# CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

Board Packet June 20, 2019



#### MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY BOARD

Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

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

#### Directions to the North Tahoe Event Center:

### BOARD MEMBERS From Truckee

NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY Wade Crowfoot, Secretary Elizabeth Williamson, Designee

> DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE Keely Bosler, Director Karen Finn, Designee

SENATE PUBLIC MEMBER Lynn Suter, Vice Chair

ASSEMBLY PUBLIC MEMBER Adam Acosta

CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Brooke Laine, Chair

> EL DORADO COUNTY Sue Novasel

> > PLACER COUNTY Cindy Gustafson

U.S. FOREST SERVICE (ex-officio) Jeff Marsolais

> PATRICK WRIGHT Executive Director

Take Interstate 80 east to exit 188B/State Route (SR) 267 south toward Kings Beach ~ 12 miles. Turn left at SR 28 (North Lake Boulevard) ~ 0.3 mile. The North Tahoe Event Center is on the right.

#### From South Lake Tahoe

Along the East Shore: Take U.S. Highway 50 (Lake Tahoe Boulevard) east, follow U.S. Highway 50 north ~ 15 miles. Turn left on SR 28 ~ 17.6 miles to Kings Beach. The North Tahoe Event Center is on the left.

Along the West Shore: Travel north on SR 89 (Emerald Bay Road) ~ 27.2 miles to Tahoe City. Turn right on SR 28 ~ 13.4 miles to Kings Beach. The North Tahoe Event Center is on the right.

# 1. Roll Call

The roll will be called at the North Tahoe Event Center.

#### 2. Kings Beach Asset Lands Board Tour

A tour of the Kings Beach Asset Lands will commence at the North Tahoe Event Center at approximately 9:30 a.m. The tour will feature two Asset Lands proposed for pre-sale authorization (Item 6). A Board tour map and directions are attached (Attachment 1). The tour will end at approximately 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will continue at the North Tahoe Event Center. No Board action will be taken during the tour. Members of the public are invited to attend the tour but must provide their own transportation.

- 3. Consent Items
  - a. Approval of Minutes (action) (Resolution 19-06-01)
  - b. Approval of Board Agenda (action) (Resolution 19-06-02)
- **4. Executive Director's Report**

#### 5. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

6. Authorization to Conduct Pre-Sale Activities on Conservancy Asset Lands Located in Kings Beach (action): Consideration and possible authorization to expend up to \$200,000 to conduct pre-sale activities, such as appraisals, inspections, and real estate negotiations, on 8602 North Lake Boulevard and 8644 Speckled Avenue in Kings Beach, which is in Placer County.

CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

#### (Resolution 19-06-03)

**7. Oflyng Water Quality Project License Agreement (action):** Consideration and possible authorization to enter into a license agreement with El Dorado County on five Conservancy parcels in the Tahoe Paradise subdivision to support the Oflyng Water Quality Project.

CEQA consideration: review and consider mitigated negative declaration adopted by El Dorado County and possible adoption of mitigation monitoring plan

#### (Resolution 19-06-04)

#### Lunch Break

There will be a staff-hosted lunch at the North Tahoe Event Center plaza. This is an informal gathering where the Board will not discuss official business such as matters which are or potentially may be considered by the Conservancy. Authority: Gov. Code, § 11122.5(c).

**8. Alta Mira Comprehensive Planning (action):** Consideration and possible authorization to expend up to \$500,000 for planning activities associated with the Alta Mira Public Access Project, which is located at El Dorado and Connelly Beaches.

#### CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

#### (Resolution 19-06-05)

#### 9. Good Neighbor Authority Supplemental Project Agreement (action):

Consideration and possible authorization to accept and expend up to \$1,350,000 in federal funding to plan additional forest and watershed restoration activities for future implementation on State, federal, and other non-federal land pursuant to the Good Neighbor Authority Supplemental Project Agreement.

CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

#### (Resolution 19-06-06)

#### 10. Fiscal Year 2019/20 Annual Program Budget Authorization (action):

Consideration and possible authorization to expend up to \$3,160,000 in Fiscal Year 2019/20 for purposes that include feasibility analysis, project planning and monitoring, land management, technical assistance, and land bank activities.

CEQA consideration: not applicable

#### (Resolution 19-06-07)

**11. Environmental Improvement Program Update (discussion only):** Discuss the current Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and the plans to update the EIP goals, priorities, and strategies.

#### 12. Chair's Report

• Consideration of Operations Committee assignments

#### **13. Board Member Comment**

a. Potential Agenda Items for the August 21 Board Meeting (discussion only): Discuss potential agenda items for the August 21 Board meeting.

#### 14. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

#### 15. Closed Session

The Conservancy will meet in closed session to conduct a performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Authority: Gov. Code, § 11126(a)(1).

#### 16. Adjourn

**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, PowerPoint 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, by phone at (530) 542-5580 or (530) 543-6069, or regular mail correspondence to 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150.

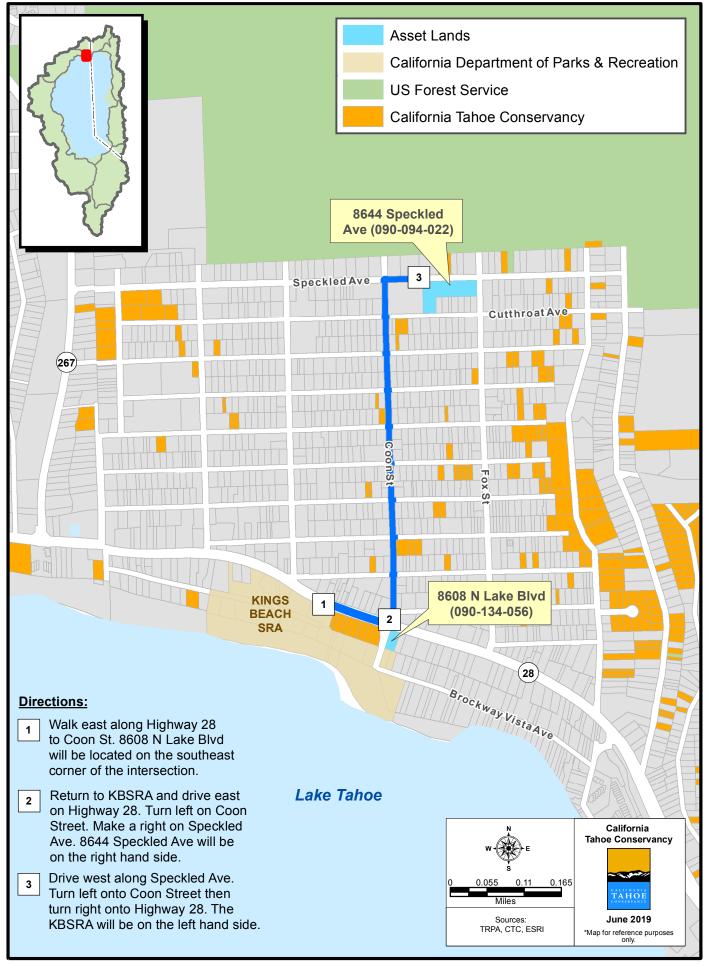
**Accessibility:** In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents 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 by California Tahoe Conservancy staff

