California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 7 September 18, 2014

DOLLAR CREEK SHARED-USE TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) has long supported efforts to expand the network of non-motorized trails throughout the Lake Tahoe Region. Since 1987, the Conservancy has granted over \$3,000,000 to the North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) for planning and acquisition purposes (including the 85-acre "Firestone Property") in support of the proposed, eight-mile North Tahoe Bike Trail. In May 2010, the NTPUD Board of Directors authorized its General Manager to "turn the task of obtaining environmental documents back to the California Tahoe Conservancy" for pursuing the project.

In September 2010, the Conservancy partnered with Placer County (County) to assume the project lead. Backed by a track record of successful Tahoe Basin project delivery, the County accepted a grant from the Conservancy for \$435,000 to continue the bike trail planning effort. County staff considered the products produced under the previous North Tahoe Bike Trail planning grants to NTPUD. The 2.2-mile Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail (Project), for which environmental documents were prepared, will connect to the existing 22 mile network that extends west from Dollar Hill. (Attachment 1). The Project includes a 10-foot wide paved trail that traverses north from Dollar Drive to the top of the Old County Road neighborhood, a marked pedestrian crossing at State Route 28, a bridge span over Dollar Creek, a neighborhood connector at Country Club Drive, and an optional trailhead parking area.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the Project in October 2012. Later that year the Conservancy Board authorized the necessary trail easements through the Conservancy's Dollar Parcels, which have since been accepted and recorded by the County. The North Lake Tahoe Resort Association provided \$200,000 in County Transient Occupancy Tax funding to continue forward movement on the Project. In September 2013, the Conservancy Board authorized grant funding for the County to acquire the 19.5-acre NV Energy parcel. Currently in escrow for \$350,000, this parcel will provide a direct trail connection with the Old County Road neighborhood.

The County received \$3,400,000 in Federal Lands Access Program funding, supported by a County match of \$485,000, which should fully fund Project implementation. Final design is expected to be complete by the end of 2014 and trail construction could occur in 2015.

County staff will provide an update to the Conservancy Board regarding the current Project status, including final design and Project schedule. The County will also summarize its efforts to secure needed easements (or ownership) for the construction, operation and maintenance of the trail, including recent discussions with NTPUD regarding the above-mentioned Firestone Property.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail Project Location Map

Conservancy Staff Contact:

Lisa O'Daly

(530) 543-6037

<u>lisa.odaly@tahoe.ca.gov</u>

ATTACHMENT 1

Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail Location Map

