



## MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY BOARD

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

North Tahoe Event Center – Lakeview Suite  
8318 North Lake Boulevard  
Kings Beach, California 96143

There will also be a teleconference meeting in the following location:

~~Department of Finance~~~~California State Parks~~  
~~Redwood Room~~~~San Simeon Conference Room~~  
~~915 L Street~~~~1 Capitol Mall, Suite 410~~  
Sacramento, California 95814

### BOARD MEMBERS

**BROOKE LAINE, Chair**  
*City of South Lake Tahoe*

**LYNN SUTER, Vice-Chair**  
*Public Member*

**LARRY SEVISON**  
*Placer County*

**ADAM ACOSTA**  
*Public Member*

**TODD FERRARA**  
*Resources Agency*

**KAREN FINN**  
*Department of Finance*

**SUE NOVASEL**  
*El Dorado County*

**JEFF MARSOLAIS**  
*U.S. Forest Service (ex-officio)*

**PATRICK WRIGHT**  
*Executive Director*

Both meeting locations are open to the public.

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### Board Meeting: 9:30 a.m.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes **(Resolution 18-03-01)**
3. Executive Director's Report
  - Funding Updates
  - Lake Tahoe West Landscape Resilience Assessment
  - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds
  - Asset Lands
4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda
5. Consent Item

**a. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16 Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project:** Consideration and possible authorization to enter into a contract with the California Conservation Corps for up to \$42,250 for the implementation of the Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project.

### **(Resolution 18-03-02)**

CEQA consideration: categorical exemption

## 6. Project and Program Authorizations

**a. Greenway Shared Use Trail Phase 1b & 2 Project:** Consideration and possible authorization to 1) enter into a memorandum of understanding with El Dorado County to transfer South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Project Phase 1b and 2 (Project) implementation responsibilities to El Dorado County, 2) award up to \$3,182,000 for a site improvement grant to El Dorado County, and 3) execute or modify all other agreements as necessary to transfer implementation of the Project, including but not limited to license agreements or memorandums of understanding with El Dorado County, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and the Lake Tahoe Community College.

### **(Resolution 18-03-03)**

CEQA consideration: previously analyzed

**b. Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account Awards:** Consideration and possible authorization of three grants totaling up to \$335,360 to United States Forest Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and Sierra Business Council for aquatic invasive species and public access projects.

### **(Resolutions 18-03-04.1 – 18-03-04.3)**

CEQA considerations:

- Categorical Exemption:
  - Resolution 18-03-04.1 Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species
  - Resolution 18-03-04.3 Lake Tahoe Water Trail
- Statutory Exemption:
  - Resolution 18-03-04.2 Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan

**c. Caltrans Climate Change Adaptation Planning Grant:** Consideration and possible authorization to accept and expend up to \$359,756 from Caltrans for preparation of a climate adaptation strategy for the Lake Tahoe Basin and to execute and/or approve all necessary documents.

### **(Resolution 18-03-05)**

CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

**d. Conservancy Executive Director Compensation:** Consideration and possible authorization of adjustments to the Conservancy Executive Director's compensation.

### **(Resolution 18-03-06)**

CEQA consideration: not applicable

7. Discussion Items

**a. Land Transfer Requests and Potential Updates to Guidelines (Discussion only):** Discuss a land transfer request from the Tahoe City Public Utility District and the potential need to update the Conservancy's guidelines and procedures governing land transfers.

**b. 2018-2023 Strategic Plan Update (Discussion only):** Review and discuss the Conservancy's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan accomplishments and the development of the current strategic planning process with input from the Board, stakeholders and peer agencies, and public.

8. Chair's Report

9. Board Member Comment

**a. Potential Agenda Items for the April 26 Board Meeting (Discussion only):** Discuss potential agenda items for the April 26 Board meeting.

10. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

11. Adjourn

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**Schedule/General Meeting Information:** Agenda items may be taken out of sequence at the discretion of the Conservancy Board Chair. Items are numbered for identification purposes and will not necessarily be considered in this order. Members of the public intending to comment on agenda and non-agenda items may be asked to use the meeting sign-in sheet before the start of the meeting. The Board Chair may limit the amount of time allocated for public comment on particular issues and for each individual speaker. All Board materials, such as Board books and Board packets, exhibits, power-point presentations, and agenda materials, are hereby made a part of the record for the appropriate item.

**Discussion Items:** Discussion items or tours involve staff presentations and updates; no Board action will be taken. (Gov. Code, § 11122.)

**Consent Items:** Consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. Recommendations will ordinarily be acted on without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or other interested party or member of the public requests discussion of a consent item, it may be removed from consent and taken up in the regular agenda order, or in an order determined by the Board Chair.

**Staff Reports:** Staff reports on individual agenda items requiring Board action may be obtained on the Conservancy's website at <http://www.tahoe.ca.gov> or at the Conservancy's office. Staff reports will also be available at the Board meeting.

**Meeting Information:** Please contact Lori Uriz by e-mail at [lori.uriz@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:lori.uriz@tahoe.ca.gov), by phone at (530) 542-5580 or (530) 543-6069, or regular mail correspondence to 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150.

**Accessibility:** In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please call (530) 542-5580 [California Relay Service (866) 735-0373 or 711].

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Board members accessing their laptops, phones, or other electronic devices may use the equipment during the meeting to view the meeting materials which are provided in electronic format. Any use of these devices for direct communication employed by a majority of the members of a State body to develop a collective concurrence as to action to be taken on an item is prohibited.

Cover Photo:  
*Courtesy of Tom Schaefer*

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2  
March 1, 2018

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 7, 2017**

**December 7, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) Board Meeting**

The minutes are prepared from the same-day audio recording and transcription by Foothill Transcription Company certified on December 21, 2017.

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Chair Larry Sevison welcomed all of those present and called the meeting to order with a 9:40 a.m. roll call at the Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe, California.

**Members present:**

Larry Sevison, Chair, Placer County  
Adam Acosta, Public Member  
Todd Ferrara, California Natural Resources Agency  
Brooke Laine, City of South Lake Tahoe  
Teresa McClung, U.S. Forest Service (ex officio)  
Sue Novasel, El Dorado County  
Lynn Suter, Public Member

**Member absent:**

Karen Finn, California Department of Finance

**Others present:**

Danae Aitchison, Deputy Attorney General  
Patrick Wright, Executive Director  
Jane Freeman, Deputy Director  
Mike Steeves, Staff Counsel

## **Agenda Item 2. Minutes**

The California Tahoe Conservancy Board (Board) considered the minutes from the September 21, 2017 meeting. Ms. Novasel moved approval and Ms. Laine seconded the motion. **Resolution 17-12-01** passed on a roll call vote.

## **Agenda Item 3. Chair's Report**

Chair Sevison proposed removing Item 9.a. from the Board agenda. Chair Sevison recommended postponing the discussion for a future Board meeting. The Board did not voice any objections.

Ms. Novasel asked if the Board needed to approve the current agenda. Danae Aitchison, Deputy Attorney General, said it is procedurally not on the current agenda but it is the prerogative of the Board to concur and proceed with the agenda as written or as slightly revised. Ms. Novasel then proposed the idea of the Board informally adopting the agenda for future meetings. Chair Sevison called for a vote and it passed on a roll call vote.

## **Agenda Item 4. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Wright highlighted a few items as part of his Executive Director's report, including asset lands, the Bijou Park Creek priority acquisitions, and the outcomes from the all-conservancies retreat. First, Mr. Wright updated the Board on the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) asset lands in South Lake Tahoe near the "Y" intersection at U.S. Highway 50 and State Route 89. Mr. Wright reported that negotiations are going well with the owners of the Crossing, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), and local employers regarding a potential development involving these asset lands.

Mr. Wright next updated the Board on potential real property acquisitions in the Bijou Park Creek area. Mr. Wright explained the Conservancy is working closely with the City to determine potential alternative acquisition targets depending on the existence of willing sellers.

Mr. Wright then reported on an all-conservancies retreat, which the Conservancy hosted at Fallen Leaf Lake in October. Mr. Wright said there were two major themes that came out of the retreat. One was a recognition that the conservancies are challenged by a "boom-and-bust" cycle of bond funding. Mr. Wright said, for example, it is difficult to launch a strategic planning process without knowing if Senate Bill 5 is

going to pass. Mr. Wright explained that conservancies must explore alternative funding from other sources, and must figure out ways to advance conservation funding in a way that makes planning easier.

According to Mr. Wright, the second theme of the retreat was an acknowledgement of the changing population dynamics of the State that has resulted in greater diversity of interests among the population and legislature. Mr. Wright explained that the leadership in the State legislature has shifted dramatically to Southern California, which poses challenges for the Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) with respect to securing funding. Mr. Wright said the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Tahoe Conservancy recognize a need to better communicate with Bay Area and Southern California interests regarding the value of the Sierra Nevada and the Basin to the State's water supply, air quality, fire implications (as examples). Mr. Wright said the legislature must be better educated on the importance of the Sierra Nevada region.

Mr. Wright announced that Chris Mertens, Associate Environmental Planner for the Conservancy, accepted a position with the Sierra Business Counsel and is leaving the Conservancy. Mr. Wright said the new position is a great opportunity for Mr. Mertens and wished him luck with his new role.

The Board did not have any comments on the Executive Director's report.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Discussion Items**

##### **a. 2017 Conservancy Highlights**

Mr. Mertens presented Item 6.a.

Chair Severson asked whether the Conservancy could continue to fund the Ultraviolet (UV) Light Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project if it is successful. Mr. Wright responded that it would depend on the bond next year. Mr. Wright said if the UV light technology is successful, agencies in the Basin, including the Conservancy and TRPA, or perhaps private entities, will find the necessary funding.

Chair Severson asked whether the UV light device is easy to replicate.

Mr. Mertens said he was not sure about the scalability of the project but since it is a pilot project, the goal is likely to do it more if it works.

Ms. Suter asked about the status of the Johnson Meadow acquisition transaction. Mr. Mertens said the purchase agreement will be signed within the next few weeks and the acquisition may be final in early 2018.

Mr. Wright said although the presentation seems like a random list of projects, staff spends a lot of time prioritizing and balancing multiple projects, and staff looks forward to working with the Board to determine the Conservancy's priorities and balance different categories of projects as part of the strategic planning process. Mr. Wright explained that staff is working on the Conservancy's direct projects, is involved in funding Basin-wide initiatives, has launched two large landscape planning processes, and administers grants.

Mr. Wright explained that the Conservancy continues to have broad land management responsibilities, especially since last winter was so wet. Mr. Wright said part of the strategic planning process will be figuring out how to handle the backlog of encroachments, forestry projects, and property improvements.

Mr. Wright also said personnel are a big priority for the Conservancy as well. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy hired five new people in the past year, including Dorian Fougères, Jason Vasques, Thea Graybill, Forest Schafer, and Dan Mendoza.

Mr. Ferrara asked what the next steps are with the Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan. Mr. Wright responded that California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the lead agency and they are currently completing the environmental analysis. Mr. Wright said funding will be the next issue. Mr. Wright said he is hopeful DPR will receive bond money next year, which could help with funding. Mr. Wright said there is strong support for the project and it may take a partnership to obtain the necessary funding.

There was no public comment.

## **b. Strategic Planning Process and Schedule**

Dorian Fougères, Collaborative Science & Planning Specialist for the Conservancy, presented Item 6.b.



Ms. Novasel said, with respect to El Dorado County, the Board defines the strategic plans and the staff administers the plans; yet it seems like staff is proposing the opposite here. Ms. Novasel said it is important to define the role of the Board and staff as well as involve the Board earlier in the process in a collaborative fashion with staff participating.

Mr. Wright said the last thing staff would want to do is drive the process without full Board support and involvement. Mr. Wright said staff is open to Ms. Novasel's suggestion and what Mr. Fougères presented was just the starting point.

Mr. Fougères said this is exactly why staff is looking for feedback on the process. Mr. Fougères said staff could integrate Board strategic direction earlier in the process and the Conservancy staff retreat could be more about the nuts and bolts. Mr. Fougères said staff could switch the March and April work around.

Ms. Suter commented that staff could strengthen the process design by vetting it earlier with the Board committee or making it a full Board discussion item.

Mr. Ferrara commented that, perhaps two strategic plans ago, staff organized a joint staff-Board informal workshop that was insightful. Mr. Ferrara suggested a joint informal workshop could be a potential third option.

Ms. Laine commented that she would feel a bit disadvantaged being at a retreat without the staff input. Ms. Laine said it would be great to have a retreat with both staff and Board members present because we all have different levels of knowledge and expertise. Ms. Laine said having a joint staff-Board retreat would help us come to a consensus easier and more effectively.

Ms. Novasel commented that perhaps in the future we could use internal staff to do some sort of planning. Mr. Wright responded that Mr. Fougères is internal and that the Conservancy is doing a combination of both internal and external because staff would also like someone that is familiar with the State bureaucracy and classification systems.

Chair Severson called for public comment. Mr. Greg Poseley, a community member, commented on the item. Mr. Poseley said, although many community members benefit from the Conservancy's efforts, there are some issues involving beaver control and willow management in the Upper Truckee Marsh, which

cause flooding problems with private property owners. Mr. Poseley requested more informal, public meetings and input on these issues.

### **c. Status of Projects and Partnerships in Placer County**

Scott Cecchi, Associate Environmental Planner for the Conservancy, presented Item 6.c. in collaboration with the following partners in Placer County: Kansas McGahan, P.E., Senior Engineer, Placer County; Kim Boyd, Senior Management Analyst, Tahoe City Public Utility District; Duane Whitelaw, District General Manager, North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD); Cyndie Walck, Engineering Geologist, DPR; and Cindy Gustafson, Chief Executive Officer, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA).

