

ATTACHMENT 3.2a

COUNTRY CLUB HEIGHTS EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Grant Type: Site Improvement

Applicant: El Dorado County

Recommended Funding: \$250,000 (Attachment 3.2b)

Location: The Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project (Project) is located in El Dorado County within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The boundary of the Project area is U.S. Highway 50 to the west; Southern Pines, Crystal Air, and Skyline drives to the south; Crystal Air and Elks Club drives to the east; and the subdivision boundaries to the north (Attachment 3.2c).

Overview

Description of Recommended Action

Staff recommends the Board authorize a grant to El Dorado County for construction of the Project. El Dorado County will use the recommended funding to complete final design, construction, and monitoring.

The Project will result in ecosystem and watershed benefits, including improving the quality of storm water runoff discharging to the Upper Truckee River (UTR). El Dorado County will construct improvements to spread storm water across meadows, which will enhance riparian and wildlife habitats, increase groundwater recharge, improve water quality, and sequester carbon. The Project incorporates additional water quality improvement measures, including stabilization of existing eroding areas and construction of infiltration basins.

El Dorado County plans to construct the Project in 2018. The recommended funding will support a discrete portion of the Project, which focuses on improvements to stream environment zones (SEZ).

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

History

In the late 1980s, El Dorado County completed the initial Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project with \$409,800 of Conservancy funds. El Dorado County removed an unpaved portion of Boca Raton Drive and replaced it with a linear sediment basin to convey and treat storm water. They also revegetated this basin with wetland species and installed rock check dams to improve water quality.

Currently, the Boca Raton basin and the subdivision drainage infrastructure divert water away from the adjacent meadow. This diversion dries out the meadow and negatively affects riparian vegetation, wildlife habitat, and water quality. El Dorado County will build upon improvements from the initial project to make enhancements to meadow vegetation and water quality by spreading storm water flows back on the SEZ. The existing basin will remain as a water quality treatment and high flow conveyance feature.

In June 2017, the Board authorized a license agreement that currently provides El Dorado County with land tenure rights for the Project. Because the Project is located only within the El Dorado County right of way and on Conservancy lands, El Dorado County has secured all necessary land tenure rights to construct the Project.

El Dorado County anticipated constructing the Project in phases (i.e. 1 and 2) to address federal funding timing requirements. However, adequate funding was not available to move forward with Phase 1 in 2017. El Dorado County now plans to complete Phases 1 and 2 in summer of 2018. This grant is funding the discrete elements of SEZ enhancements as part of this Project.

As part of these Proposition 1 grant award recommendations, staff is also recommending a planning grant to El Dorado County to explore opportunities for a future and distinct project, the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project-Phase 3. Phase 3 includes opportunities to remove asphalt and fill in the floodplain of the UTR, and construct storm water improvements for areas that discharge directly to the UTR. This third phase will add to the environmental gains of the first two phases, while also complementing other UTR watershed restoration efforts.

El Dorado County staff plan their environmental improvement projects with active agency and stakeholder participation. In December 2016, El Dorado County released a feasibility study and preferred alternative report documenting existing conditions, potential project alternatives, and alternatives evaluation. They also held a public meeting at that time, where the Project received broad public support.

Financing

El Dorado County plans to construct the Project in the summer of 2018, using U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Conservancy Proposition 1 funding. The recommended site improvement grant will support a discrete portion of the Project, which is primarily comprised of SEZ enhancements. El Dorado County has secured \$521,232 from the USFS for the Project, and they are seeking additional Project funding from the USFS, which would allow El Dorado County to construct all Project elements. If El Dorado County does not secure the additional USFS funding, they will still construct the Project in 2018, but it would only include the highest priority and multiple benefit elements of the Project.

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.

Task	Amount
Construction	\$200,000
Plant Establishment	\$25,000
Contingency	\$25,000
Total	\$250,000

Proposed Project Schedule

Milestone	Estimated Completion Dates
Complete Final Plans, Specs, and Reports	January 2018
Obtain Final Permits	January 2018
Advertise and Bid	April 2018
Award Contract	May 2018
Begin Construction	June 2018
End Construction	August 2018
Monitoring	June 2020

Authority

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

The recommended action to award grant funding for the 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 implementation 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

Acting as a responsible agency, the Board reviewed and considered El Dorado County's Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project on June 15, 2017, and the Conservancy submitted a notice of determination to the State Clearinghouse on June 16, 2017. Staff has previously analyzed all potential environmental effects of the current recommended Project in the MND.

List of Attachments

Attachment 3.2b – Resolution 17-09-02.2

Attachment 3.2c – Project Map

Conservancy Staff Contact

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