes of activities are statutorily exempt from CEQA or are exempt because they have been determined by the Secretary for Resources to have no significant effect on the environment. Staff has evaluated this planning project, and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. This project qualifies for a statutory exemption under section 15262 (feasibility and planning studies). A Notice of Exemption (NOE) has been prepared for the project (Attachment 3.6d). If the Board approves the grant funding, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 3.6b – Project Location Map
Attachment 3.6c – Resolution 16-03-03.6
Attachment 3.6d – Notice of Exemption

Conservancy Staff Contact:

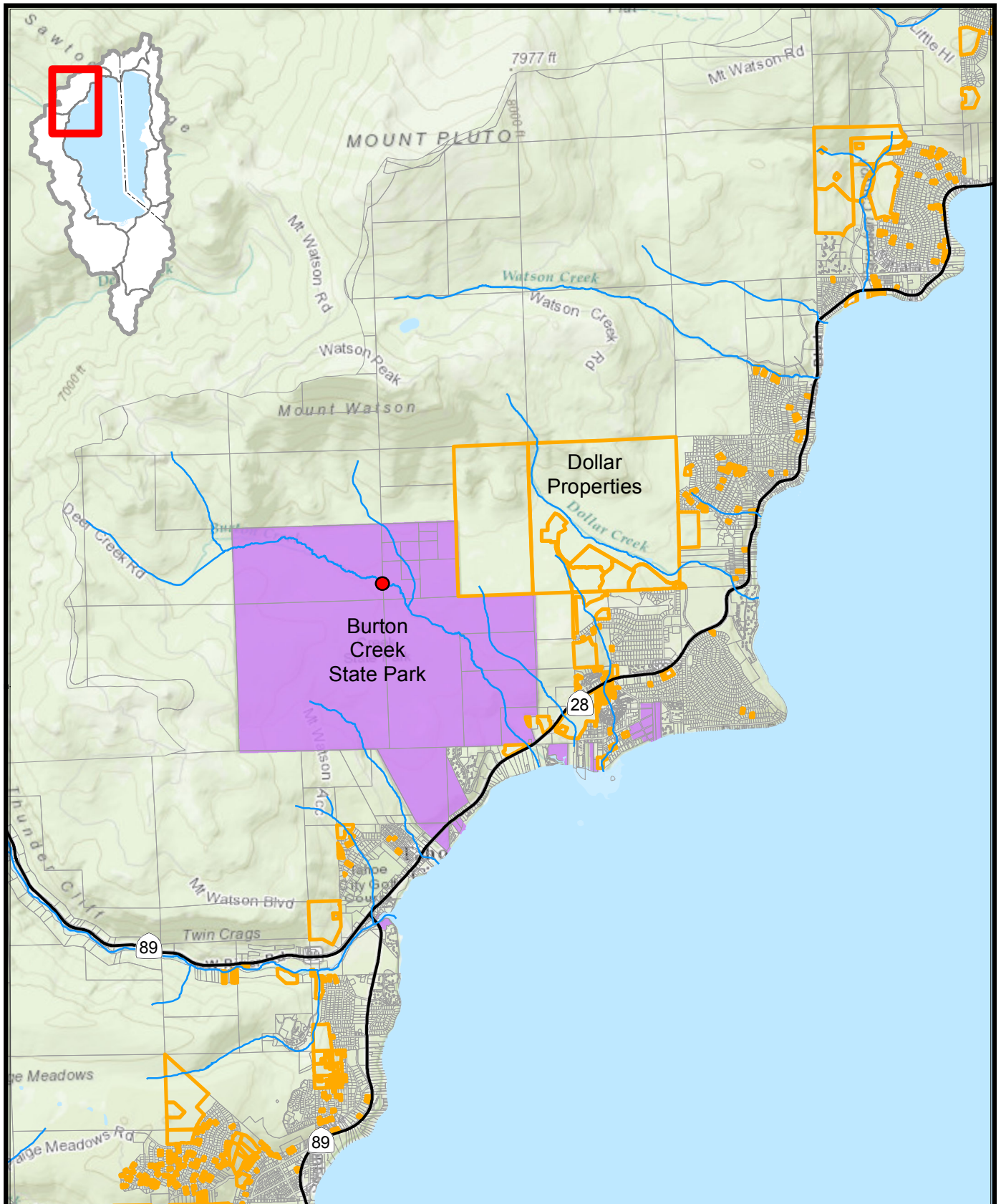
Jen Greenberg

(530) 543-6060

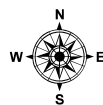
jen.greenberg@tahoe.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 3.6b

Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration



- Antone Meadows Dam
- Conservancy Owned
- California State Parks



0 0.3 0.6 1.2
Miles

California Tahoe Conservancy
March 2016

Map for reference purposes only.
Sources: TRPA, ESRI, CTC



ATTACHMENT 3.6c

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

16-03-03.6

Adopted: March 17, 2016

ANTONE MEADOWS DAM REMOVAL AND RESTORATION PROJECT

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

"The California Tahoe Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a planning grant in the amount of \$149,938 to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for the Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration 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 17th day of March, 2016.

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

Patrick Wright
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 3.6d

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Project Title:

Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration Project Planning Grant Authorization

Project Location – Specific:

This project is located in the Burton Creek Watershed, just north of Highway 28 near Tahoe City on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, as shown on the attached map.

Project Location – City:

Unincorporated – Tahoe City, CA

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Authorization of a grant to begin planning and CEQA development for a dam removal project which would restore the natural processes and function of Burton Creek.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy Board meeting of March 17, 2016, Agenda Item 8a)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071 (a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 15071 (b) and (c))
- ☒ Statutory Exemption, section 15262 (planning and feasibility studies)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Action involves planning and feasibility studies for a dam removal project.

Contact Person

Jen Greenberg

Area Code Telephone

(530) 543-6060

Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT A
Antone Meadows Dam Removal and Restoration