Mr. Wright said staff is having preliminary conversations with Placer County and NTPUD to coordinate management of the beaches on the North Shore. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy is also committed to investing in high-priority environmental improvement projects in Placer County with our partners to achieve the Area Plan and Regional Plan goals. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy is also working with Placer County to address land management issues as well as operation and management commitments. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy has a strong partnership with Placer County and hopes that continues.

Ms. Laine asked Ms. Walck how the State keeps people from jumping off the Kings Beach pier. Ms. Walck responded that there is no diving allowed in the DPR system. Ms. Lisa O'Daly, Senior Environmental Planner with the Conservancy, suggested that newer floating pier models, which adjust with water height, are better than non-floating models because they may help reduce dangers associated with added height between the fixed piers and the water level in low level years.

Mr. Ferrara asked Ms. Walck whether the current pier is dry-docked and if it is ADA-accessible. Ms. Walck responded that the current pier is dry-docked and is not ADA-accessible.

Mr. Ferrara asked Ms. Walck to explain the next steps in completing the project. Mr. Ferrara said DPR has some funding available through its ADA program and the Kings Beach project is likely high on that list. Ms. Walck said there is some funding for retrofitting of facilities but this project is much larger than that. Ms. Walck said DPR will be looking for implementation funding.

Ms. Suter asked Ms. Walck for a status of the design and placement of the pier. Ms. Walck said the environmental impact report will be analyzing alternatives related to the pier placement and DPR has identified a preferred alternative.

Ms. Suter asked if there is controversy about the placement of the pier. Ms. O'Daly answered that the Technical Advisory Committee for this project has treated the feasibility of the pier alternatives equally and the preferred alternative is the eastern pier but there are realistic designs for all locations.

Ms. Suter asked Ms. Gustafson how the NLTRA would raise money for the transit vision. Ms. Gustafson answered that, although the Measure M initiative failed last November, NLTRA polled the voters and people strongly support the trail network. Ms. Gustafson said if NLTRA specifies that the money would go toward trails, there would be strong support; NLTRA may revise the legislation.

Ms. Suter asked Ms. Gustafson if Placer County has to raise the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) on the behalf of NLTRA. Ms. Gustafson confirmed that Placer County is the authorized entity to raise taxes. Ms. Gustafson said the TOT is currently at ten percent but in other areas, it is between 12 and 16 percent. Ms. Suter asked what two percent brings in and Ms. Gustafson said one percent of the TOT is about \$1.8 million and the TOT has increased 40 percent in the last three years. NLTRA raised \$18 million last year.

Ms. Laine asked Ms. Gustafson if the NLTRA might be interested in a Basin-wide tax that would be used for a specific purpose. Ms. Gustafson said NLTRA wants to partner and find the right solutions to raise more money to implement projects. Ms. Gustafson said a sales tax requires a two-thirds vote, which is challenging. Ms. Gustafson said it comes down to where the local control of how the money is spent.

There was no public comment.

#### **d. Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Corporation Yard Relocation**

Aimee Rutledge, Staff Services Manager I (Specialist) for the Conservancy, presented Item 6.d. in collaboration with Kirk Wooldridge, General Manager, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association.

Ms. Novasel asked whether there is boat storage on the proposed relocation parcel. Ms. Rutledge said there was previously boat storage on the site but not for the last few years.

Chair Sevison asked if there is going to be a lot of fill that will need to be removed from the current corporation yard site. Ms. Rutledge said that there is fill and the Conservancy is being careful about removing it correctly.

There was no public comment.

#### **e. South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Phase 1b and 2 Project Update**

Mr. Mertens presented Item 6.e.

Mr. Ferrara asked for more information on the easements issue. Mr. Mertens described the two easements on the Conservancy parcels. Mr. Mertens said one easement is related to an old water system and the other is a road easement, which has never been constructed. Mr. Mertens said the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) is concerned that the easement may prevent the LTCC from building. Mr. Mertens said the Conservancy is in discussions with Placer Title Company to resolve this issue so that LTCC can complete the land exchange.

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Closed Session**

Chair Sevison called for public comment on the closed session. There was no public comment.

The Board met in closed session to conduct a performance review and evaluation of the Conservancy Executive Director pursuant to Government Code section 11126(a)(1).

Afterwards, Chair Sevison said there was no action to report from the closed session.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Project Authorization**

##### **a. North Shore Sugar Pine Restoration for Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak Recovery**

Brian Hirt, Forester II from the Conservancy, presented Item 8.a.

Mr. Ferrara said the project is great and economical. Mr. Ferrara asked if the project cost was \$68,000 and if it included harvest, propagation, and planting. Mr. Hirt answered affirmatively.

Mr. Ferrara asked if the Conservancy is looking for other similar opportunities or a future phase of the project. Mr. Hirt said there is likely an opportunity for projects like this in the future.

Mr. Wright said California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection received \$200 million of cap-and-trade funding, which may present a great opportunity to include tree planting as part of the Conservancy's grant application. Mr. Hirt said the Conservancy has previously worked with other organizations on tree planting efforts.

Chair Sevison asked if the Conservancy has a plan to eliminate the existing dead or dying trees that are still standing. Mr. Hirt said that type of work usually comes up on the Conservancy's annual authority for work to be completed. Mr. Hirt said the Conservancy also has a hazard tree contract for addressing dead and dying trees on urban lots.

Chair Sevison called for a vote. Mr. Ferrara moved for approval and Ms. Novasel seconded the motion. **Resolution 17-12-02** passed on a roll call vote.

## **Agenda Item 9. Administrative Items**

### **b. Conservancy Chair and Vice-Chair Election**

Ms. Suter nominated and motioned approval of the nomination of Ms. Laine for Chair. Chair Sevison asked for public comment on the nomination. There was no public comment. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

Mr. Ferrara nominated and motioned approval of the nomination of Ms. Suter for Vice-Chair. Chair Sevison asked for public comment on the nomination. There was no public comment. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

Chair Sevison declared Ms. Laine as Chair effective immediately and Ms. Laine continued the meeting as the new Chair.

### **c. Committee Selection and Assignments**

Mr. Wright presented Item 9.c.

Chair Laine commented that there should be a Strategic Planning Committee or perhaps strategic planning could just fall under the Operations Committee. Vice-Chair Suter agreed with Chair Laine's latter point.

Mr. Ferrara said he would like to see project implementation or high-priority projects under Local Government or the Legislative Committee.

Chair Laine asked the Board if anyone had an objection or concern about the three proposed committees (Operations Committee, Local Government Committee, and Legislative Committee) or if there is a committee that should be added. Board members did not voice any objections or add other committees.

Chair Laine said the Board should discuss who would fill the committee seats. Ms. Novasel proposed Chair Laine and Vice-Chair Suter serve on the Operations Committee. Chair Laine proposed Mr. Sevison and Ms. Novasel serve on the Local Government Committee and Mr. Acosta and Mr. Ferrara serve on the Legislative Committee.

There was no public comment.

Chair Laine called for a vote. Ms. Novasel moved for approval and Mr. Sevison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

### **d. Conservancy Board Policies and Procedures**

Mr. Wright presented Item 9.d.

Ms. Novasel commented that El Dorado County just developed and passed a Governance Handbook. Ms. Novasel said it would be nice to have a handbook for the Conservancy Board so that there are outlined procedures, processes, and defined roles. Ms. Novasel said having a handbook would provide clarity to the Conservancy and it would help with the strategic planning.

Ms. Suter suggested looking into what the other conservancies have in the form of policies and procedures. Ms. Novasel agreed.

Ms. McClung said she liked the idea, especially defining roles because she is unclear about the role of the ex officio as opposed to a voting Board member.

Chair Laine proposed having the Operations Committee think through this idea more. Board members agreed with Chair Laine's proposal.

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item 10. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

There was no public comment.

#### **Agenda Item 11. Board Member Comment**

Vice-Chair Suter thanked Mr. Sevison for his hard work as the Board Chair. Mr. Ferrara and Chair Laine agreed and voiced their appreciation and thanks to Mr. Sevison.

#### **Agenda Item 11. Adjourn**

Chair Laine adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 18-03-01  
Adopted: March 1, 2018

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on March 1, 2018.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of March, 2018.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director



California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 3  
March 1, 2018

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Budget and Accounting**

**Budget Fiscal Year 2018/19:** On January 10, 2018, Governor Brown released the proposed Governor's Budget for the 2018/19 fiscal year.

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) proposed 2018/19 fiscal year budget includes:

- \$10,970,000 for capital outlay and local assistance to fund various programmatic priorities and support the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), including:
  - o \$5,175,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, 84, and Senate Bill 5 (see below);
  - o \$1,313,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe license plate proceeds, Tahoe Conservancy Fund, and Senate Bill 630); and
  - o \$4,482,000 in federal grant authority.
- \$7,284,000 for ongoing support, including continuing "baseline" funding from various special funds and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy.

The Governor's budget has been incorporated into Assembly Bill 1806 and Senate Bill 839 for consideration by the State Legislature during the spring budget hearings.

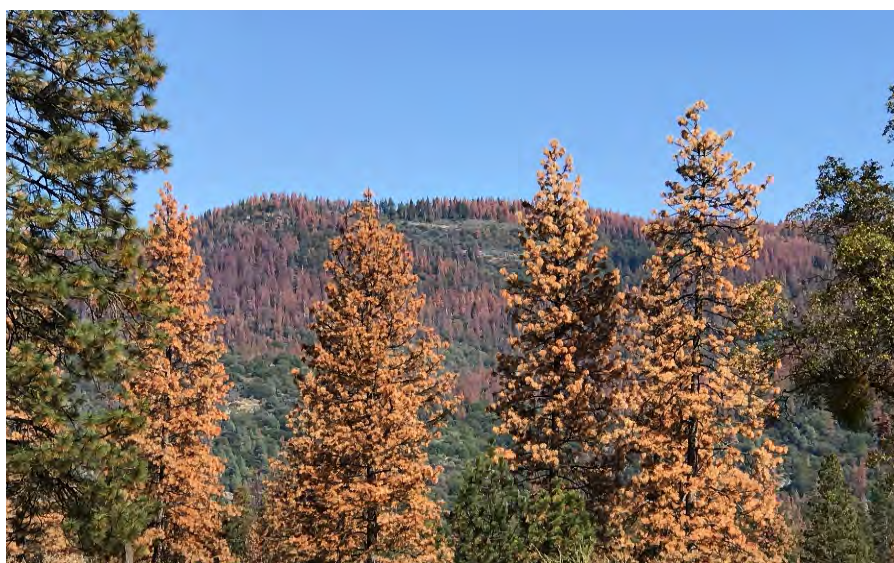
**B. Legislative Update**

**Senate Bill 5:** On October 15, 2017, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 5, which authorizes a \$4 billion parks bond, subject to voter approval on the June 2018 ballot. The bond includes \$27 million to the Conservancy for projects consistent with its statutory authority. The bond also authorizes several funding programs through other State agencies, which could fund Conservancy and Basin recreation, water quality, forestry, and watershed improvement projects.

## C. Highlights and Cross-Cutting Programs and Projects

### 1. Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation

The Conservancy is leading several large scale forest health and climate change adaptation projects. The projects described below are designed to mitigate climate change and restore ecosystem resiliency while increasing the pace and scale of restoration. For example, the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW) is a 60,000 acre large scale restoration project that, when nested within the much larger 2.4 million acre landscape of the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), will help achieve regional outcomes. Further, the science being developed for these projects will be utilized in developing a Basin-wide climate change adaptation strategy.



Climate change, drought, and bark beetle infestations are having a significant impact on Lake Tahoe's forests

The Conservancy, along with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, and National Forest Foundation (NFF) continue to make progress on LTW. The Interagency Design Team and Stakeholder Science Committee have completed Phase 1, a comprehensive landscape resilience assessment that describes the resilience of west shore ecosystem values to numerous types of disturbances. The results of the assessment reveal that over 75 percent of the landscape is more susceptible to catastrophic fire, drought, insects, and disease. This is due to a substantially different forest fire frequency currently than prior to Euro-American settlement, which has resulted in high tree density and heavy fuel loading. Additionally, the majority of meadows on the west shore are not believed to be able to provide adequate refugia for

meadow species under future climate scenarios. Lastly, three-quarters of the west shore landscape is within a quarter mile of a road or trail, indicating that the majority of the west shore of Lake Tahoe is influenced by human presence.

The second phase of LTW has begun, which consists of development of landscape restoration strategies. The restoration strategies will aim to address issues revealed by the landscape resilience assessment while balancing difficult social, economic, and regulatory tradeoffs. The Interagency Design Team and Science Team have developed management scenarios that the Science Team will run through various models. The results of the modeling will feed the development of comprehensive restoration strategies designed to improve resilience. The landscape resilience assessment is being explored within TCSI as the foundation for a regionally applicable framework.

The TCSI aims to accelerate large landscape forest health projects and development of biomass utilization infrastructure throughout the central Sierra to improve forest health and resiliency. The Conservancy, with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, USFS, NFF, and The Nature Conservancy, are spearheading TCSI through a memorandum of understanding. Combining the landscape initiatives that each of the TCSI partners lead, like LTW, provides the leverage necessary to overcome management barriers related to increasing the pace and scale of restoration. The TCSI has convened a science advisory team that will develop a resilience framework and assessment, building on the LTW model, and a blueprint that outlines restoration opportunities to improve landscape resilience. TCSI has also begun implementing a \$5 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grant through seven large projects, including three in the Basin. The Conservancy received a GGRF grant to conduct a forest improvement project on the Conservancy's Dollar property and staff is developing the required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental document for Board adoption. Conservancy staff is also working with the TCSI partners to submit a proposal for a new round of GGRF funding.