#### ATTACHMENT 1

Kings Beach Asset Lands Tour Map



California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 3.a June 20, 2019

#### BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 18, 2019

#### April 18, 2019 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting

Staff prepared the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription by Foothill Transcription Company, which were certified on May 4, 2019.

#### Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Chair Laine called the meeting to order with a 9:02 a.m. roll call at the California State Library in Sacramento, California.

#### **Members Present:**

Brooke Laine, Chair, City of South Lake Tahoe Adam Acosta, Public Member Sue Novasel, El Dorado County Wade Crowfoot and Elizabeth Williamson, California Natural Resources Agency Erin Casey, Placer County Karen Finn, California Department of Finance Jeff Marsolais, U.S. Forest Service (ex officio)

#### **Members Absent:**

Lynn Suter, Vice Chair, Public Member

#### **Others Present:**

Patrick Wright, Executive Director Jane Freeman, Deputy Director Mike Steeves, Chief Counsel Danae Atchison, Deputy Attorney General

#### Agenda Item 2. Consent Items

#### a. Approval of Minutes (action)

The Board considered the minutes from the March meeting.

#### b. Approval of Board Agenda (action)

The Board considered the agenda for the day's meeting.

# Ms. Novasel moved to approve the two consent items and Ms. Finn seconded the motion. Resolutions 19-04-01 and 19-04-02 passed unanimously.

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

Chair Laine welcomed everyone to the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) Board meeting. Chair Laine said the Board had a big agenda with important topics and asked people to manage the time appropriately. Chair Laine reminded the audience to silence or turn off their cell phones. Chair Laine also mentioned that the Board would break for lunch.

Chair Laine introduced the meeting facilitator, Mr. Caelan McGee with Zephyr Collaboration. Chair Laine also introduced Secretary Wade Crowfoot with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

#### Agenda Item 4. Welcoming Remarks from Wade Crowfoot

Secretary Crowfoot said he was humbled and grateful to be in attendance and serving on the Conservancy Board. Secretary Crowfoot recognized the leadership of Secretary John Laird. Secretary Crowfoot mentioned his personal connection to Lake Tahoe.

Secretary Crowfoot complimented the Board and Mr. Wright for putting together a great meeting agenda with the State leadership. Secretary Crowfoot acknowledged Ms. Kate Gordon, Office of Planning and Research Director, and Ms. Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Energy at CNRA, two of the climate change panelists today.

Secretary Crowfoot discussed two cross-cutting priorities for the CNRA that relate to the work on the agenda today. Secretary Crowfoot said, first, is protecting communities and nature against the impacts of climate change. Secretary Crowfoot explained that CNRA is working to leverage its \$11 billion budget to advance resilience and a key piece of that is empowering local governments and regions to build resilience. Secretary Crowfoot said, in Tahoe, climate resilience means effective forest management and maintaining forest health.

Secretary Crowfoot said, second, is building a connection between people and nature, by protecting and restoring nature. Secretary Crowfoot said that cross-cutting priority is central to the work of the Conservancy. Secretary Crowfoot said CNRA's engagement with the Conservancy would advance those central priorities.

Secretary Crowfoot expressed his excitement for the role that the ten conservancies play in California. Secretary Crowfoot said each conservancy has a different area of focus and geographical jurisdiction but the conservancies can be an important tool for the State to meet its policy goals. Secretary Crowfoot stated that he is looking forward to engaging and working with the Conservancy through CNRA's team.

#### Agenda Item 5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wright mentioned the upcoming Summit in mid-August and extended an invitation to everyone in attendance.

Mr. Wright introduced Ms. Angela Avery, the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Executive Officer. Mr. Wright thanked Ms. Avery for the proposed grant award, which is in front of the Board at today's meeting.

Mr. Wright then discussed why Tahoe should matter to the State administration and those in attendance. Mr. Wright explained that the federal government never designated Tahoe as a national park and, thus, did not provide the necessary tools to preserve and restrict development in Tahoe. Mr. Wright said, therefore, numerous entities in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) are trying to protect this extraordinary national jewel that is highly sensitive to development while also trying to support millions of tourists.

Mr. Wright said it is difficult to juggle the Tahoe residents' needs, protect Lake Tahoe, and accommodate tourism. Mr. Wright said if we can do sustainable development, sustainable conservation, and sustainable recreation in Tahoe, we should be able to do it anywhere in the country and serve as a model. Mr. Wright said it is equally challenging to do this work when there are five counties, a city, a bi-state agency, multiple federal agencies, multiple state agencies, and dozens of local districts. Mr. Wright explained that it is all about collaboration and innovation in Tahoe.

Mr. Wright said the one thing that we have to our advantage is that it is a watershed. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have jurisdictions that are watershed based, which helps develop regional landscape-scale strategies.

Mr. Wright briefly summarized the last 30 years of Tahoe history. Mr. Wright said at first the focus was curbing development and protecting Lake Tahoe through acquiring land and adopting restrictive land-use regulations. Mr. Wright said then the focus shifted to

investing in communities and natural resources to restore the health and economy of Tahoe through the Environmental Improvement Program by prioritizing projects. Mr. Wright explained the focus shifted again to developing regional, large landscape-level projects that integrate land use planning, housing, and transportation.

