

ATTACHMENT 3.8a

COUNTRY CLUB HEIGHTS EROSION CONTROL PROJECT-PHASE 3

Grant Type: Planning

Applicant: El Dorado County

Recommended Funding: \$250,000 (Attachment 3.8b)

Location: The Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project-Phase 3 (Project) is located in El Dorado County within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The boundary of the Project's planning area is roughly Elks Club Drive to the south, Waverly Drive to the east, U.S. Highway 50 to the west, and the Upper Truckee River to the north (Attachment 3.8c).

Overview

Description of Recommended Action

Staff recommends the Board authorize a grant to El Dorado County for planning and preliminary design of the Project. The recommended planning grant will support preconstruction monitoring, a feasibility report with preliminary designs, and environmental documents. El Dorado County will investigate the feasibility of the Project, which has the potential to provide multiple environmental benefits and public access enhancements.

Project opportunities include removal of asphalt and fill in the floodplain of the Upper Truckee River (UTR), and storm water improvements for areas that discharge directly to the UTR. The Project planning area includes a deteriorating section of Waverly Drive that El Dorado County may remove for additional water quality benefits. El Dorado County will also explore options to enhance public access to the UTR through parking and trail improvements.

Preconstruction monitoring will assist El Dorado County in identifying the sources of pollution, which will inform the Project design. Planning activities will result in feasible

alternatives that address the potential storm water quality, stream environment zone (SEZ) restoration, and recreation benefits in the Project planning area.

Staff intends to enter into a Proposition 1 planning grant agreement with El Dorado County in the fall of 2017.

History

In 2016, El Dorado County planned the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project to address storm water within the subdivision and restoration opportunities on Conservancy meadows. This original planning effort did not evaluate restoration of the Elks Club property due to funding limitations. El Dorado County is now moving forward with construction of the initial project, and they anticipate completing the Phase 1 and 2 elements together in the summer of 2018.

El Dorado County is requesting planning funds to explore a third project phase (the Project), which would include additional work around the Elks Club site. The significant winter precipitation in early 2017 emphasized the water quality problems in this area and the need to address resource and drainage problems. In addition, there is significant potential to attain multiple resource benefits at this site. Phase 3 will add to the environmental gains of the first two phases, while also tying into other UTR watershed restoration efforts.

The Project planning area primarily consists of areas with extensive impervious coverage and fill within an SEZ, including the Conservancy's Elks Club property. Past development of the Elks Club property caused extensive disturbance to the UTR floodplain, resulting in a dried and elevated surface that no longer functions as valuable habitat. There is also a long history of water quality problems and poor drainage in this area due to the various disruptions to natural flow paths from Elks Club Drive. Storm water generated in the adjacent neighborhood flows to the UTR with limited treatment of pollutants.

The Conservancy and its partners are pursuing a comprehensive restoration of the UTR, which is the largest watershed contributor of fine sediment to Lake Tahoe. UTR restoration efforts focus on the reestablishment of properly functioning river channels and floodplains, which will in turn benefit ecosystems and water quality. The Project will complement these other watershed efforts, and El Dorado County will coordinate the Project with the UTR watershed advisory group.

El Dorado County staff plan their environmental improvement projects with active agency and stakeholder participation. A public input process will assist El Dorado County in determining potential Project restoration and public access elements.

Financing

Proposed Grant Budget

Staff recommends the grant budget as shown below. The budget may be adjusted between line items, but total expenditures under this grant will not exceed \$250,000.

Budget Category	Funding Requested
Pre-Construction Monitoring	\$125,000
Feasibility Report/Preliminary Design 30 percent	\$50,000
Environmental Documents	\$75,000
Total	\$250,000

Proposed Project Schedule

Upon execution of the planning grant, Conservancy staff will work with El Dorado County staff on the workplan. The workplan will specifically list the deliverables supported by the grant.

Milestone/Budget Category	Estimated Completion Dates
Feasibility Report/Preliminary Design	May 2018
Environmental Documents	November 2018
Pre-Construction Monitoring/Preliminary Design	May 2019

Authority

Consistency with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation, Strategic Plan, and Program Guidelines

The recommended action to award grant funding for this Project is consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, the Strategic Plan, and the Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines.

Consistency with External Authorities

The recommended action is consistent with the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) because it facilitates the preliminary design and pre-construction monitoring of EIP project #01.01.01.0021. It is also consistent with the California Water Plan and State Wildlife Action Plan because it will improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.), certain classes of activities are statutorily exempt from CEQA or are exempt because they have been determined by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to have no significant effect on the environment. Staff has evaluated the proposed planning activities and found them to be exempt under CEQA. These activities qualify for a statutory exemption under CEQA Guidelines section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies). A notice of exemption (NOE) has been prepared for the activities (Attachment 3.8d). If the Board approves the planning grant, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15062.

List of Attachments

Attachment 3.8b – Resolution 17-09-02.8

Attachment 3.8c – Project Map

Attachment 3.8d – Notice of Exemption, Exhibit A

Conservancy Staff Contact

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