## **2. Tahoe Valley Area Plan (TVAP) Asset Lands Authorized for Pre-Sale**

- *2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 023-231-03 and 023-381-01, 3.67 acres*
- *1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, APN 032-291-28, 9.75 acres*
- *1029 Tata Lane, APN 032-291-31, 1.6 acres*
- *833 Emerald Bay Road, APN 023-171-09, 0.51 acre*
- *981 Tata Lane, APN 023-481-17, 0.53 acre*

As discussed at the September 2017 Conservancy Board meeting, staff is in exclusive negotiations concerning a sale of the 2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard parcels with Sutter Capital Group, owners of the adjacent Tahoe Valley Crossing parcel. Based on feedback from the Board, staff met with Vail Resorts and Sutter Capital Group to discuss a workforce housing agreement, and is working on a pre-application meeting with Sutter Capital Group and the City of South Lake Tahoe (City). Staff continues to coordinate with Sutter Capital Group and Vail Resorts to move this project forward to the City and TRPA.

The Tahoe Transportation District, St. Joseph's Community Land Trust, and several private developers and builders have expressed interest in working with the Conservancy on affordable, workforce, or market-rate housing, and/or a government service center on our TVAP Asset Lands, specifically 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, 1029 Tata Lane, and 833 Emerald Bay Road.

Staff is developing project requirements and requests for proposals for four of the parcels and is planning to discuss the project requirements with the Board in April 2018.

### **3. Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association Corporation Yard Relocation**

As discussed at the December 2017 Board meeting, the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) membership approved the relocation of the TKPOA corporation yard out of the Upper Truckee Marsh (Marsh) on to less environmentally sensitive land. Conservancy staff started preparing the CEQA environmental analysis of the relocation and drafting the necessary documents to complete the relocation. Staff anticipates presenting a recommendation to the Board for consideration later this year.

### **4. Proposition 1 Grant Program**

The Board approved Proposition 1 grant awards totaling \$12,820,651 in two funding rounds. Projects are in various stages of implementation. El Dorado County completed construction of the Meyers Stream Environmental Zone Restoration and Erosion Control Project in 2017.



Meyers Stream Environmental Zone Restoration and Erosion Control Project Detention Basin

In September 2017, the Board authorized a Proposition 1 award of \$572,250 to the City for the acquisition and restoration of the one property for which there was a willing seller as part of the City's Bijou Park Creek Priority Acquisitions project. The Board directed staff to return later with recommendations for additional grant awards for this project. The City is evaluating other properties for potential acquisition and restoration as part of this project, and they are currently communicating with the owners of two properties. The City is pursuing appraisals for these two properties, and has obtained initial documentation that the owners are willing sellers. Staff anticipates recommending additional grant funding for this project in April 2018.

## **5. Aquatic Invasive Species**

The Conservancy is working with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinating Committee and, through a request for proposals, is seeking additional support to develop an AIS control plan. Through a collaborative process, the control plan will identify long and short term AIS control targets and performance metrics. It will also consolidate actions in existing plans into a systematic approach to controlling AIS populations. The control plan will include a financial plan that provides an investment strategy to effectively implement the systematic approach to AIS control. The Conservancy aims to complete the AIS control plan by May 2019.





Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant in Lake Tahoe  
Photo courtesy Tahoe RCD

## **6. Independent Security Assessment**

From December 19, 2017 to January 4, 2018, the California Military Department conducted a Phase II Independent Security Assessment at the Conservancy. The purpose of this assessment was to establish a baseline of the Conservancy's network security. This assessment was comprised of internal and external penetration testing, as well as assessment of internal Information Technology policies, procedures, and controls. The Conservancy fared very well during this assessment, and the highest priority recommendations will be put into effect as soon as possible.

## **D. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, El Dorado County**

### **1. Natural Resources**

Natural resource projects restore natural river processes, enhance stream environment zones, and improve wildlife habitat, fisheries, and water quality.

**Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach 5 Restoration:** The USFS nearly completed the Reach 5 portion of the Upper Truckee River (UTR) restoration effort in October 2016 before several rain events ended the construction season. A significant portion of the Reach 5 restoration is on Conservancy land through a cooperative agreement between the USFS and the Conservancy. Restoration included construction of a new river channel to raise the riverbed and inundate the meadow. The restored channel will improve groundwater, enhance unique habitats, and improve water quality by reducing bank erosion and increasing natural wetland filtration. The fall rain and winter flood events have impacted the

project, requiring corrective actions. The USFS constructed corrective work and other project elements in late summer and fall of 2017, which included installation of vegetation and rock to stabilize portions of the project area. In addition, the USFS is conducting a hydraulic modeling and stability assessment of the Reach 5 project. The USFS released a draft report in January 2018, which concluded that the project is largely stable and functioning consistent with the original design. However, the assessment identified a limited number of locations where additional stabilization and adaptive management measures are necessary to ensure long term project stability.



Upper Truckee River in New Channel on Sunset Stables Reach 5 Project

The USFS and Conservancy will continue to monitor the project in coming years to demonstrate future performance and resource benefits, and to inform additional adaptive management actions.

- Location: Between Meyers and the City
- Description: 254 acres for Reaches 5 and 6
  - o Reach 5: 7,500 feet of channel construction
  - o Reach 6: On hold pending construction funding
- Conservancy Funding: \$2,479,728 Reach 5 and 6 planning; \$0 construction
- USFS Funding: Reach 5 final design and construction - \$8,000,000
- Reach 5 Schedule:
  - o 2013: 3,000 feet of new channel construction
  - o 2014: 3,000 feet of new channel construction and related utility line relocation

- o 2015: No active construction, new channel vegetation established and aquatic resource relocation conducted for approximately 70 percent of the Western Pearlshell mussels
- o 2016: 1,500 feet of new channel construction at tie-in points, aquatic relocations, river relocation into new channel, partial backfill of the upstream half of the old channel and complete backfill of the downstream half
- o 2017 and 2018: Implement corrective actions, stabilization, adaptive management, and project monitoring
- Lead Agencies: USFS, Conservancy
- Partners: Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (Reach 6 planning funding)
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project Documents:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lbmu/UpperTruckeeRestoration>

## 2. Forest Improvement

Forest improvement projects are designed to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.

Staff works with the Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD), DPR, and the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District to plan and implement the Conservancy's forestry activities in El Dorado County, primarily on Conservancy land. The mild winter of 2017/2018 has provided for exceptional pile burning conditions. Conservancy staff, working with the California Conservation Corps and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, recently completed pile burn operations on approximately 30 acres of Conservancy owned land in El Dorado County. These projects are coordinated through the annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team. In addition, staff addresses hazard tree and fuel loading concerns raised by the public.

## E. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, Placer County

### 1. Public Access and Recreation

These projects enhance regional public access and recreation.

**Kings Beach General Plan Revision and Public Pier Rebuild Project:** The DPR is leading a Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan (GP) Revision and the Public Pier Rebuild Project planning process, including environmental review under the provisions of both the CEQA and TRPA environmental regulations. In April 2015, the Board authorized \$525,000 in Proposition 40 and Placer County



funds granted through North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) for this planning effort. A September 2016 NLTRA grant augmentation provided an additional \$69,575 for additional CEQA analysis. In addition, DPR has committed \$442,646 towards the planning effort. The environmental impact report/ environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) scoping period began in late 2015. The preferred alternative for the project was released in January 2017. The draft EIR/EIS begins circulating for comment this spring.

- Location: Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Kings Beach
- Description: Revise the GP to provide the planning basis for a rebuilt pier and other recreational needs. Rebuild the existing pier with a combination fixed pier/floating pier design, optimize the location relative to onsite needs, and extend the length to reach the navigational target (6,217-foot elevation).
- Conservancy Funding: \$562,700 for feasibility study, preliminary planning, GP development, and environmental review in addition to \$94,575 in grant funding from NLTRA
- Total Project Cost: \$1,099,921 (GP/preliminary planning/feasibility/ environmental)
- Schedule:
  - o 2015 – Complete work on the feasibility study and preliminary plans and initiate GP and environmental review processes
  - o 2015-2018 – GP development, pier preliminary plan completion, complete environmental analysis
  - o 2018-2019 – Secure funding and initiate final design and construction documents
- Lead Agency: DPR
- Partners: Conservancy, NLTRA, Placer County, Department of General Services (DGS)
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly

## **2. Forest Improvement**

Staff works cooperatively with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) to plan and implement the Conservancy's forestry activities in Placer County. Staff plans to permit and prepare approximately 115 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy land in Placer County in 2018. Implementation is expected to start in the 2018 field season. Funding for this work is from a FEMA Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Grant to NTFPD as well as a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 grant.

## **F. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, City of South Lake Tahoe**

### **1. Natural Resources**

**Upper Truckee River (UTR) and Marsh Restoration:** The design contractor for this project recently completed a design report and preliminary plans. In December of 2017, the California State Public Works Board approved the preliminary plans and authorized the Conservancy to proceed into the working drawings phase. A team of scientists and resource experts is providing guidance and assistance to the project design and monitoring development efforts.

Staff is also continuing negotiations with private property owners for acquisitions in support of the project. Staff recently entered into a partnership agreement with USACE for the project, and is pursuing other federal and State funding opportunities as they arise. Staff and contractors continue comprehensive monitoring in the Marsh thanks to partnerships with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

- Location: Mouth of the UTR on the south end of Lake Tahoe primarily on Conservancy lands
- Description: 600-acre UTR and Marsh restoration project, including the Lower West Side Project
- Conservancy Funding authorized to date: \$4,305,000 planning; \$1,495,000 acquisitions, \$20,760,000 construction (Lower West Side and the future Marsh project)
- Total Project Cost: Estimated \$12,360,000 additional to complete the project
- Schedule:
  - o 2001-2002 – Lower West Side project constructed
  - o 2013 – Draft EIR/EIS/EIS released for public comment
  - o 2014 – Preferred alternative presented to Board for discussion
  - o 2015-2016 – Final EIR/EIS/EIS certification
  - o 2019 – Anticipated start of construction
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Reclamation, DGS, State Water Resources Control Board, TRPA, USACE, Tahoe RCD, USGS
- Staff Contact: Scott Carroll
- Project Documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/)

## **2. Forest Improvement**

Staff coordinated with the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department and LVFPD to implement forest health/fuels reduction projects on 36 acres at the City Airport with funding from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) SNPLMA grant program. Pile burning that was conducted on six acres this past winter completes this project. LVFPD has submitted the final invoice and the Conservancy will begin to close out the grant with the BLM.



Fuels reduction pile burn to complete a forest improvement project

## **G. Urban Land Management Program**

### **1. Special Use Requests**

Pursuant to Board authority (January 20, 2011), staff is authorized to enter into license agreements consisting of three years or less provided the Board is notified. Accordingly, staff is providing this notice of recently executed license agreements.

The Conservancy granted a temporary (four month) license to Alric Lam and Amanda Price on December 1, 2017 to provide for use and occupation of the Van Sickle Bi-State Park host site. As an in lieu license fee, the new park hosts agreed to provide the Conservancy with daily inspection of the adjacent historic structure area for activities that may negatively impact the cultural resources.

## 2. Van Sickle Bi-State Park

On October 31, 2017, the Conservancy closed the Van Sickle Bi-State Park to public vehicle access for the season. New park hosts, Alric Lam and Amanda Price, started on December 1, 2017.



The new park hosts, Alric Lam (left) and Amanda Price (right)

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 5.a.  
March 1, 2018

**SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT ROUND 16  
COLD CREEK FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 18-03-02 (Attachment 1) authorizing a contract with the California Conservation Corps for up to \$42,250 for the implementation of the Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (Project).

**Location:** The Project will be implemented on 13 acres of California Tahoe Conservancy property within the Cold Creek subdivision in South Lake Tahoe, California (Attachments 2a and 2b).

**Fiscal Summary:** The contract amount of \$42,250 will be funded with Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16 funds available through a Federal Trust Fund appropriation.

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**Overview**

**Description of Recommended Action**

Staff recommends the Board authorize up to \$42,250 for a contract with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for the implementation of the Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (Project). The Project is located on California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) property within the Cold Creek subdivision, totaling 13 acres. The funds for the Project are part of a \$6.8 million grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) for high priority forest health and hazardous fuels reduction projects.

The Project will enhance forest health and resiliency, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Cold Creek subdivision as well as the adjacent subdivisions of Montgomery Estates and Meadow Lakes and in the surrounding forest. The Project includes hand thinning of trees and brush, chipping of cut material, and removing biomass.

Staff anticipates entering into the contract with CCC this spring. Implementation will begin this summer and be complete by winter of 2018.

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT), a voluntary association of 20 Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) fire suppression and land management agencies developed a process to prioritize proposed treatment areas under the SNPLMA grant. As part of the initial round of prioritization, the TFFT identified this Project to be a high priority forest health project and recommends funding the Project under the Conservancy's SNPLMA grant.

### **History**

In December 2016, the Board authorized acceptance of a \$6,814,500 Hazardous Fuels and Wildfire Prevention grant from the BLM. The Board also approved expenditures of up to \$1,969,500 for activities associated with planning, monitoring and assessment, and related direct and indirect costs, and directed staff to return to the Board for authorization to fund specific implementation projects under the grant.

The BLM grant provides funding for forest health and fuels reduction projects on between 1,200 and 1,800 acres within the wildland urban interface (WUI) over a six-year term on lands owned and managed by the State of California, local jurisdictions, and large private landowners on the California side of the Basin. Staff finalized the grant agreement with BLM in March 2017, and has been working closely with the TFFT to prioritize, plan, and monitor the funded projects. Staff will seek Board approval to award grants or enter into contracts for other projects under the SNPLMA grant on a regular basis as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews and other requirements are completed.

### **Financing**

Staff recommends authorization of up to \$42,250 in SNPLMA funds included in a Federal Trust Fund local assistance appropriation in the 2017 Budget Act. The proposed Project budget includes \$8,450, which the Board previously authorized in December 2016 for planning, layout, and project preparation activities, and \$42,250 of proposed funds for implementation.

As a partner agency to the larger BLM grant, the Conservancy is providing a \$30,000 match over the six-year term of the grant. This Project does not include Conservancy match funds.