Mr. Wright said a big theme of today's Board meeting is discussing how the Basin can become a model for integrated regional strategies and how the Conservancy can move forward with its partners on these strategies. Mr. Wright ended his report by expressing interest in maintaining and building stronger connections with the State leadership.

#### Agenda Item 6. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Laine invited public comment on items not on the agenda and there were no public comments.

Chair Laine then turned it over to Mr. McGee to cover the next three items on the agenda.

#### Agenda Item 7. Climate Change in the Lake Tahoe Basin (discussion only)

Mr. Michael Dettinger, Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey; Mr. Geoffrey Schladow, Professor, University of California, Davis; and Mr. Dorian Fougères, Chief of Natural Resources, Conservancy jointly presented Item 7.

Mr. McGee invited the Board and panelists to ask any clarifying questions.

Secretary Crowfoot commented about the slide on the annual increase in the acres burned, which goes down from 0.5 percent of the land mass in the Basin to almost 0.01 percent. Secretary Crowfoot said 0.01 percent seems low given the smoke and air quality impacts from burning outside the Basin. Mr. Dettinger explained that information is based on long-range projections and stated the 0.01 percent ends up amounting to a large area of land after 50 years.

Mr. McGee introduced the State Leadership Panelists, which included Ms. Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency; Ms. Tracey Frost, Chief of the Office of Smart Mobility and Climate Change, Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning; Ms. Kate Gordon, Director, California Office of Planning and Research; and Ms. Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Energy, CNRA.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah, Ms. Frost, Ms. Gordon, and Ms. Hansen each provided a brief introduction of themselves and their respective entities.

Mr. McGee invited discussion among the Board, speakers, and panelists.

Secretary Crowfoot commented about Governor Gavin Newsom's connection to Tahoe both personally and professionally. Secretary Crowfoot then expressed his excitement about the team Governor Newsom assembled.

Secretary Crowfoot said this is a great time to understand what has worked to date and what needs to improve. Secretary Crowfoot said the new administration is building off of some important work of the Brown Administration but expressed the need to challenge the new administration to adapt the programs and approaches. Secretary Crowfoot asked his colleagues to let CNRA know where it can optimize in a way that ensures all the agencies are working together.

Ms. Gordon commented that the State government could do a better job of organizing around regions so that agencies have integrated resources, planning, and grant opportunities. Ms. Gordon mentioned that housing, transportation, fire, and climate change are all regional issues that would benefit from regional planning.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah said it is challenging for the State government because of the way the funding cycle occurs. Ms. Conrad-Saydah said once the budget is finished, agencies turn in new proposals for the next year's budget without determining what worked and what did not work. Ms. Conrad-Saydah commented that it is important to bring decision makers to the region so they can see projects on a neighborhood to regional scale.

Mr. Wright said it would be good to explore whether the Basin could be a model for some of the things we are discussing. Mr. Wright commented that it is going to be challenging to completely integrate and align funding on a regional basis instead of agency-by-agency, especially when addressing climate change. Mr. Wright said, ideally, climate would be incorporated into everything State agencies do rather than having separate offices within each agency doing that work.

Secretary Crowfoot said he remembered while working in the Brown Administration that someone said the State government did not have money to do climate adaptation. Secretary Crowfoot disagreed and said we have \$200 billion per year to do climate adaptation work. Secretary Crowfoot said State agencies should integrate climate adaptation into all the work that they do.

Ms. Gordon agreed and said the Governor's thinking is that climate is not siloed but is a mainstream part of how we think about planning and infrastructure. Ms. Gordon stated that she would like to see the agencies move away from having separate plans and instead have one general plan that incorporates each regional plan to help with prioritizing State funding.

Ms. Finn commented that perhaps the State could model what it has done with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for all funding sources and bring them together in a coordinated way. Ms. Finn said one of the things that complicate the matter is specific bond requirements.

Chair Laine mentioned that Ms. Williamson has replaced Secretary Crowfoot as the CNRA representative on the Board. Secretary Crowfoot left the meeting.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah agreed with Ms. Finn. Ms. Conrad-Saydah said the State should give more capacity to SGC and also take the principles that SGC has embodied with an integrated-agency approach and ensure those principles become common practice.

Mr. Marsolais said the State has done an incredible job working with Nevada on these topics. Mr. Marsolais called attention to the bi-state transportation consultation that occurred over the last year when both Secretary John Laird and Director Brad Crowell with the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources requested that each agency executive get involved, whether federal, state, or local. Mr. Marsolais urged the group to start thinking about how to involve Nevada on these pressing issues.

Mr. McGee invited the public to comment.

Ms. Jennifer Montgomery, California Forest Management Task Force, commented about the transportation challenges in the Basin. Ms. Montgomery asked Ms. Frost how the Basin could activate the tourist visitors to help with the transportation issue, including creating an ongoing permanent funding source for transportation like an entrance fee. Ms. Frost said it would take partnership with the transit entities to build consensus and traffic studies to figure out travel patterns. Ms. Montgomery mentioned that there are resources that likely provide some of the data Ms. Frost discussed.

Ms. Hansen said it is also about increasing the supply of alternative modes of public transportation to the Basin and transition away from vehicles. Ms. Hansen also discussed the use of congestion pricing in New York as a potential, concurrent tool in the Basin.

Ms. Danielle Hughes, Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), mentioned TTD's initiative, onetahoe.org, which looks at funding alternatives, including congestion pricing. Ms. Hughes said one of the things the State should look at is recreation travel along with Nevada.

Ms. Casey said Placer County has been working closely with adjacent jurisdictions on its transportation service. Ms. Casey commented that, despite the work, people are not motivated to ride a bus and sit in traffic when they can sit in their own car. Ms. Casey said Placer County received Senate Bill 1 funds to study the resort triangle to encourage

use of the bus.

Ms. Gordon said the integration of transportation into all of the other issues, including climate and affordability has always been important. Ms. Gordon discussed the role of the regional and inter-region rail as a component of the State's strategy as well as autonomous vehicles.

Ms. Brittany Dyer, American Forest, applauded the group for discussing these complex challenges and how we can adapt internally and organizationally to meet those needs. Ms. Dyer echoed Mr. Wright, that as Co-Chair of the Tree Mortality Working Group on the Governor's Forest Health Task Force, she thinks the Basin could potentially serve as a model on these issues.

