

ATTACHMENT 3.7a

Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan

Grant Type: Planning

Applicant: Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Recommended Funding: \$150,000

Location: The California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin

Project Description

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) submitted an application to fund the development of the Tahoe Storm Water Resource Plan (Plan). The Tahoe RCD proposes to create the Plan with the assistance of the three local jurisdictions, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and others.

The Plan will guide prioritization and implementation of Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) storm water quality projects. An integrated analysis of quantified multiple benefits for each project will provide the basis for improved prioritization. A portion of this analysis involves updating and standardizing the Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM) baseline results for the three local jurisdictions to create comparable results. The Plan will analyze multiple benefits including water quality, water recharge, environmental, and community benefits on a watershed basis.

The Plan will be a living document that increases interagency coordination and efficiencies and will establish an adaptive management framework to ensure its long-term value. The Plan will meet the requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Guidelines and address the relationship of storm water to other Basin priorities, such as nearshore issues, ecosystem restoration, and aquatic invasive species. In addition, the Tahoe RCD hopes to incorporate the Plan into the Tahoe-Sierra Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan.

Background and Context

Storm water projects are an integral part of meeting the clarity goals for Lake Tahoe and the Conservancy has funded storm water projects since 1985. In addition to storm water treatment, these projects resulted in secondary ecosystem benefits such as stream environment zone enhancement and habitat restoration. The Conservancy developed the Preferred Design Approach for storm water projects in 2001, which emphasized low impact development (LID) methodologies, including infiltration and flow dispersion. In the early 2000s, the Basin agencies involved in storm water projects, including the Conservancy, established a project delivery process to ensure that project teams evaluated the projects in a broader watershed context.

In 2010, Lahontan adopted the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that identified fine sediment particles less than 16 microns, nitrogen and phosphorus as the primary pollutants of concern. After adoption of the TMDL, Lahontan updated the local jurisdictions' National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System municipal permit to address new requirements under the TMDL. The TMDL developed new tools, including the PLRM, to determine the pollutant loads and reductions that storm water control efforts provide. The adoption of the TMDL and a corresponding reduction in funding available for storm water projects led to Basin projects focused more intently on storm water treatment instead of multiple benefits.

The recently amended California Water Code requires public agencies to develop a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) in order to receive state grant funding for storm water projects from any bond approved by the voters after January 1, 2014, such as Proposition 1. In late 2015, the SWRCB published guidelines to assist agencies in the preparation of a SWRP. These guidelines require that SWRPs address multiple benefits of storm water projects on a watershed basis, which supports a Tahoe Basin SWRP that builds upon the TMDL. The Tahoe RCD agreed to lead the coordinated effort for the Basin storm water partners.

Project Evaluation

The Conservancy continues to lead efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin to encourage projects to provide multiple benefits and for interagency teams to prioritize projects. Multi-benefit project prioritization is more important given reduced funding levels. These reduced levels require Basin partners to compete for funding at the state and federal levels. Positioning Basin projects to best compete

for those funds is important for the Basin to meet its environmental goals and attain thresholds. This Plan will assist storm water projects to compete better at the state and federal level.

While the Basin has long been a leader in the use of LID technologies for its storm water projects, the multiple benefits of these projects have been difficult to quantify. The Plan will establish a method for quantifying multiple benefits, and will assist Basin partners in the coordination of funding and implementing the most beneficial projects. The Plan’s proposed adaptive management framework also provides the Basin with a means to evaluate and update the Plan as new environmental issues emerge in the Basin.

Project Schedule

This Project will be initiated upon authorization of the grant. Prior to commencement of work, a workplan must be submitted and approved. The schedule below indicates the anticipated completion dates for the major deliverables of the Plan.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
Award Consultant contract	June 2016
Update Baseline PLRM	September 2016
Draft Plan	December 2016
Final Plan	February 2017

Project Budget

The recommended funding represents an approximate 35 percent reduction from the amount Tahoe RCD originally requested. The Tahoe RCD is submitting a grant application to the SWRCB Storm Water Grants Program to develop this Plan and the larger Regional Storm Water Resource Plan. Conservancy staff hopes the SWRCB program will provide the additional funding to complete the Plan. The budget for the recommended funding is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Update Baseline PLRM	\$ 75,000
Plan Development	60,000
<u>Project Management and Administration</u>	<u>15,000</u>
TOTAL	\$150,000

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

California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

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 3.7c). 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 3.7b –Resolution 16-03-03.7

Attachment 3.7c – Notice of Exemption

Staff Contact

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ATTACHMENT 3.7b

California Tahoe Conservancy
Resolution
16-03-03.7
Adopted: March 17, 2016

TAHOE STORMWATER RESOURCE PLAN

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 \$150,000 to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District for the Tahoe Stormwater Resource Plan 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 3.7c

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:

Tahoe Stormwater Resource Plan

Project Location – Specific:

The California side of the Tahoe Basin

Project Location – City:

Unincorporated lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin-portion of El Dorado and Placer counties.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Authorization of a grant to develop a Stormwater Resource Plan that will quantify multiple benefits of projects and prioritize the stormwater projects on the California side of the Tahoe Basin consistent with State guidelines.

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 Tahoe Conservancy

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 development of a planning study.

Contact Person

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Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright
Executive Director