### **Project Budget**

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Amount</b>   |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Hand Thin, Chip, Remove Biomass ( <b>Proposed Authorization</b> )                 | 13           | \$42,250        |
|   |              |                 |
| Planning, Layout, Project Preparation ( <b>Previously Authorized Activities</b> ) | 13           | \$8,450         |
| <b>Total Project Budget</b>   |              | <b>\$50,700</b> |

### **Authority**

#### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation**

Implementation of this Project is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.10 authorizes the Conservancy to improve and develop acquired lands for a variety of purposes. Government Code section 66907.9 authorizes the Conservancy to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of land under its ownership or control with State agencies and other entities.

#### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan**

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, Strategy III.A, Efficiently Manage Conservancy-owned Lands. The proposed Project uses federal grant funds to facilitate hazardous fuels reduction treatments on 13 acres of Conservancy property, located within in a high priority WUI area.

#### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines**

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Forest Improvement Program Guidelines. The Project reduces the risk of property and forest loss from catastrophic wildfire and increases the health and vigor of the retained trees. Healthy forests are better equipped to deal with the effects of climate change, sequester carbon, improve visual appeal, and increase wildlife function.

#### **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) because it facilitates the implementation of EIP project #02.01.01.0144.

This action is also consistent with the most recently adopted versions of both the *2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Protection Strategy*, as amended and the *2015 Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan*.

### **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 they have been determined by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to have no significant effect on the environment. Pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 21001(f) and 21082, the Conservancy has also adopted regulations to implement, interpret, and make specific, the provisions of CEQA. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 12100 et seq.) Staff has evaluated this Project, and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. This Project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines, section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and the Conservancy's CEQA regulations, section 12102.4. Staff has drafted a notice of exemption (NOE) for the Project (Attachment 3). If the Board approves the Project, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15062.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 18-03-02

Attachment 2a – Location Map

Attachment 2b – Project Map

Attachment 3 – Notice of Exemption, Exhibit A and Exhibit B

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Milan Yeates

[milan.yeates@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:milan.yeates@tahoe.ca.gov)



**ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

18-03-02

Adopted: March 1, 2018

**SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT ROUND 16  
COLD CREEK FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT**

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code sections 66907.9 and 66907.10:

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a contract to the California Conservation Corps for up to \$42,250 for the Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project and authorizes staff to take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation.”

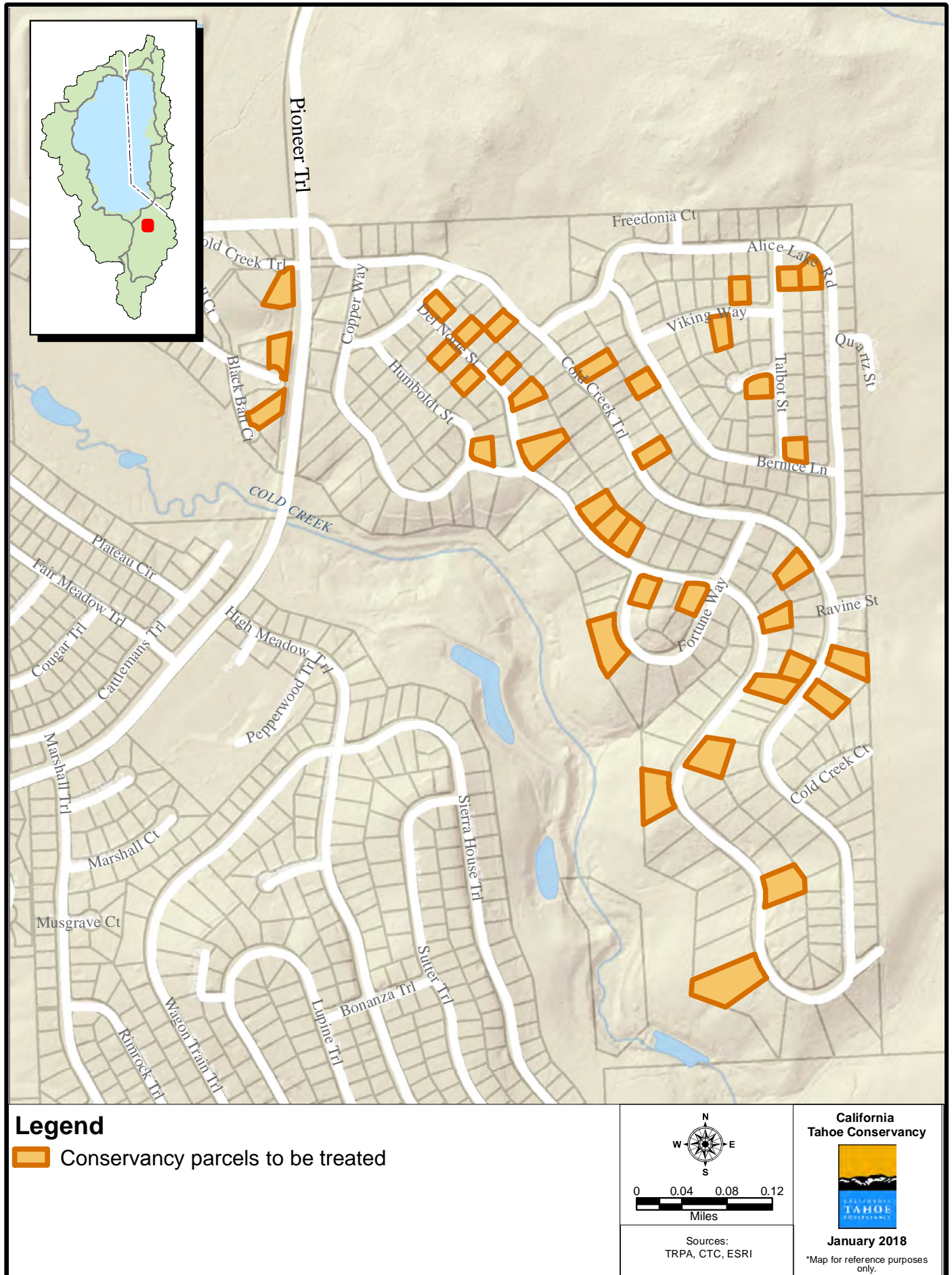
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2018.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of March, 2018.

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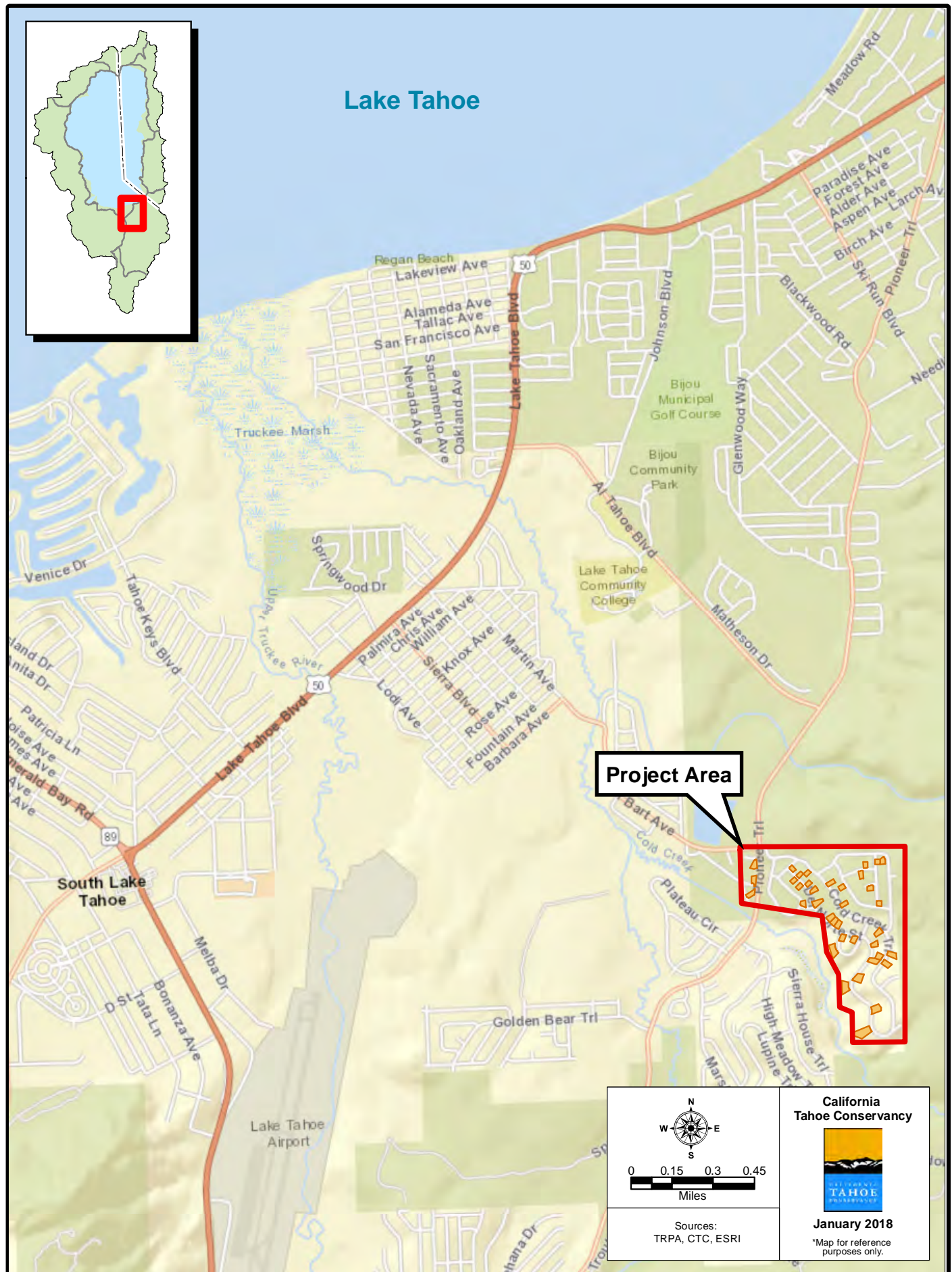
Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 2b  
Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16  
Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project





ATTACHMENT 2a  
Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16  
Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



## ATTACHMENT 3

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research  
1400 10th Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: California Tahoe Conservancy  
1061 Third Street  
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

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***Project Title:***

Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project

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***Project Location – Specific:***

This project is located on 13 acres of California Tahoe Conservancy property within the Cold Creek subdivision in South Lake Tahoe, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A) and attached list of associated Assessor's Parcel Numbers (Exhibit B).

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***Project Location – City:***

Unincorporated

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***Project Location – County:***

El Dorado County

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**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The project consists of removing live, dead, dying, and diseased trees, and reducing conifer densities with hand crews on 13 acres of urban-intermix parcels. The activity results will promote increased health and vigor of the stand, and reduce fire threat to the adjacent community.

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**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:**

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 3/1/2018) (Agenda Item 5.a.)

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**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

California Conservation Corps

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**Exempt Status:**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15073)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 15071 (a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 15071 (b) and (c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption, Class 4, § 15304 "Minor Alterations to Land"  
(See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 12102.4)

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**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The project involves fuel management activities to reduce conifer densities and other forest fuels for fire hazard reduction. The projects consists of minor alterations to the condition of the land and will not result in a significant change in land use or intensity of use.

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**Contact Person**

Milan Yeates

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**Telephone**

530-543-6058

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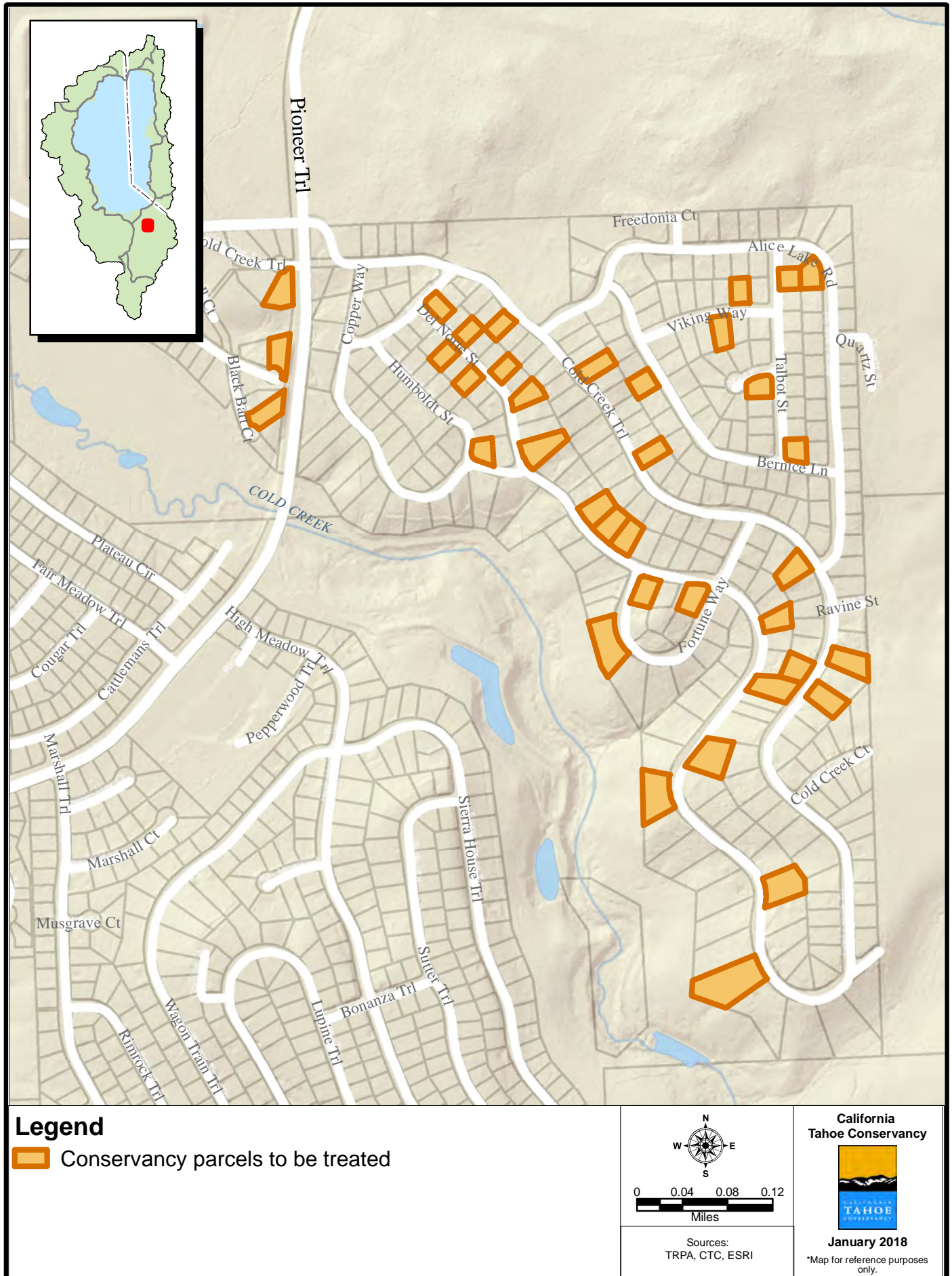
**Date Received for Filing:**