Mr. Dettinger said the California Forest and Climate Assessment is now on the regional scale. Mr. Dettinger added that the Basin is the right scale to be doing these types of things.

Mr. Schladow commented about the impacts that climate change will have on the Basin, especially if people are fleeing hot temperatures or wildfires, and how we bring all of these challenges and their solutions to bear under those circumstances. Mr. Schladow echoed Mr. Dettinger's thought that the Basin can serve as a wonderful model to start thinking about these issues and how to implement solutions.

Mr. Fougères said he appreciated Ms. Gordon linking climate, resources, and affordability together. Mr. Fougères commented about the challenge of going big and if the group could think about the Basin as being one of the 100 Resilient Regions. Mr. Fougères made three additional points. Mr. Fougères said, first, it is important for the State government to stay nimble. Mr. Fougères said, second, in the terms of the funding piece, it would be great to have an ad-hoc interagency regional team with different State agencies to strategize about funding. Mr. Fougères commented, last, about how the Conservancy could serve as a model because staff is integrating climate change into all of its program areas and how it would be great to get legislators into the Basin to see integrated planning on the ground.

There were no additional public comments.

Chair Laine provided the audience a brief break. Mr. McGee reconvened the meeting.

#### Agenda Item 8. Forest Health and Fire Protection (discussion only)

Mr. Patrick Wright, Executive Director, Conservancy; Mr. Jeff Marsolais, Forest Supervisor, USFS, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU); Ms. Patricia Manley, Supervisory Biological Scientist and Program Manager, USFS, Pacific Southwest Research Station jointly presented Item 8.

Mr. McGee invited the Board and panelists to ask any clarifying questions. There were no clarifying questions.

Mr. McGee introduced the State and Federal Leadership Panelists, which included Ms. Avery, Executive Officer, SNC; Ms. Susan Britting, Executive Director, Sierra Forest Legacy; Ms. Jennifer Eberlien, Deputy Regional Forester, USFS, Pacific Southwest Region; Mr. Helge Eng, Deputy Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; and Ms. Montgomery, Director, California Forest Management Task Force.

Ms. Avery, Ms. Britting, Ms. Eberlien, Mr. Eng, and Ms. Montgomery each provided a brief introduction of themselves and their respective entities.

Mr. McGee invited discussion among the Board, speakers, and panelists.

Ms. Loretta Moreno, CNRA, commented about the discussion around the permitting and regulatory piece and asked how the State can increase the pace and scale from the perspective. Ms. Moreno invited the Conservancy and other related stakeholders to be regular participants in internal meetings with the Regulations Working Group of the Forest Management Task Force about permitting and regulations.

Ms. Britting said there is an opportunity for California to be an example nationwide and show how a state can navigate through these systems and permitting while maintaining environmental values that benefit the public. Ms. Britting commented that there are interesting conversations taking place at the Regulations Working Group, specifically about the tensions between commercial timber utilization projects versus restoration projects.

Ms. Avery commented about the PowerPoint slide that showed projects on the landscape and how the Conservancy and others are moving to the landscape and regional scale, specifically with the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI). Ms. Avery said it is important for agencies, when looking at models and new ways of doing business with respect to permitting and regulation, to look at these regional models and the efficiencies that they bring.

Mr. Steve Frisch, Sierra Business Council, said he was encouraged to hear the comments about the concept of regionalization, the commitment to integration, and a longer-term strategic approach through these large-landscape initiatives. Mr. Frisch commented that California is dealing with the frequent, high intensity, larger scale return of fire and it will likely get worse while we reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Frisch said it is going to be difficult to be strategic if we do not have permanent, long-term funding for forest management and restoration projects, including maintaining the

benefits that are implemented. Mr. Frisch said it is also important to get all of the State and federal agencies on the same page.

Ms. Montgomery agreed with Mr. Frisch that it is time to do that and have that discussion. Ms. Montgomery said it is important to recognize that the federal government owns over 50 percent of California's wildland. Ms. Montgomery said the challenge is to get the federal and State legislators to commit the necessary resources to managing the asset. Ms. Montgomery posed a question about how to bring private resources to assist in managing the asset.

Mr. Eng also agreed with Mr. Frisch that it is a massive challenge for the next 50 to 100 years. Mr. Eng said the federal government owns about 57 percent of the forest land in the State and most of the remaining forest land is privately owned. Mr. Eng said we have an opportunity on private lands to incentivize and create tax breaks for landowners that will contribute to the State's fuel reduction goals. Mr. Eng said the State needs to find an acceptable balance between timber production and revenue creation as well as forest management and forest health goals. Mr. Eng said the USFS has an opportunity to rely not strictly on their budget but to create revenue from forest management on the national forest.

Mr. Marsolais said LTBMU is operating on a budget that is markedly less than what it gets about halfway through the year. Mr. Marsolais said the USFS Washington Office has directed an additional \$8.5 million over the last two years to fuels projects in Lake Tahoe. Mr. Marsolais said it would be easier if that was part of a regular appropriation. Mr. Marsolais asked Ms. Eberlien to discuss how the federal budget for USFS has shifted from 19 percent to 67 percent for firefighting alone with no new, additional funding appropriated.

Ms. Eberlien agreed with Mr. Frisch that there should be a long-term, sustainable source of funding to address these issues. Ms. Eberlien said this is one of the benefits of TCSI and the North Yuba Pilot Project, which is testing the concept of a forest resilience bond to fund the upfront costs of forest restoration. Ms. Eberlien also mentioned the Resilience Dashboard, which uses science to describe needs on the ground and measure benefits.

Mr. Frisch said he is supportive of creating private market streams and putting some pressure on the federal government. Mr. Frisch said if the State and federal government are going to take control of this challenge that they should identify the places with the greatest needs. Mr. Frisch said, for example, 80 percent of the wood products are being imported from outside the United States and the goal should be to get innovative strategies to improve forest restoration and ecosystem services.

Mr. Eng agreed that it would take some priming of the pump for some aspects of the

market, such as wood products facilities. Mr. Eng said other aspects of the equation, such as incentivizing forest management thinning and fuel reduction on private lands, can be addressed through regulations, legislation, and tax incentives.

