

ATTACHMENT 3.6a

TAHOE CITY CALTRANS YARD RELOCATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT

Grant Type: Planning

Applicant: Tahoe Transportation District

Recommended Funding: \$354,000 (Attachment 3.6b)

Location: The Tahoe City Caltrans Maintenance Yard is located in unincorporated lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin-portion of Placer County, adjacent to State Route 89 along the Truckee River (Attachment 3.6c). Potential relocation sites, to be determined, will be located along State highways between Truckee and Tahoe City (Attachment 3.6d).

Overview

Description of Recommended Action

Staff recommends the Board authorize a planning grant to the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) for the Tahoe City Caltrans Yard Relocation and Restoration Project (Project). TTD staff will evaluate the feasibility of relocating the Tahoe City Caltrans Maintenance Yard (Maintenance Yard), which is currently located on sensitive land adjacent to the Truckee River, to a more environmentally appropriate site. TTD staff will analyze suitable potential sites for the relocation, and they will determine the possible extent of restoration and new river recreation access at the existing site.

Relocating the Maintenance Yard away from the Truckee River will reduce the risk of pollutants from highway maintenance activities discharging directly to the river. The Project also has the potential to restore one to one and one-half acres of stream environment zone (SEZ), enhance riparian habitat along the Truckee River, and remove impervious coverage from the site. TTD will also look into opportunities to provide public access to the river, which is a highly desirable resource to the public.

The planning grant will result in a Project Study Report (PSR), which is a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) preliminary design and planning document

that defines the Project scope, goals, and objectives. The PSR will include information needed to define project restoration performance measures and future Project development phases.

History

The Maintenance Yard is located on State Route 89 along the Truckee River, about a quarter mile west of Tahoe City. The Maintenance Yard has limited space and is located on sensitive land, including SEZ and riparian areas. Caltrans has been operating out of the Maintenance Yard for many years, but they are considering the potential relocation and understand that an alternate site may be more appropriate.

TTD is currently constructing the State Route 89 Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project (Fanny Bridge Project), which will include construction of roundabouts and other transportation and access improvements in the Tahoe City area. The Fanny Bridge Project will also reduce the Maintenance Yard in size, which will require that Maintenance Yard activities occur closer to the river. This modification creates the potential for increased environmental damage.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board required TTD, as a condition of the Fanny Bridge Project permit, to undertake a PSR to relocate the Maintenance Yard. In addition, as part of the feasibility study, TTD and Placer County will explore the potential of co-locating the Caltrans and Placer County road maintenance yards, which will improve operational efficiencies.

The community has voiced interest in the relocation of the Maintenance Yard for many years. Agencies and stakeholders, including Caltrans, Placer County, Tahoe City Public Utility District, TRPA, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB), the Conservancy, and other entities, will have an opportunity to provide input on the PSR. A public input process will help TTD determine potential Project restoration and public access elements.

Financing

The recommended planning grant will fully fund the PSR. 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 \$354,000. Upon execution of the planning grant, Conservancy staff will work with the TTD staff on the work plan. The work plan will specifically list the deliverables supported by the grant.

Proposed Grant Budget

Task	Amount
Project Administration	\$14,000
Project Study Report	\$340,000
Total	\$354,000

Proposed Project Schedule

The anticipated completion date for the PSR is August 15, 2018.

Authority

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

The recommended action for this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, the Strategic Plan, and the Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines.

Consistency with External Authorities

TTD has conferred with TRPA and LRWQCB staff regarding this Project, and they received confirmation that the Project is consistent with the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program, Watershed Management Program, and the LRWQCB Total Maximum Daily Load. The TRPA Regional Plan prioritizes acquisition and/or restoration of aging developed properties on or adjacent to environmentally sensitive lands. The newly adopted Local Area Plan for this region designates the Maintenance Yard as a "Special Planning Area," and encourages studies to determine more appropriate uses of sensitive areas. TRPA and the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization consider the Project consistent with Regional Plan goals, including the Scenic Quality Implementation Plan.

The Project supports the State's planning priorities, implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, California's greenhouse gas emission reduction plans, and Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 in two priority areas, including:

- Promoting more efficient and integrated development that preserves and enhances SEZs and other natural resources in urbanized areas, and
- Promoting removal of land coverage and restoration in sensitive areas.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the 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 the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency has determined that they 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 3.6e). 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 3.6b – Resolution 17-09-02.6
Attachment 3.6c – Project Map
Attachment 3.6d – Location Map
Attachment 3.6e – Notice of Exemption, Exhibit A

Conservancy Staff Contact

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