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director



**EXHIBIT A**  
Cold Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



## EXHIBIT B

| Assessor's Parcel Numbers |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 025-432-11                | 025-602-02 |
| 025-592-01                | 025-603-03 |
| 025-593-01                | 025-602-06 |
| 025-642-08                | 025-603-05 |
| 025-642-06                | 025-611-08 |
| 025-643-05                | 025-612-05 |
| 025-432-16                | 025-621-03 |
| 025-443-06                | 025-451-13 |
| 025-432-21                | 025-433-14 |
| 025-433-12                | 025-431-07 |
| 025-645-01                | 025-443-09 |
| 025-644-05                | 025-652-04 |
| 025-432-23                | 025-592-02 |
| 025-433-08                | 025-644-14 |
| 025-431-01                | 025-432-18 |
| 025-432-26                |            |
| 025-592-03                |            |
| 025-595-11                |            |
| 025-594-05                |            |
| 025-594-01                |            |
| 025-595-05                |            |
| 025-602-03                |            |

## **SOUTH TAHOE GREENWAY SHARED USE TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 1b AND 2**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 18-03-03 (Attachment 1) authorizing the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff to:

- enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with El Dorado County to transfer South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Project Phase 1b and 2 (Project) implementation responsibilities to El Dorado County;
- award up to \$3,182,000 for a site improvement grant to El Dorado County; and
- execute or modify all other agreements as necessary to transfer implementation of the Project, including but not limited to license agreements or MOUs with El Dorado County, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and the Lake Tahoe Community College District (District).

**Location:** The Project is located on the south shore of Lake Tahoe within both unincorporated El Dorado County and the City of South Lake Tahoe, between Sierra Boulevard and Glenwood Way (Attachment 2).

**Fiscal Summary:** The Conservancy would provide through a grant to El Dorado County a total of up to \$2,532,000 of Proposition 12 funding, contingent on inclusion of Project funding in the 2018 Budget Act, and \$650,000 of District Measure F funding. The California Department of Transportation and the Tahoe Transportation District will provide additional Project funding, in the amounts of \$1,928,000 and \$390,000, respectively, directly to El Dorado County.

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### **Overview**

#### **Description of Recommended Action**

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff is recommending a new approach for the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Project Phase 1b and 2 (Project) that involves transferring Project implementation responsibilities from the State to El Dorado County. El Dorado County is in an advantageous position to deliver the Project, and has indicated that it can complete the Project in a timely manner and

with a cost savings of at least \$1,000,000. The recommended Project transition will empower an experienced local government partner while ensuring successful Project delivery to benefit the public.

Staff is requesting authorization to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with El Dorado County, which assigns Project roles under the proposed transition. This MOU transfers Project delivery responsibilities from the Conservancy to El Dorado County. The MOU also commits the Conservancy to providing right of way (ROW) for the Project and granting \$3,182,000 in funding to complete the Project, contingent on inclusion of Project funding in the 2018 Budget Act. Staff intends to enter into the MOU with El Dorado County in March 2018, because the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) needs the MOU to support the California Transportation Commission's approval of the Project transition and to allocate Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding directly to El Dorado County.

Staff recommends the Board authorize up to \$3,182,000 for a site improvement grant to El Dorado County for the Project. The recommended grant includes \$650,000 in Measure F funds from the Lake Tahoe Community College District (District), which the District is granting to the Conservancy. The remaining \$2,532,000 will come from Conservancy bond funding. Staff intends to enter into a grant agreement with El Dorado County in July 2018, contingent on inclusion of Project funding in the 2018 Budget Act.

Staff is also seeking Board authorization to execute or modify all other agreements as necessary to transfer implementation of the Project. Project partners, including the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) and the District, have negotiated a series of land use agreements to facilitate the Project, and staff is working closely with these partners to ensure an effective transition of responsibilities. Staff will enter into a license agreement with El Dorado County in 2018 to provide them with access rights to construct the Project.

In March 2017, the Board authorized staff to enter into a "master" MOU with the City and the District. This "master" MOU agreement defines roles and responsibilities for maintenance, land management, and coordination of all phases of the approved South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail (Greenway). The Conservancy, City, and District may wish to modify this "master" MOU in the future to add parties and clarify maintenance or other responsibilities, as necessary.



## History

The Greenway is a 3.86-mile trail connection between the Tahoe Sierra (formerly “Sierra Tract”) neighborhood and Van Sickle Bi-State Park. The trail alignment generally follows the ROW originally obtained by Caltrans to build a bypass freeway.

The Greenway is broken into construction segments, given limited funding and other issues associated with acquiring easements along certain segments of the trail. To date, the Board has authorized \$2,662,000 for planning, preliminary designs, and acquisitions for the entire Greenway, and final design and construction of the first section of the Greenway (Phase 1a). The Conservancy and the Department of General Services (DGS) completed construction of Phase 1a in October 2015, providing a 0.42-mile neighborhood connection between Glenwood Way and Herbert Avenue.

The Project extends the shared use trail for about a mile from the terminus of Phase 1a at Glenwood Way to Sierra Boulevard. Together with Phase 1a and a previously completed trail by the community ballfields, the Project will provide almost two miles of continuous shared use trails in the heart of South Lake Tahoe. The Project includes a new bridge over Trout Creek, improved local street crossings, interpretive and wayfinding signage, and significant sections of raised boardwalk to protect sensitive stream environment zone.

In 2014 and 2016, the Board approved several items related to implementation of the Project, including \$1,000,000 for final design and construction of the Project. These actions also included adoption of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents for a trail realignment of Phase 2 near Trout Creek to reduce disturbance in environmentally sensitive areas, provide a more direct trail connection, and facilitate partner funding. In January 2017 and March 2017, the Board authorized additional items related to implementation of the Project including agreements for implementation, operation and maintenance, and funding for trail maintenance.

In December 2017, staff informed the Board that several significant challenges jeopardized Project delivery. Project costs rose dramatically due to the thriving economy, limited supply of skilled contractors, and damaging winter of 2017. In addition, DGS procurement and contracting procedures do not meet the specific and complex Caltrans ATP funding requirements. Resolving the inconsistency between DGS and Caltrans procedures would require significant time and resources, further adding to Project costs. To investigate potential solutions to these challenges, staff began discussions with El Dorado County to gauge their interest in leading Project implementation.

El Dorado County has indicated a willingness to assume the leadership role for implementing the Project, and this transition will benefit the public for several reasons. El Dorado County has an intimate understanding of the local community's needs, as it has recently constructed several complex and similar bike trails within sensitive environments. The County has experience working with Caltrans to implement ATP grants, and its processes are all compliant with ATP requirements. El Dorado County provides extensive in-house design and construction oversight expertise, so is uniquely qualified to efficiently deliver the Project. Because of these reasons, El Dorado County has indicated it can deliver the Project in a timely fashion with over \$1,000,000 in cost savings. Staff has consulted with DGS, Department of Finance, and Caltrans about this transition, and all concur regarding the advantages of El Dorado County taking over Project leadership.

### **Financing**

Staff is recommending a grant award of \$3,182,000 to El Dorado County for final design, permitting, and construction of the Project. This grant total includes \$650,000 in funding from the District and \$1,000,000 that the Board authorized in 2014. Staff is therefore recommending award of \$1,532,000 in previously unauthorized Conservancy funding, which is necessary because Project costs have risen from approximately \$4,000,000 to \$5,500,000.

The Project funding shown below from Caltrans (\$1,928,000) and Tahoe Transportation District (\$390,000) is not part of the recommended grant authorization because those entities will provide the funding directly to El Dorado County. Staff will continue to work with other partners to pursue additional funding for the Project, which if secured, would reduce the Conservancy's contributions under the recommended grant.

### **Project Budget**

|                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| California Tahoe Conservancy          | \$2,532,000        |
| Lake Tahoe Community College District | \$650,000          |
| Caltrans ATP                          | \$1,928,000        |
| Tahoe Transportation District (CMAQ*) | \$390,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$5,500,000</b> |

\*Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

## **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 \$3,182,000.

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Plans/ specs/ estimate            | \$150,000                 |
| Construction Management           | \$600,000                 |
| Direct Construction               | \$1,959,000               |
| Monitoring                        | \$15,000                  |
| Contingency (8% of total project) | \$458,000                 |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b><u>\$3,182,000</u></b> |

## **Authority**

### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation**

Implementation of this project is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies for purposes consistent with its mission. Government Code section 66907.8 authorizes the Conservancy to transfer any real property interest, including through license agreements, to fulfill its mission and promote the State's planning priorities. Government Code section 66907.9 authorizes the Conservancy to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of land under its ownership or control with public agencies or other entities. Government Code section 66908 authorizes the Conservancy to receive grants and other funds from public agencies.

### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan**

The recommended action is consistent with the Strategic Plan because the Project contributes to a more walkable and bike-friendly community (Strategy I.A). The recommended action is also consistent with the Strategic Plan because it would invest in a high priority conservation Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) project (Strategy II). Once implemented, the Project will provide a quality recreation and public access facility that reduces traffic congestion (Strategy II.D.).

### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines**

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Public Access and Recreation Program Guidelines (2009). The Project increases regionally significant public access and recreational opportunities by implementing a portion of the Lake

Tahoe Bikeway. It will cross barriers and close gaps in the bicycle network to form the major north/south connection in South Lake Tahoe.

### **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP because it facilitates the implementation of EIP project #03.01.02.0087. It also facilitates implementation of Linking Tahoe: Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2017).

### **Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act**

On September 15, 2011, the Board adopted the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program to comply with CEQA. The Board also approved two additional project implementation phases under the 2011 MND: Greenway Phase 1a Project (June 2013), and Greenway Phase 1 and 2 Project (May 2014). On March 17, 2016, the Board adopted an MND supplement that evaluated trail modifications and the proposed land exchange between the Conservancy, the District, and the City for the Greenway Phase 1b and 2 Project.

All potential environmental effects of the current recommended action have been previously analyzed in the MND and the MND supplement. The shift in Project implementation responsibilities to El Dorado County is not a substantial change in the Project, nor will result in any new significant effects.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 18-03-03

Attachment 2 – Project Map

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Stuart Roll

[stuart.roll@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:stuart.roll@tahoe.ca.gov)

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

18-03-03

Adopted: March 1, 2018

### **SOUTH TAHOE GREENWAY SHARED USE TRAIL PROJECT PHASE 1b AND 2**

Staff recommends the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code sections 66907.7, 66907.8, 66907.9, and 66908:

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with El Dorado County to transfer South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Project Phase 1b and 2 implementation responsibilities to El Dorado County; award up to \$3,182,000 for a site improvement grant to El Dorado County; execute or modify all other agreements as necessary to transfer implementation of the Project, including but not limited to license agreements or MOUs with El Dorado County, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and the Lake Tahoe Community College District; and 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 Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2018.