Ms. Dyer said local governments and communities are thinking about these issues as well. Ms. Dyer urged the group to continue these conversations outside of the Board meeting.

Ms. Montgomery said local governments are also part of the solution in terms of doing the "community-hardening." Ms. Montgomery said she calls it "community-hardening" because it is not just about structures; it is about making communities more defensible and retrofitting structures in the communities.

Mr. Fougères discussed Lake Tahoe West (LTW) and how partner agencies in the Basin are aiming for a twenty-year stewardship contract. Mr. Fougères said the goal is to develop a Basinwide assessment and strategy with maintenance on a continuous cycle. Mr. Fougères then discussed whether there is an ability to build a complementary prescribed fire industry. Mr. Fougères said if we would like to have management that matches the problems with the scale of the ecological processes that is prescribed fire.

Mr. Wright said the Conservancy would like to hear more from the State and USFS whether LTW and TCSI can be models that are exported to other parts of the State and region. Mr. Wright asked how the Conservancy and its partners do better. Mr. Wright also asked if LTW and TCSI could be done differently. Mr. Wright said if we are going to get to the pace and scale that we need in the highest-priority areas, we all need dedicated funding from the State and federal government.

Ms. Montgomery said we should be having conversations with State and federal legislators because the budget allocations are not going to be impacted until we can get legislators to the Basin to see the projects. Ms. Montgomery said we are doing the right thing by having these conversations but we also need to take these conversations to our elected representatives and explain why these issues matter.

Mr. McGee invited the public to comment. There were no additional public comments.

Mr. McGee offered to provide the audience a lunch break and then reconvened the meeting.

#### Agenda Item 9. Sustainable Communities (discussion only)

Mr. Patrick Wright, Executive Director, California Tahoe Conservancy and Ms. Sue Novasel, County Supervisor, El Dorado County jointly presented Item 9.

Mr. McGee invited the Board and panelists to ask any clarifying questions. There were no clarifying questions.

Mr. McGee introduced the State and Regional Leadership Panelists, which included Ms. Louise Bedsworth, Executive Director, SGC; Mr. Jonathan Heim, Asset Enhancement, California Department of General Services (DGS) Real Estate Services Division and Asset Management Branch; and Mr. Bill Yeates, Chair, TRPA.

Ms. Bedsworth, Mr. Heim, and Mr. Yeates each provided a brief introduction of themselves and their respective entities.

Mr. McGee invited discussion among the Board, speakers, and panelists.

Ms. Novasel asked Ms. Bedsworth whether the State could assist with a needs assessment in the south shore with the Tahoe Prosperity Center. Ms. Bedsworth said one thing that SGC has done previously is to host a workshop for a community that is focused on local needs. Ms. Bedsworth explained that the next step is thinking about technical assistance and capacity building that SGC may be able to provide. Ms. Bedsworth said SGC can help communities where there is not capacity to assist in building that vision.

Ms. Julie Regan, TRPA, commented that Lake Tahoe is in a transformational time. Ms. Regan said we have transformed from a "just say no" period in the 1980s to the current environmental redevelopment phase. Ms. Regan thanked the SGC for the grant to build TRPA's first Sustainability Action Plan, which won a National Planning Award. Ms. Regan also thanked the Conservancy for having its Board meeting in Sacramento to discuss these issues that all relate to each other, including housing, transportation, climate, and forest health. Ms. Regan thanked the State for its support of Lake Tahoe that can serve as a model for multi-sector, collaborative initiatives. Ms. Regan told Ms. Bedsworth that TRPA would be happy to host a workshop for the various local jurisdictions.

Mr. Yeates recommended that TRPA's Local Government Committee and SGC work together on housing and specifically hosting the workshop.

Mr. Marsolais said he has a difficult time hiring at the USFS because people cannot afford to live in Tahoe. Mr. Marsolais said Tahoe is a place where we could try bold solutions with respect to transportation, forest health, and housing and utilizing the Conservancy's Asset Lands. Mr. Marsolais said partner agencies in the Basin need to pick a project and start running with it in order to solve some of these issues.

Ms. Aimee Rutledge, Conservancy, asked about the balance between working with the private sector and having a public-driven project with respect to housing. Ms. Rutledge

asked Mr. Heim about DGS's request for proposals and if those would be public projects, State-driven projects, local agency driven projects, or private sector projects.

Mr. Heim said it depends. Mr. Heim said there is a lot of forward planning that needs to go into this process. Mr. Heim said normally DGS hires an economist to look at what is proposed and determine what project is viable and most profitable. Mr. Heim said the Conservancy should have a specialist in affordable housing and vet whether the specific projects are economically viable on the Asset Lands. Mr. Heim commented that the Conservancy should do forward planning, traffic studies, additional due diligence and then let the development community propose projects that are financially viable.

Mr. Wright said the Conservancy has done the math and it is not good. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy has a parcel in south shore where the developer has done all the planning with workforce housing components and there is a \$2 million funding gap. Mr. Wright discussed the idea of there being a housing authority or nonprofit that the Conservancy could partner with or the Conservancy needs to figure out how to discount the land and the development rights.

Mr. Wright asked Ms. Bedsworth if SGC provides grants to nonprofits or developers. Ms. Bedsworth said that there is a mix of funding. Ms. Bedsworth said SGC's maximum grant is \$20 million. Ms. Bedsworth said there are a variety of different models. Ms. Bedsworth said there are places with a strong public leadership role and then others where a nonprofit comes in and tries to bring developers together.

Mr. Wright asked if the State can provide grants to help make these projects work, then why can the State not provide land. Ms. Finn said the State could discount the land for a public benefit, like economic viability and environmental sustainability. Ms. Finn said the Conservancy could have an affordable housing deed restriction.

Ms. Bedsworth said the Conservancy could try to quantify the benefits and staff may find that the Conservancy is not actually discounting the land.

Ms. Finn said the difference here is the land that Mr. Heim is working with has not been declared surplus. Ms. Finn said the Governor is trying to facilitate this with State-owned land that can be sold without the legislature's authorization.

Mr. Heim said there are likely a number of different tools. Mr. Heim said perhaps the most expedient tool could be to do a long-term ground lease for a dollar, which would effectively accomplish the same thing, which DGS has the authority to do.