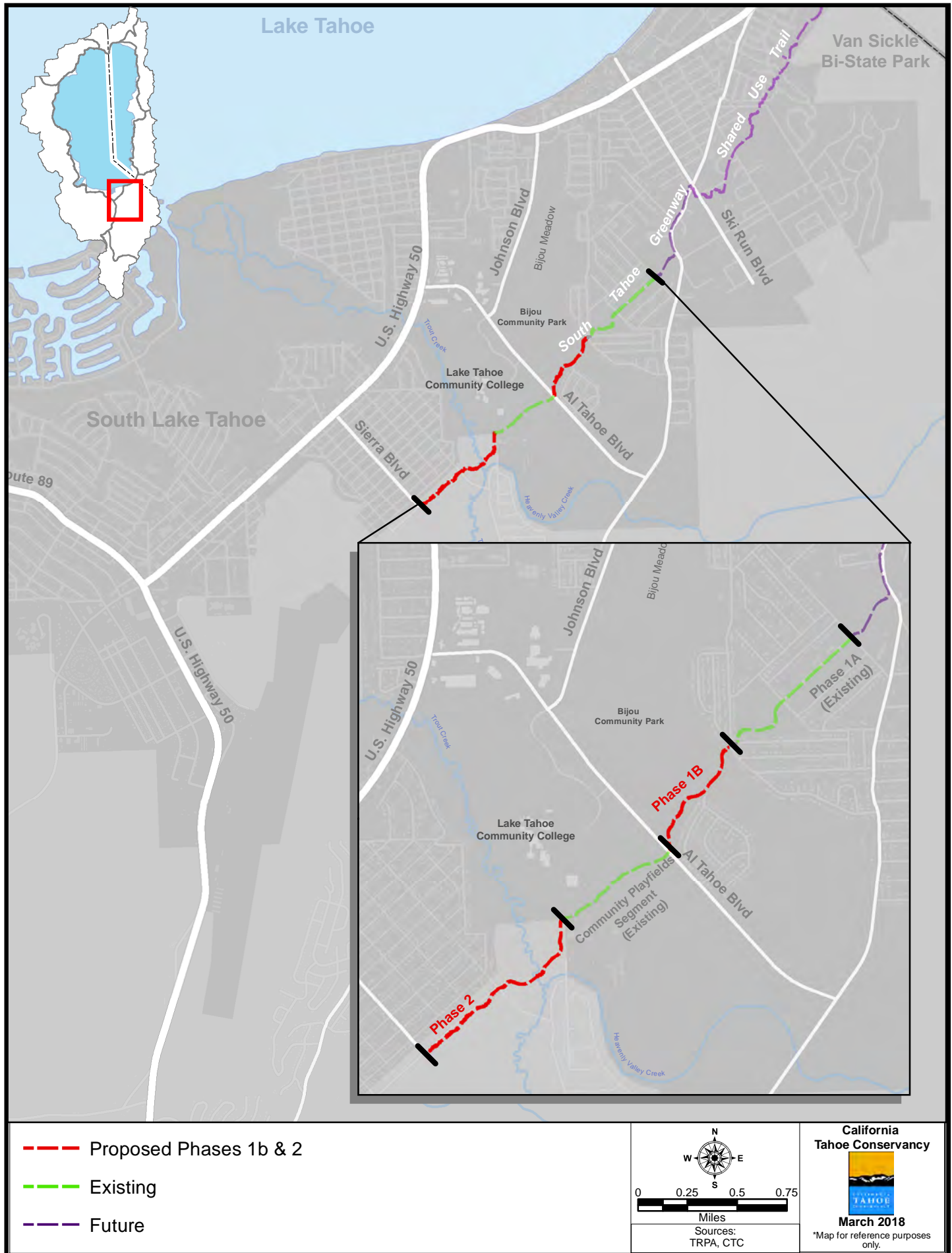
In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of March, 2018.

---

Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

# ATTACHMENT 2

## South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail



California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 6.b.  
March 1, 2018

**Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account Awards**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolutions 18-03-04.1—18-03-04.3 (Attachments 1-3) authorizing three grants totaling up to \$335,360 for the following planning and implementation efforts:

- Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control and Monitoring Project, United States Forest Service;
- Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan Outreach Project, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency;
- Lake Tahoe Water Trail Educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage and Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software Project, Sierra Business Council

**Location:** The three recommended projects are located throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin in Placer and El Dorado counties (Attachments 4 and 5).

**Fiscal Summary:** Grant awards totaling \$335,360 will be funded with the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account funding.

---

**Overview**

**Description of Recommended Action**

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff recommends Board approval of up to \$335,360 in Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (Account) funding for three projects.

Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plant Control and Monitoring Project (Meeks Bay AIS)

Staff recommends the Board authorize an implementation grant of up to \$185,000 to the United States Forest Service (USFS) to conduct aquatic invasive plant removal and effectiveness monitoring at Meeks Bay Marina. This project will locally eradicate invasive Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed populations by using proven methods such as bottom barriers and hand removal. Where necessary in deeper areas,

divers will remove invasive plants by hand and use a small suction hose mounted on a floating work platform to transfer the plant matter back to the platform. Project effectiveness monitoring will include pre- and post-project monitoring to determine plant mortality and regrowth within treated areas.

The presence of these aquatic invasive plants alters water quality and substrate conditions, and provides habitat for other warm water invasive species that threaten the native aquatic species populations. In addition, removing aquatic invasive plants from the Meeks Bay Marina will help stop the spread and establishment of these plants into neighboring areas. The project area is less than five acres in size.

#### Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan Outreach Project (Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan)

Staff recommends the Board authorize a planning grant of up to \$75,000 to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) for critical public outreach and engagement elements of the shoreline planning process. The grant will support multiple public meetings to help ensure interested stakeholders are informed and have the opportunity to participate in the development of potential new shoreline regulations. The grant will also support an informative mailing campaign to help make all lakefront owners aware of the process. Finally, the grant will support the production of collateral materials, web content, and videos on key shoreline topics such as buoy enforcement, the no-wake zone, and near-shore issues.

TRPA's Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan is intended to improve public access in the near-shore and enhance recreational experiences along Lake Tahoe's shores. TRPA will conduct education and outreach to aid in garnering broad support for the plan and successful implementation of new shoreline policies for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin).

#### Lake Tahoe Water Trail Educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage and Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software Project (Lake Tahoe Water Trail)

Staff recommends the Board authorize an implementation grant of up to \$75,360 to the Sierra Business Council (SBC) for the design and fabrication of permanent trailhead sign panels and stands, and the corresponding mobile mapping software update for a 72 mile non-motorized boating route around Lake Tahoe, known as the Lake Tahoe Water Trail (LTWT). Trailhead signs will be developed for nine locations, while lake access/wayfinding signs will be created for 15 locations along the LTWT. In addition, SBC will update the LTWT lake access mobile mapping software that provides real-time navigation mapping that can mark public access locations, track user location along the LTWT, and provide real-time weather data and forecasts.



This project will help paddlers identify public access locations from both land and water, and reduce impacts to sensitive natural resources by directing paddlers away from non-public access points. In addition, the grant will assist SBC in educating paddlers about AIS prevention, public lake access, and water safety, thereby helping to reduce resource damage, wildlife disturbances, illegal camping, trespassing, water rescues, and drowning fatalities. This project provides the benefit of protecting the environment while preserving access to outdoor recreation resources.

Upon Board approval, staff intends to enter into grant agreements for the three projects in spring 2018.

### **History**

In fall 2013, the California Legislature and Governor approved Senate Bill 630 (SB630), establishing the Account and defining the purposes for expenditure of these funds. The funds deposited into the Account come from rental income collected by the State Lands Commission for surface uses on Lake Tahoe. These funds are to be expended for establishing a bi-state science-based advisory council, and for near-shore environmental improvement program (EIP) activities including AIS projects, public access projects, and water quality monitoring. Since 2014, the Conservancy Board has authorized \$685,128 in SB630 funding for such projects.

SB630 requires the Conservancy to coordinate the selection of projects to be funded through a collaborative process with the participation of key stakeholders. SB630 also requires matching funds by the Conservancy or another public entity. For example, in 2017, the Conservancy awarded Proposition 1 grants to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the University of California, Davis for near-shore projects that provide the match for SB630 projects.

### **Meeks Bay AIS**

Currently there are two known species of invasive aquatic plants in Lake Tahoe, Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed. These species harm Lake Tahoe due to their disruptive impacts to recreation, navigation, and ecosystem dynamics.

Eurasian watermilfoil was likely introduced to Lake Tahoe in the 1960s or 1970s and was formally identified along the south shore in the late 1980s and 1990s. There are 20 known locations with Eurasian watermilfoil, including over 150 acres in the Tahoe Keys. Curlyleaf pondweed was first identified in the south shore of Lake Tahoe in 2003. Since its discovery, this species has spread along the south shore and is currently found in approximately nine locations. Curlyleaf pondweed has outcompeted and replaced infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil in some areas.

Aquatic invasive plant control is a high priority for Basin agencies and stakeholders. In 2015, University of Nevada, Reno staff, in collaboration with members of the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (AISCC), authored the *Implementation Plan for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species within Lake Tahoe (Implementation Plan)*. The *Implementation Plan* identifies strategies for AIS removal and control and identified Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed control as one of the highest priority AIS efforts. In addition, the *Implementation Plan* ranked Meeks Bay as one of the top five locations for AIS plant control due to the large areal extent of plant coverage and the fact that relative isolation of this location from other infestations make it more likely that once the infestation is removed it will remain this way.

### Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan

TRPA has embarked on multiple shoreline planning processes for Lake Tahoe over the past 30 years. In 2010, a federal court overturned the 2008 Shoreline Plan. Since then, TRPA has been unable to permit new boat ramps, piers, or moorings. This has impacted public access to the near-shore.

In 2016, TRPA launched a consensus-based planning process to develop a Shoreline Plan that would have widespread stakeholder support. The planning process has involved a stakeholder assessment and a convening of stakeholders to provide initial input on the Shoreline Plan.

Since 2016, TRPA's Regional Plan Implementation Committee has endorsed the Shoreline Plan and a comprehensive set of policy proposals for inclusion in the Shoreline Plan. TRPA has also initiated scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement associated with the Shoreline Plan. TRPA's goal is to have the Shoreline Plan adopted by the end of 2018 and to begin implementation in 2019.

The public outreach process is intended to improve public understanding and acceptance of the Shoreline Plan, which TRPA has indicated is a key component of a successful plan. Completion of the Shoreline Plan will allow TRPA to permit new boat ramps, piers, and moorings, in order to enhance the recreational experience along Lake Tahoe's shores.

### Lake Tahoe Water Trail

The concept for the LTWT was created in 2003 by a group of recreation enthusiasts and business leaders to promote non-motorized boating uses in Lake Tahoe. This group initiated the Lake Tahoe Water Trail Association and the Conservancy became a member of its organizing committee. Since 2006, the Conservancy has been the lead implementer for the LTWT Signage EIP project. From 2009-2011, the Conservancy led a

multi-agency planning effort to develop the Lake Tahoe Non-Motorized Boating Framework (Framework), representing an assessment of paddler needs and a toolkit of potential improvements. In 2015, the Conservancy granted SBC \$50,000 to refine the wayfinding/trailhead signage model, broaden outreach, update the Framework, and create a sustainable business model for the LTWT. Though the grant ended in 2017, SBC continues to manage and financially support the LTWT. Additionally, the Lake Tahoe Non-Motorized Boat Working Group and other key stakeholders in the Basin have demonstrated commitment to participate in and fund the LTWT.

This project is a high priority because it promotes the goals of the Lake Tahoe EIP in providing recreational access while protecting water quality and other environmental resources. In addition, it provides support to SBC, which has had a successful track record of implementing LTWT projects and obtaining supplementary funding from multiple sources over the last two years. Although a sustainable business model was established with support from the Conservancy's 2015 grant, not enough time has passed for LTWT to secure enough funds for these additional signs and software updates. Therefore, the Conservancy support will help SBC build more signs and move closer toward long-term sustainability.

### **Financing**

Staff is proposing that the funding for these three projects will come from the Account.

### Meeks Bay AIS

#### **Proposed Grant Budget**

Staff recommends the grant budget as shown below. The final budget amounts may vary between individual items from those shown, but total expenditures under the grant will not exceed \$185,000.

| <b>Activity</b>                  | <b>Amount</b>    |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Aquatic Invasive Plant Removal   | \$175,000        |
| Project Effectiveness Monitoring | \$10,000         |
|                                  |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$185,000</b> |

### **Proposed Schedule**

| <b>Activity</b>                  | <b>Date</b>             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aquatic Invasive Plant Removal   | July 2018-November 2020 |
| Project Effectiveness Monitoring | July 2018-June 2022     |

#### Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan

### **Proposed Grant Budget**

Staff recommends the grant budget as shown below. The final budget amounts may vary between individual items from those shown, but total expenditures under the grant will not exceed \$75,000.

| <b>Activity</b>                  | <b>Amount</b>   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Public Meetings                  | \$25,000        |
| Direct Mailings                  | \$20,000        |
| Shoreline Mediation and Outreach | \$30,000        |
|                                  |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$75,000</b> |

### **Proposed Schedule**

| <b>Activity</b>                  | <b>Date</b>                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Public Meetings                  | May-June 2018; August-September 2018 |
| Direct Mailings                  | April-May 2018                       |
| Shoreline Mediation and Outreach | August 2018-September 2019           |

#### Lake Tahoe Water Trail

### **Proposed Grant Budget**

Staff recommends the grant budget as shown below. The final budget amounts may vary between individual items from those shown, but total expenditures under the grant will not exceed \$75,360.

| <b>Activity</b>                     | <b>Amount</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Trailhead Signage                   | \$27,440        |
| Lake Access/Wayfinding Signs        | \$1,500         |
| Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software | \$6,754         |
| Project Implementation (Personnel)  | \$39,666        |
|                                     |                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>\$75,360</b> |

### **Proposed Schedule**

| <b>Activity</b>                          | <b>Date</b>         |
|--|---------------------|
| All project activities will be completed | March-December 2018 |

### **Authority**

#### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation**

Implementation of these three projects is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations for purposes consistent with its mission.

#### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan**

The recommended action is consistent with the Strategic Plan because it provides for investment in high priority conservation and recreation projects and programs (Strategy II).

#### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines**

The Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan and LTWT projects are consistent with the Conservancy's 2009 Public Access and Recreation Program Guidelines.

#### **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with the authority given to the Conservancy through SB630 pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6217.6.1. The Conservancy coordinated selection of these projects through a collaborative process that included participation of a stakeholder group consisting of public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and organizations that pay the rental income.

### Meeks Bay AIS

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP because it supports implementation of EIP project #01.04.02.0057. It is also consistent with the *2015 Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Implementation Plan*, which lists Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed as Tier 1 (highest priority) species with feasible control actions, and ranks Meeks Bay as one of the top five priority locations for treatment over the next five years.

### Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP because it supports implementation of EIP project #06.01.01.0014. It is also consistent with the California State Parks' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which emphasizes the needs for all Californians to have recreation and access to the outdoors.

### Lake Tahoe Water Trail

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP because it supports implementation of EIP project #04.01.01.0012. It is also consistent with the SCORP.

## **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 they have been determined by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to have no significant effect on the environment. Pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 21001(f) and 21082, the Conservancy has also adopted regulations to implement, interpret, and make specific the provisions of CEQA. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 12100 et seq.) Staff has evaluated these three projects, and has found them to be exempt under CEQA.

The Meeks Bay AIS project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines section 15333 (Small Habitat Restoration Projects). A notice of exemption (NOE) has been prepared for the Meeks Bay AIS project (Attachment 5). If the Board approves the Meeks Bay AIS project, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

The Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan project qualifies for a statutory exemption under CEQA Guidelines section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies). A NOE has been prepared for the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan project (Attachment 6). If the Board approves the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan project, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

The LTWT project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines sections 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and the Conservancy's CEQA regulations, sections 12102.3 and 12102.4. A NOE has been prepared for the LTWT project (Attachment 7). If the Board approves the LTWT project, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

### **List of Attachments**

- Attachment 1 – Meeks Bay AIS Resolution 18-03-04.1
- Attachment 2 – Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan Resolution 18-03-04.2
- Attachment 3 – Lake Tahoe Water Trail Resolution 18-03-04.3
- Attachment 4 – Meeks Bay AIS Project Map
- Attachment 5 – Lake Tahoe Water Trail Project Map
- Attachment 6 – Meeks Bay AIS Notice of Exemption, Exhibit A
- Attachment 7 – Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan Notice of Exemption
- Attachment 8 – Lake Tahoe Water Trail Notice of Exemption, Exhibit A

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Whitney Brennan

[whitney.brennan@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:whitney.brennan@tahoe.ca.gov)

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

18-03-04.1

Adopted: March 1, 2018

### **MEEKS BAY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PLANT CONTROL AND MONITORING PROJECT**

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7:

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the United States Forest Service for up to \$185,000 for the Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control and Monitoring Project 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 Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2018.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of March, 2018.

---

Patrick Wright  
Executive Director



## **ATTACHMENT 2**

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

18-03-04.2

Adopted: March 1, 2018

### **LAKE TAHOE SHORELINE PLAN OUTREACH PROJECT**

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7:

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for up to \$75,000 for the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan Outreach Project 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 Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2018.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of March, 2018.

---

Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

### **ATTACHMENT 3**

California Tahoe Conservancy

Resolution

18-03-04.3

Adopted: March 1, 2018

#### **LAKE TAHOE WATER TRAIL EDUCATIONAL WAYFINDING INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE AND LAKE ACCESS MOBILE MAPPING SOFTWARE PROJECT**

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.7:

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the Sierra Business Council for up to \$75,360 for the Lake Tahoe Water Trail Educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage and Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software Project 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 Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of March, 2018.

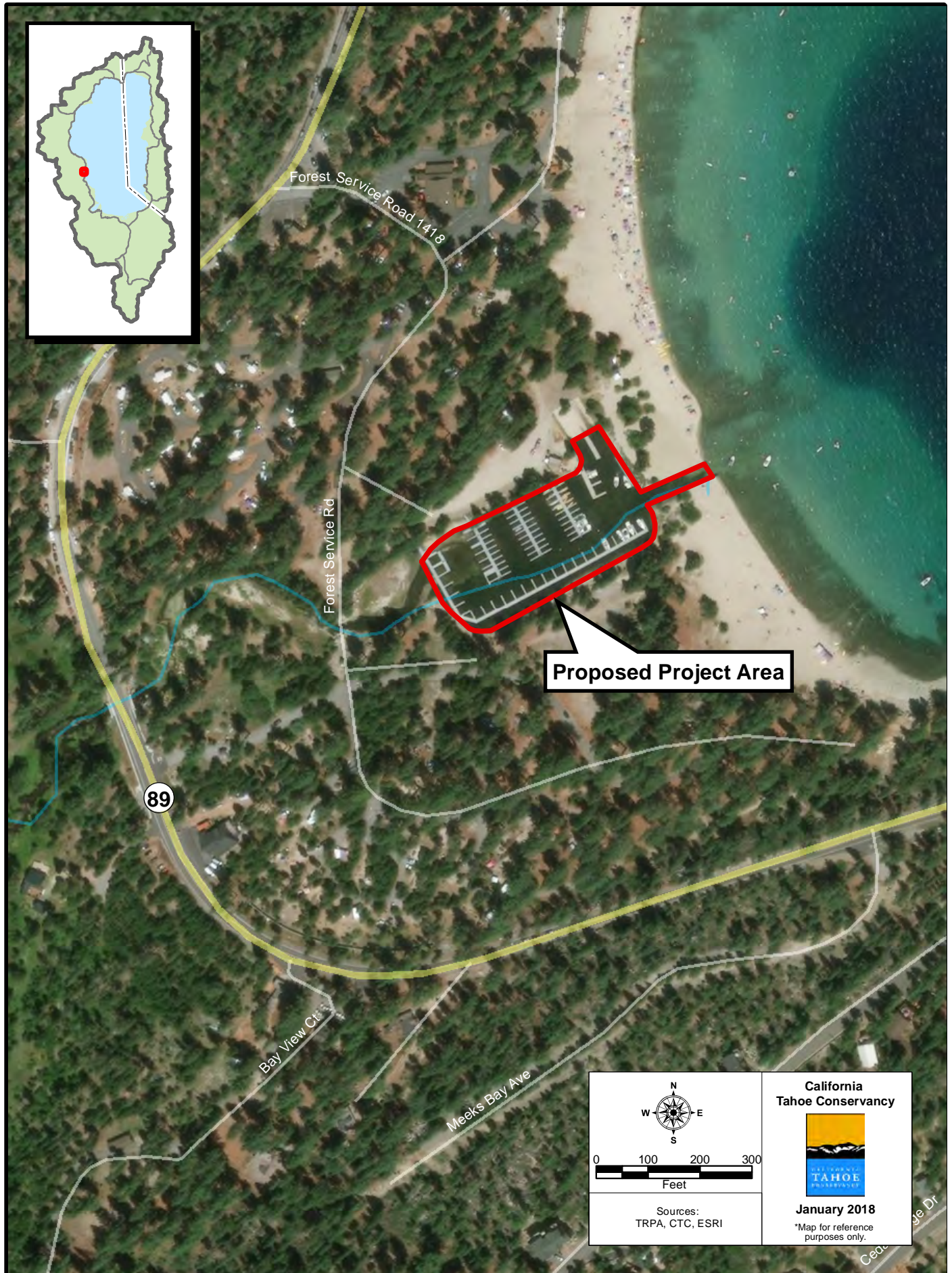
In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of March, 2018.

---

Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

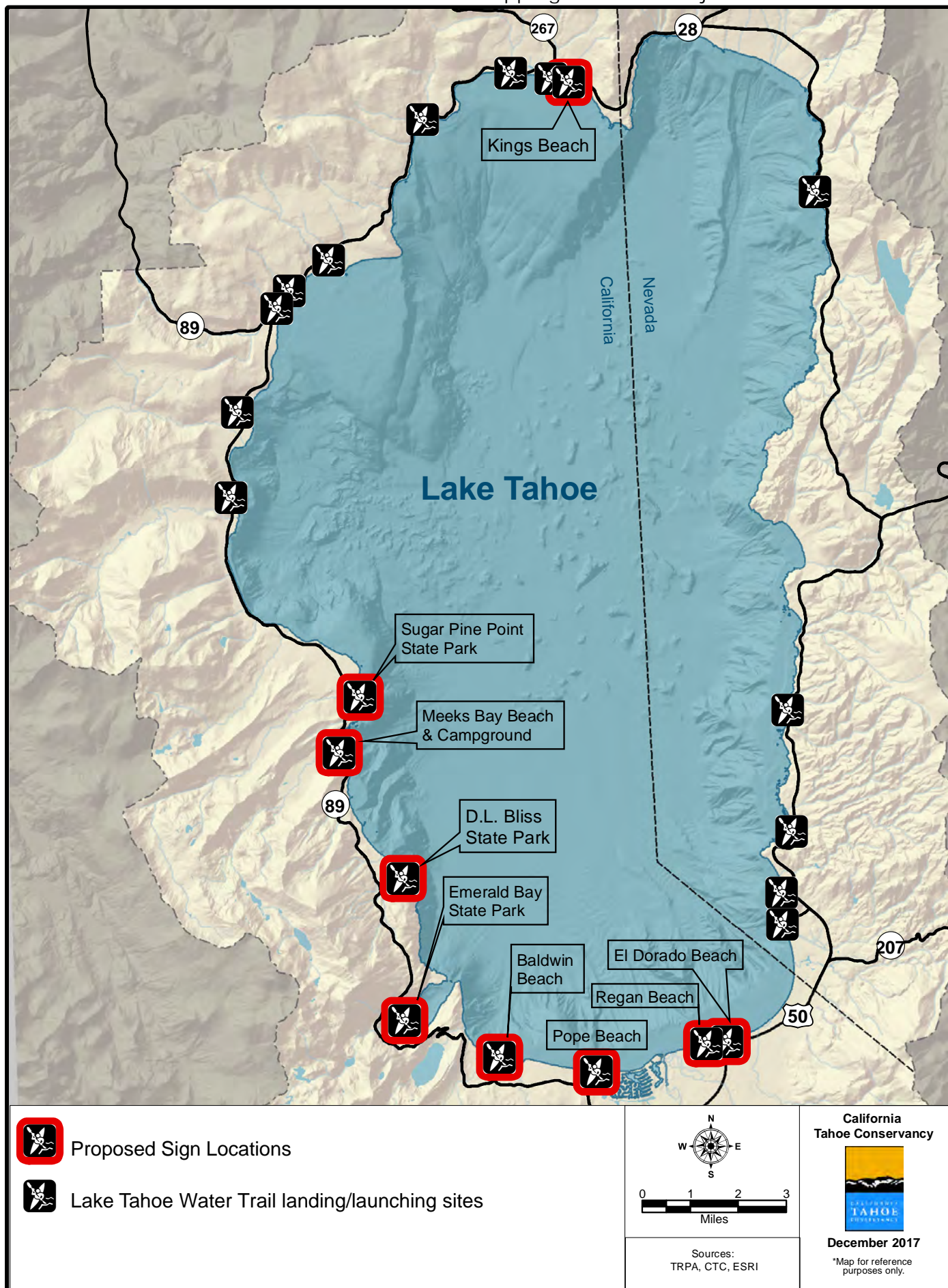
# ATTACHMENT 4

## Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control and Monitoring Project





Lake Tahoe Water Trail Educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage  
and Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software Project



## ATTACHMENT 6

### 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:***

Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control and Monitoring Project

---

***Project Location – Specific:***

This project is located in Meeks Bay Marina on the west shore of Lake Tahoe in Meeks Bay, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

---

***Project Location – City:***

Meeks Bay

---

***Project Location – County:***

El Dorado County

---

***Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:***

The project involves the removal of aquatic invasive plants in Lake Tahoe's Meeks Bay Marina, thereby providing benefits to recreational users of Lake Tahoe, as well as protecting native ecosystems from the spread of invasive plants.

---

***Name of Public Agency Approving Project:***

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 3/1/2018) (Agenda Item 6.b.)

---

***Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:***

United States Forest Service

---

***Exempt Status:***

- ☐ Ministerial (§ 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption – Class 33 (§ 15333 “Small Habitat Restoration Projects”)

---

***Reasons Why Project is Exempt:***

The project, which is less than five acres in size, consists of a small habitat restoration and enhancement project which will not result in a significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species.

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***Contact Person:***

Whitney Brennan

---

***Telephone Number:***

(530) 543-6054

---

***Date Received for Filing:***

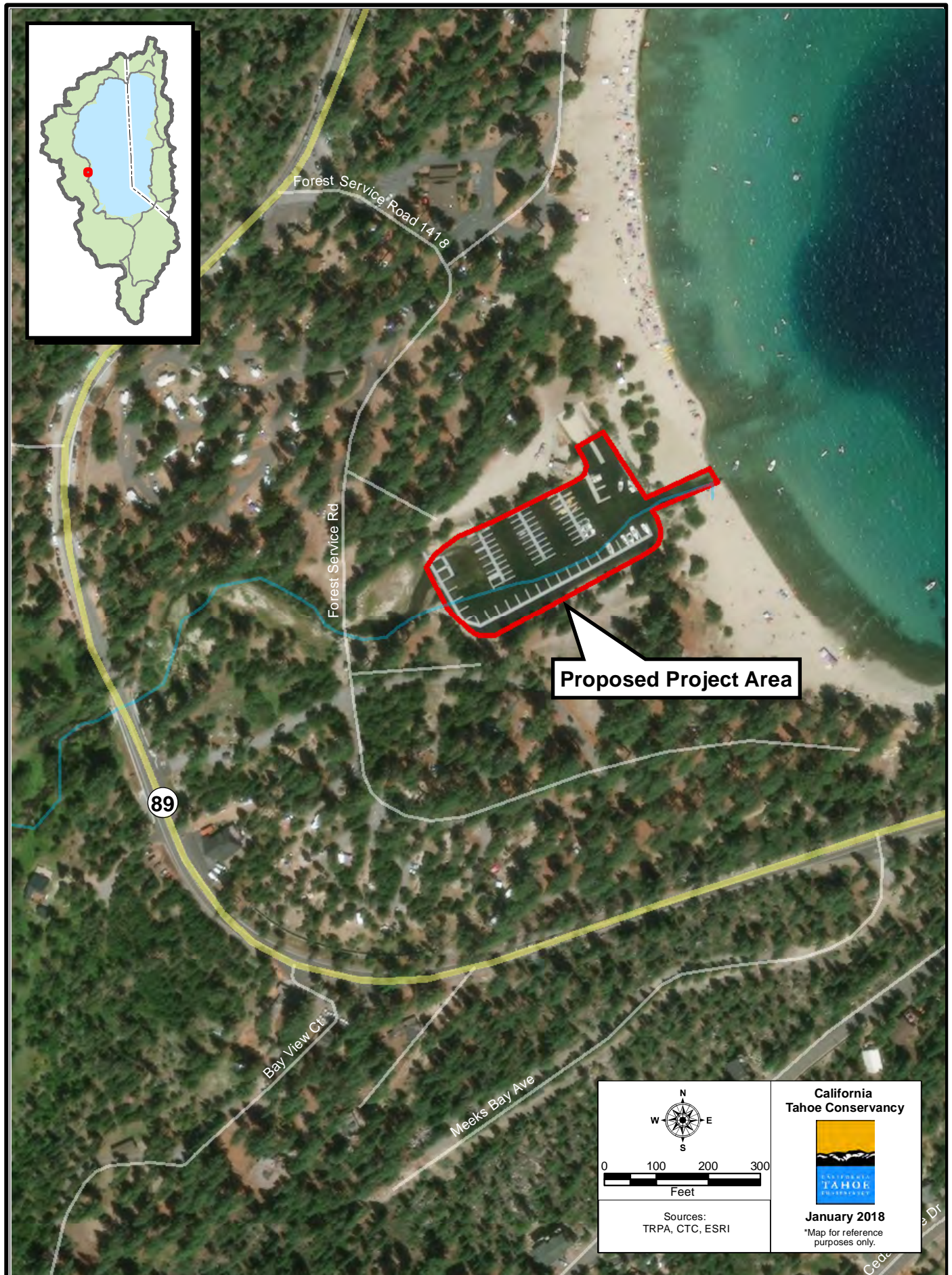
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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director



# EXHIBIT A

## Meeks Bay Aquatic Invasive Species Plant Control and Monitoring Project



**ATTACHMENT 7**  
**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:***

Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan Outreach Project

---

***Project Location – Specific:***

The California side of Lake Tahoe

---

***Project Location – City:***

Lake-wide

---

***Project Location – County:***

El Dorado and Placer counties

---

***Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:***

The project will facilitate critical public outreach and engagement for the development of a Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan.