Mr. Kevin Prior, Conservancy, said the Conservancy has struggled with the fact that it does not have the technical assistance side to analyze the developer's pro formas. Mr. Prior asked Ms. Bedsworth if she was seeing a need for that type of analysis or if she

found that governments rely on outside contractors for that work. Ms. Bedsworth said it is a mix; some local governments have that ability and others hire contractors. Ms. Bedsworth said SGC provides technical assistance to communities but there is usually more demand for technical assistance than the ability to offer it.

Mr. Fougères said the Conservancy is working with TRPA on funding to address some of these issues. Mr. Fougères also discussed the importance of thinking about housing in relation to climate change, forest health and fires, and rural communities. Mr. Fougères mentioned that he liked the idea of having workshops to look at how the Conservancy and partner agencies could do some of this work. Mr. Fougères discussed the legislature potentially developing a rural pilot around transformative climate communities but in the meantime developing a competitive proposal with TRPA and SGC with DGS's insight.

Mr. Yeates said the South Shore Transportation Management Agency needs to be reenergized. Mr. Yeates also said the major employers, like Vail, Barton Hospital, and the Casino Collaborative, need to be brought to the table to discuss these issues during a workshop.

Ms. Casey said Squaw Valley has been successful with their microtransit program, which was funded with the Tourist Business Improvement District. Ms. Casey explained that the microtransit program provides transportation within Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows, working in partnership with North Transportation Management Agency in Placer County.

Ms. Casey also discussed the Mountain Housing Council in Placer County, which released a housing study and is trying to address some of these issues. Ms. Casey said Placer County is in the process of purchasing property for a housing project, however density continues to come up as a concern. Ms. Casey said part of the problem is to educate people that it is more beneficial to shift to denser communities that are closer to public transportation rather than having dispersed single-family homes.

Ms. Novasel said this was a good discussion with a lot of great information. Ms. Novasel said there is collaboration happening but we need to figure out where to go from here whether that means forming a housing authority or something else.

Mr. Wright said these issues are more challenging on the south shore than the north shore in Tahoe. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy would like there to be a locally-based strategy where we can use Asset Lands to help implement housing projects. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy does not necessarily want the State driving local land use decisions. Mr. Wright said there is money, property, and land bank assets to support a housing strategy that is integrated with land use and transportation needs; however it would be easier if there was an entity to partner with to make the strategy happen. Mr.

Wright supported the idea of a workshop to continue these conversations. Mr. Wright commented that the Conservancy would like to work with SGC, DGS, and Department of Finance to determine what its options are and how much flexibility there is to ensure the Conservancy can make the assets available in ways that make sense for the State, while providing incentives for housing projects.

Chair Laine thanked everyone for their time, energy, knowledge, and support. Chair Laine said the City of South Lake Tahoe has three parcels it is going to use for affordable housing. Chair Laine said the Conservancy should continue working with the State on how it can make its assets available to support these types of projects.

There were no public comments.

Mr. McGee offered to provide the audience a break and then reconvened the meeting.

#### Agenda Item 10. Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (action)

Mr. Jason Vasques, Ecosystem Planning Supervisor, presented Item 10.

Ms. Finn commented that Proposition 68 funds cannot be used to benefit Climate Change Investments (CCI) projects. Ms. Finn said, in other words, one funding source cannot be used to subsidize another funding source. Mr. Vasques said the Conservancy is not proposing to spend Proposition 68 funds on Proposition 1 or CCI projects.

There were no public comments.

# Ms. Finn moved to approve the resolution and Ms. Williamson seconded the motion. Resolution 19-04-03 passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 11. Rapid Response Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Grant (action)

Ms. Whitney Brennan, Senior Environmental Scientist, presented Item 11.

Ms. Novasel asked if groups in the Basin are checking for aquatic invasive plants (AIP) as part of the aquatic invasive species (AIS) program. Ms. Brennan answered affirmatively. Ms. Brennan explained that partner agencies are working on a control plan for AIS and that AIP are the first focus of that work.

Chair Laine asked whether all of Lake Tahoe was surveyed. Ms. Brennan answered affirmatively. Ms. Brennan said the map in the presentation and staff recommendation only shows infestations on the California side of Lake Tahoe.

Chair Laine asked how the infestations on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe are going to

be eradicated. Ms. Brennan said Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) received funding from Nevada Division of State Lands, which will fund AIP work on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment.

Ms. Regan, TRPA, expressed support for Tahoe RCD's work on AIS, which is a high priority as part of the Environmental Improvement Program. Ms. Regan said this project is a good example of exactly how the working groups function highly as a team. There were no public comments.

# Ms. Novasel moved to approve the resolution and Ms. Finn seconded the motion. Resolution 19-04-04 passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 12. Board Member Comment

#### a. Potential Agenda Items for the June 20 Board Meeting

Ms. Freeman summarized the potential agenda items for the June 20 Board meeting, including the annual program and budget authorization item, Kings Beach asset lands tour and preauthorization items, and funding guidelines item.

Chair Laine discussed potentially adding the Executive Director's annual performance review and salary to the June Board meeting agenda. Ms. Freeman explained how the Board has approached the performance review item previously. The Board decided to have a closed session item on the Executive Director's performance review during the June Board meeting.

#### Agenda Item 13. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Laine invited public comment on items not on the agenda and there were no public comments.

Mr. Wright thanked staff for their efforts on the Board meeting. Mr. Wright said it is important to develop a personal connection with people in the State leadership to accomplish things and we did that with this Board meeting.

Ms. Williamson and Ms. Novasel also thanked staff for organizing the Board meeting.

#### Agenda Item 14. Adjourn

Chair Laine adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-06-01 Adopted: June 20, 2019

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on June 20, 2019.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 3.b Resolution 19-06-02 Adopted: June 20, 2019

#### APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

I hereby approve the June 20, 2019 Board agenda of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on June 20, 2019.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 4 June 20, 2019

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### A. Budget and Accounting

#### 1. Budget

#### Fiscal Year 2019/20

On January 10, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom released the proposed Governor's budget for the 2019/20 fiscal year.

The Administration revised its budget on May 9, 2019. The May revisions included an increase in funding for the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) from \$25,978,000 to \$38,515,000. The increase in funding is due to additional funding from Proposition 68 and reappropriation of funds for the Upper Truckee Marsh Project. For further detail please see agenda item 10.