---

***Name of Public Agency Approving Project:***

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 3/1/2018) (Agenda Item 6.b.)

---

***Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:***

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

---

***Exempt Status:***

- ☐ Ministerial (§ 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
- ☒ Statutory Exemption (§ 15262, “feasibility and planning studies”)

---

***Reasons Why Project is Exempt:***

The project qualifies for a statutory exemption as a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions.

---

***Contact Person:***

Whitney Brennan

---

***Telephone Number:***

(530) 543-6054

---

***Date Received for Filing:***

---

Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

## ATTACHMENT 8

### 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:***

Lake Tahoe Water Trail Educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage and Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software Project

---

***Project Location – Specific:***

The California side of Lake Tahoe as shown in the attached map (Exhibit A).

---

***Project Location – City:***

Lake-wide

---

***Project Location – County:***

El Dorado and Placer counties

---

***Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:***

This project will design, fabricate, and maintain trailhead signs, and update the Lake Tahoe Water Trail real-time mobile navigation mapping software. The project will direct public users to intended public access points away from more sensitive resources, promote interpretive natural history, and support low impact recreational uses of Lake Tahoe.

---

***Name of Public Agency Approving Project:***

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 3/1/2018) (Agenda Item 6.b.)

---

***Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:***

Sierra Business Council

---

***Exempt Status:***

- ☐ Ministerial (§ 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption – Class 3, § 15303 “New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures” and Class 4, § 15304 “Minor Alterations to Land” (See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 12102.4)

---

***Reasons Why Project is Exempt:***

The project fits within the categorical exemptions for new construction of small structures, and minor alterations to land, water, and vegetation. There are no unusual circumstances that could result in potentially significant environmental effects, and there is no convincing evidence that the project will have a significant environmental effect.

---

***Contact Person:***

Whitney Brennan

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***Telephone Number:***

(530) 543-6054

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***Date Received for Filing:***

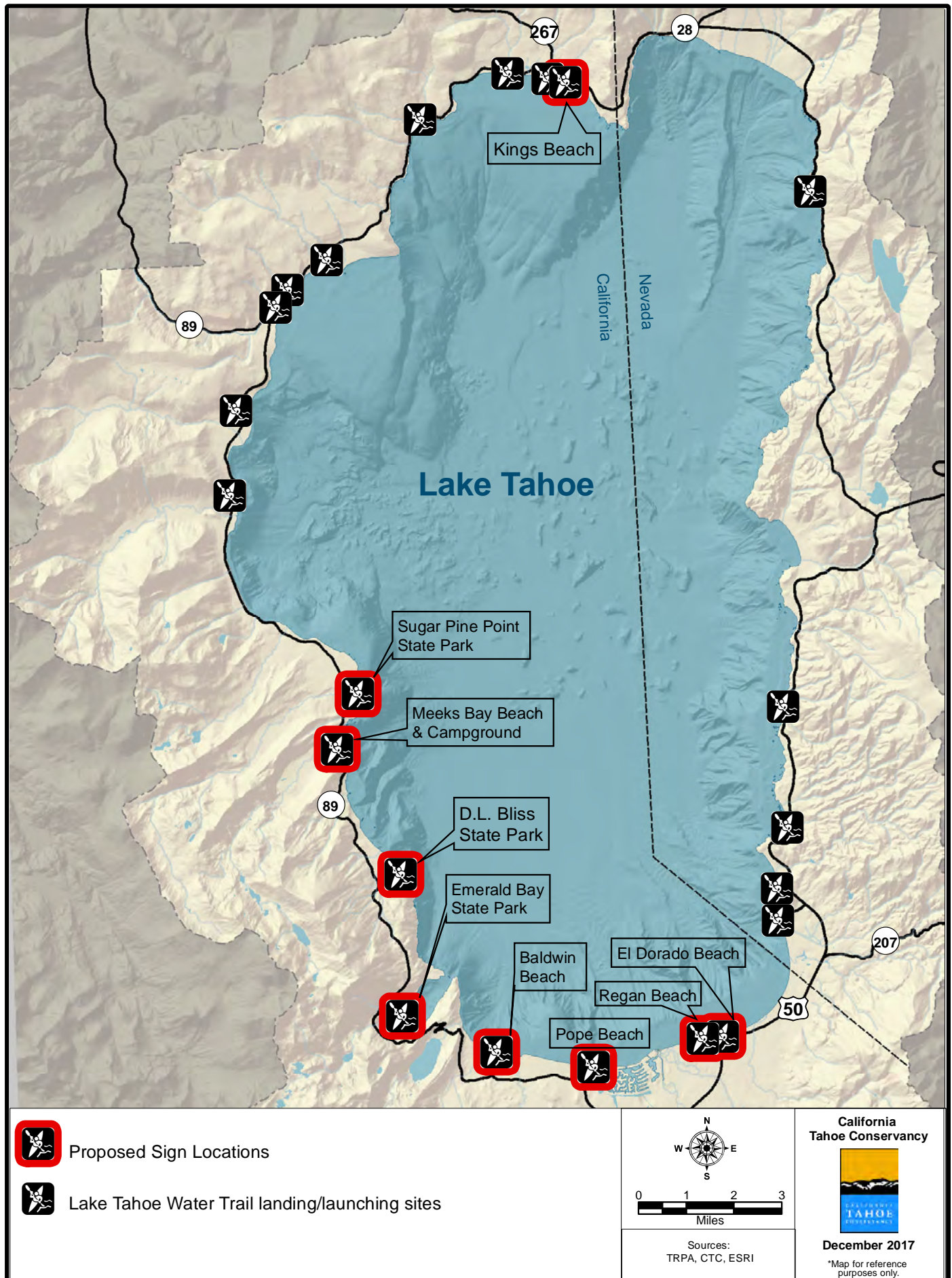
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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director



## EXHIBIT A

### Lake Tahoe Water Trail Educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage and Lake Access Mobile Mapping Software Project



## **CALTRANS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING GRANT**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 18-03-05 (Attachment 1) authorizing California Tahoe Conservancy staff to accept and expend up to \$359,756 from the California Department of Transportation for preparation of a climate adaptation action plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), and to execute contracts and award grants, as necessary, consistent with the purpose of the grant.

**Location:** The California side of the Basin

**Fiscal Summary:** Up to \$359,756 in reimbursements during the 2018/19 and 2019/20 fiscal years.

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### **Overview**

#### **Description of Recommended Action**

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff is collaborating with staff from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; Tahoe Transportation District (TTD); Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; University of California, Davis; University of Nevada, Reno; Desert Research Institute; USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station; and U.S. Geological Survey to develop a Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) wide climate adaptation action plan (Action Plan). The planning effort includes a synthesis of climate science as it relates to the Basin and a vulnerability assessment that uses downscaled climate models to identify the type and locations where vulnerabilities exist in the Basin's natural environment, the built environment, and recreation-based economy. The Conservancy and its agency partners will develop the Action Plan using the results of the vulnerability assessment to create strategies and specific recommendations to address the impacts of rising temperatures and extreme weather events.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) awarded an adaptation planning grant to the Conservancy for preparation of the transportation and economic

elements of the vulnerability assessment and Action Plan. The data and recommendations in the Action Plan will feed into other regional plans, such as the Regional Transportation Plan.

The grant funding will be used to support: 1) the hiring of a consultant to conduct the vulnerability assessment for the built environment, including transportation, infrastructure, and property components, and to develop related parts of the Action Plan; 2) the hiring of an economic consultant to quantify the vulnerability assessment findings; and 3) a portion of Conservancy and TTD staff costs associated with the planning effort.

Staff recommends the Board authorize acceptance and expenditure of up to \$359,756. Staff also recommends authorization to execute contracts and award grants, as necessary, to carry out the work.

### **History**

Executive Orders S-13-08 and B-30-15 direct State agencies to identify climate change vulnerabilities and develop adaptation strategies through coordination of the State's climate change adaptation strategy (*Safeguarding California Plan*). In response to the need for a Basin-wide climate adaptation strategy, the Conservancy initiated conversations in September 2017 with research partners to explore developing a science based vulnerability assessment for the Basin. The initiative spans the natural environment (lakes, forests, and wildlife), the built environment (transportation and infrastructure), public health and safety (disadvantaged and vulnerable communities), and the economy.

The Basin's geography and transportation network—particularly its limited number of access and egress routes—are especially vulnerable to climate change and associated extreme events. These events include severe drought, wildfire, bark beetle infestation, and severe storms, and tend to occur precisely during peak visitor times (e.g., February avalanches and flooding, and July wildfires). The Basin's visitors and communities face severe risk of being cut-off and stranded during weather-related or wildfire emergencies exacerbated by climate change with corresponding impacts to the economy.

The Action Plan consists of two phases. Phase 1 will include a synthesis of the current information and climate science related to the Basin and a vulnerability assessment. The vulnerability assessment will examine water and energy, lakes and streams, meadows wetlands and riparian areas, forests, public health and safety, transportation, and recreation and tourism. The science synthesis and vulnerability assessment developed

in Phase 1 will also provide key information for the development of landscape restoration strategies for the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership. Phase 2 will include a corresponding interagency Action Plan. This involves identifying gaps and weaknesses in existing public agency climate plans and programs using the vulnerability assessment, and identifying actions to address them.

The Conservancy and its partners aim to complete the vulnerability assessment for water and forest resources by mid-July in preparation for the Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit, and the remaining topics (including the social environment and transportation) by the end of November 2018. Development of the interagency Action Plan will begin at the start of 2019, with completion by mid-July 2019, again in preparation for the Summit.

The Conservancy is providing separate funding for development of the climate projections (using downscaled climate projection models) and the portions of the vulnerability assessment and Action Plan focused on the natural environment and associated public health concerns. The Caltrans grant of \$359,756 will cover the transportation and economic elements of the vulnerability assessment and Action Plan.

The planning effort will yield significant benefits. First, the availability of locally-specific, downscaled projections and analysis will improve the ability to anticipate changing future conditions as well as geographically-precise impacts to the transportation network (e.g., vulnerable stretches of highway), and to utilize real-time data solutions. Second, high-level articulation and, where appropriate, integration across agency plans and investments will create institutional efficiencies and improve the effectiveness of the individual initiatives. Third, careful attention to adaptation will contribute to statewide transportation-related emissions reductions while minimizing future climate-related disruptions to the highways, thus helping to safeguard people, vulnerable communities, and the economy.

## **Financing**

The Conservancy and TTD applied for the Caltrans grant together. The Conservancy is the Caltrans grantee and will provide grant management services, and enter into contracts or award grants as needed to complete the planning document. Grant funds will be used to support TTD staff time, to assist the Conservancy, in leading the transportation component of the planning effort.

The Conservancy is providing a funding match of \$46,610 over the two-year term of the grant. The cost match will be fulfilled by in-kind contributions, such as staff time associated with oversight.

Conservancy staff has taken steps to arrange the necessary budgetary authority for the appropriation and expenditure of the grant funds. It is anticipated that, subject to Board approval, the appropriation of the \$359,756 will cover work completed during the 2018/19 and 2019/20 fiscal years.

## **Authority**

### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation**

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66908 authorizes the Conservancy to receive grants and other funds from public agencies to achieve the purposes of the Conservancy, including protection of the natural environment at Lake Tahoe.

### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan**

The recommended action is consistent with Strategic Plan, Strategy I, which calls for the Conservancy to lead and help coordinate California's Basin efforts on climate change.

### **Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines**

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Forest Improvement Program Guidelines. The science synthesis and vulnerability assessment will facilitate planning and future implementation of specific projects, like the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership, designed to sustain adaptive and resilient forests, reduce hazardous fuels, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance scenic resources, and provide public access. Healthy forests and watersheds are better equipped to withstand the effects of climate change, sequester carbon, increase visual appeal, and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

### **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with Executive Orders S-13-08 and B-30-15, which direct State agencies to plan for climate impacts through coordination of the State's climate change adaptation strategy, *Safeguarding California Plan*. The development of the Action Plan for the Basin will further the goals of the *Safeguarding California Plan* and the *California Transportation Plan 2040*.

## **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 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 activity, and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. This activity qualifies for a statutory exemption under State CEQA Guidelines section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies). A notice of exemption (NOE) has been prepared (Attachment 2). If the Board approves the grant, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 18-03-05

Attachment 2 – Notice of Exemption

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

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