The Conservancy's proposed 2019/20 fiscal year budget includes the following:

- \$26,112,000 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:
  - \$17,309,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, 68, and 84;
  - \$2,054,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe License Plate proceeds, Tahoe Conservancy Fund, and Senate Bill 630); and
  - \$6,749,000 in reimbursement authority (i.e., for State and federal grant funding)
- \$13,403,000 for ongoing Conservancy operations including:
  - \$2,825,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, 68, and 84;
  - \$6,687,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe License Plate proceeds, and Tahoe Conservancy Fund);
  - o \$2,891,000 in federal and State reimbursement grants; and
  - \$1,000,000 in General Funds to address deferred maintenance needs.

The Governor's budget is incorporated into Assembly Bill 190 and Senate Bill 73 for consideration by the State Legislature during the spring budget hearings.

#### **B. Cross-Cutting Programs and Projects**

#### 1. Forest Restoration

The Conservancy is collaboratively leading several forest restoration projects. The projects described will help build forest and community resilience to disturbances such as wildfire, insects, and disease, while increasing the pace and scale of restoration.

#### Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW)

The Conservancy, along with five key partners (U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit [LTBMU]; Tahoe Regional Planning Agency [TRPA]; California Department of Parks and Recreation; Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team; and the National Forest Foundation) collectively form the LTW team. The LTW team expects to complete the landscape restoration strategy for the entire 60,000-acre landscape by September 2019. Comprehensive modeling results are now complete and being integrated into the strategy.

Additionally, the LTBMU was recently awarded a \$2,992,730 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 17 grant to support LTW. This funding provides support for the Conservancy and other partner agencies, as well as contracts, to complete a combined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and TRPA enviromental review document. Staff is working with LTBMU staff to prepare a Supplemental Project Agreement under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) to include the activities described above, in addition to community forestry and fire protection planning activities, authorized by the Board at its August 2018 meeting. Staff has prepared a corresponding recommendation for the Conservancy's June 20, 2019 Board meeting to accept and expend associated funds.

#### Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)

The 2.4 million-acre TCSI aims to accelerate six forest landscape restoration projects (including LTW), and develop biomass utilization infrastructure, throughout the Central Sierra. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) awarded the Conservancy a \$1.95 million Proposition 68 grant to support the TCSI. The Conservancy Board authorized staff to accept and expend this grant at its April 18 meeting.Staff is working to hire a project lead under the grant.

#### Hazardous Fuel Reduction, Forest Health, and Biomass Projects

At its December 2016 meeting, the Board authorized planning and preparing fuels reduction treatments funded through SNPLMA Round 16. Treatments are brought back to the Board for authorization on an annual basis. The first round of treatments began in September 2017, and subsequent rounds will continue through the 2022 field season. Each year, staff systematically prepares units for treatment the following year. At present, staff is preparing 300 acres for

treatment in 2020. In December 2019, staff will return to the Board for authorization to implement this work.

In June 2018, the Board authorized staff to enter into an agreement with SNC to receive California Climate Investments funding to conduct forest health and fuels reduction treatments on the Conservancy's Dollar property. In addition to the SNPLMA work mentioned above, treatment of 151 acres of this property will commence this summer.

#### 2. Climate Adaptation

The Conservancy is leading a collaborative effort to develop a Climate Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP), which identifies specific projects and programs that state agencies in California and Nevada are implementing to adapt to climate change in the Basin. A Science and Engineering Team, the consulting firms Energetics, and researchers from the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station and University of California, Berkeley are completing a vulnerability assessment for the Basin. A second consulting firm, Industrial Economics, is completing an analysis of the economic costs of climate change impacts in the Basin. Staff will host a stakeholder workshop to review a draft of the entire set of vulnerability assessments on June 26, 2019. Finally, the Conservancy hired Studio Percolate, a graphic designer, to translate scientific concepts into visually accessible communications. The infographics produced will be included in the vulnerability assessment and social media campaigns.



Flooding in South Lake Tahoe, 2017

#### 3. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

The Conservancy and Basin partners are working with the consulting firm Creative Resource Strategies to identify a common set of AIS management performance measures, assemble an action plan that provides a systematic approach to AIS management, and develop an investment plan that will optimize spending on AIS control. Creative Resource Strategies conducted a large public survey in February, compiled the results, and held several follow-up interviews with key executives and stakeholders. The AIS Action Plan working group met in April to begin developing Basinwide short-term and long-term goals, performance measures, and actions. The action plan will be complete this month, with the corresponding investment plan expected in August 2019.

#### 4. Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership (UTP)

The Conservancy has started to convene the UTP, a new collaborative initiative that aims to link the variety of existing resource protection and restoration, recreation, and transportation projects within the region. The greater watershed primarily includes the Upper Truckee River and Trout Creek watersheds, but also contains some smaller adjacent watersheds (Bijou, Bijou Park, Camp Richardson, Taylor, and Tallac). This planning area covers Lake Tahoe's south shore, and complements the adjacent LTW. In future years, the UTP may conduct additional scientific analyses, formalize its governance, and develop joint multiple-benefit projects.

The initial UTP product will be a concise Synthesis that presents an inventory of existing programs and projects, identifies future opportunities and information needs, and provides a vision for a resilient landscape. The two goals of the Synthesis are to:

- 1) Create synergies and efficiencies for implementing ongoing projects, thereby increasing their individual and collective benefits; and
- 2) Provide an opportunity to coordinate implementation timelines and potential grant funding applications.

The Conservancy has invited agencies, stakeholders, and the public to participate in meetings during the Synthesis development. The Conservancy and its consultants will facilitate launch meetings in July, which will provide background information on the existing programs in the greater watershed, solicit feedback on a draft inventory, and initiate an analysis of gaps and needs. Staff will host a second round of agency and public meetings later in 2019 to present results of the first draft of the entire Synthesis, and to solicit additional comments and suggestions.

#### C. Land Management Program

#### 1. Special Use Requests

Under delegated authority, the Conservancy renewed the short-term lease for the Tahoe Flea Market (TFM), which is located on Elks Club Drive in South Lake Tahoe. TFM will operate and maintain its weekend flea market until September 30, 2019. TFM pays a flat fee to the Conservancy for this use.

#### 2. Van Sickle Bi-State Park (Park)

The Conservancy reopened the Park to public vehicle access on May 1, 2019.

#### 3. Upper Truckee Marsh (UTM)

The seasonal UTM dog closure started on May 1, 2019 and ends on July 31, 2019. Conservancy staff recently met with neighbors of the UTM, City of South Lake Tahoe staff, local law enforcement, and California Highway Patrol (CHP) to better understand complaints related to public use at the UTM. CHP is assisting with management of the UTM and has agreed to add additional resources, specifically late at night, to help address these issues.

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

#### 1. Meeks Meadow Restoration Project

The Washoe Tribe, with Conservancy Proposition 1 funding, has made significant progress in planning the Meeks Meadow Restoration Project. The Tribe completed a vegetation management plan for the area, which included a thorough stakeholder review and engagement process. The Tribe also completed an environmental document for the project, thanks in part to assistance from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, which acted as the lead agency for CEQA compliance. The Tribe is pursuing project implementation funding from various State and federal sources, and hopes to start restoration work as early as 2020.

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

#### 1. Alta Mira

As described at past Board meetings, extended periods of high lake levels and wave erosion impacted several Conservancy lakefront sites in 2018, including Alta Mira and Fremont Overlook. Emergency slope stabilization work continues at these sites to prevent further erosion and ensure public safety and access. Concurrently, staff will soon start developing conceptual designs and environmental documentation for a future project that would expand public access and recreation opportunities, and treat storm water. For further information, see agenda item 8.Staff is coordinating closely with the California State Lands Commission, California Department of General Services, the City, and the Basin's Shoreline Working Group, which includes relevant federal and state regulatory agencies.



Alta Mira in 2019

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 6 June 20, 2019

#### AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT PRE-SALE ACTIVITIES ON CONSERVANCY ASSET LANDS LOCATED IN KINGS BEACH

**Recommended Action**: Adopt Resolution 19-06-03 (Attachment 1) authorizing the expenditure of up to \$200,000 to conduct pre-sale activities, such as appraisals, inspections, and real estate negotiations, on 8644 Speckled Avenue and 8602 North Lake Boulevard in Kings Beach, which is in Placer County (Assessment Numbers [ANs] 090-094-022 and 090-134-056).

#### **Executive Summary:**

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff recommends pre-sale activities for two Conservancy Asset Lands in Kings Beach. The recommended action implements the Conservancy's Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) Program by potentially using two of 17 designated Asset Lands near town centers to achieve Conservancy and statewide, regional, and area plan goals. Conservancy staff will undertake pre-sale activities, consistent with the Conservancy's Land Transfer Guidelines. Pre-sale activities may include appraisals, inspections, and real estate negotiations. The pre-sale activities are consistent with Strategic Plan Goal 4 (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities), Strategy C (Expand the TLC program to revitalize the Basin's town centers, protect sensitive lands, and meet the goals of the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Action Plan (Sustainability Action Plan), Lake Tahoe Regional Plan (Regional Plan), and local area plans).

**Location**: In Kings Beach next to the Kings Beach State Recreation Area (KBSRA) and in the industrial zone within the Tahoe Basin Area Plan (Area Plan) (Attachment 2).

**Fiscal Summary**: Staff requests authorization to expend up to \$200,000 in support funds (Environmental and Lake Tahoe license plate funds) for pre-sale activities.

#### Overview

#### History

In March 2014, the Conservancy Board identified 17 developable parcels in three urbanized areas (City of South Lake Tahoe, Meyers, and Kings Beach) that could support sustainable compact development consistent with local area or town center plans. These "Asset Lands" are generally parcels that were acquired by the Conservancy to obtain land coverage, facilitate Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) projects that are no longer planned, or as part of a "bulk acquisition" of both sensitive and nonsensitive, developable parcels from a single seller.

The Conservancy Board authorized staff to conduct pre-sale activities for six Asset Land parcels located in the City of South Lake Tahoe in March 2014 and September 2016. At the same March 2014 Board meeting, the Board designated the two Kings Beach parcels as Asset Lands. Placer County supported this designation. Both parcels occupy strategic locations near the Kings Beach Town Center in the recently adopted Area Plan (Attachment 2). The Conservancy identified these two parcels as developable parcels in a highly urbanized area that support projects consistent with Conservancy, statewide, Regional Plan, and Area Plan goals.

## Asset Land Pre-Sale Authorization Parcel Summary

The two Kings Beach Asset Lands could help implement various elements of the Area Plan, including affordable housing, mixed-use development, bike, pedestrian and transit circulation, water quality projects, and placement of permanent conservation easements over sensitive and public open space areas. Below is more detailed information on each of the two parcels.

# 8602 North Lake Boulevard (AN 090-134-056)

The Conservancy acquired this 0.25-acre parcel at a purchase price of \$410,000 (Proposition 99 and 8g funds) in 1991 under its Recreation and Access Program. When acquired by the Conservancy, the parcel contained a dress shop and residential units. The Conservancy leased to businesses on the site until 2002 when the condition of the structures necessitated demolition. The buildable parcel is located directly adjacent to the entrance to KBSRA — the main access to Lake Tahoe in downtown Kings Beach.

The parcel can support compact development consistent with the Area Plan. The Area Plan designates this area of Kings Beach as "Town Center Mixed Use" which allows for various types of commercial and residential uses, with an overlay of "recreation." The staff report to the Board requesting authorization to acquire the property indicated the parcel "would give the Conservancy greater planning flexibility relative to meeting open space, public access, visitor-serving and management objectives for the entire (Kings Beach) project area." Once authorized to conduct pre-sale activities, staff will continue to coordinate with Placer County and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to determine the best balance of uses on this parcel. Given the broad purposes for which the parcel was originally acquired, this Asset Land also may now fulfill Area Plan and Regional Plan goals for town center redevelopment.

# 8644 Speckled Avenue (AN 090-094-022)

The Conservancy acquired this 1.51-acre parcel at a purchase price of \$72,000 (8g funds) in 1994 under its Land Bank Coverage Program. The majority (95 percent) of the parcel is buildable. Approximately 5 percent of the total parcel is environmentally sensitive land. The environmentally sensitive land contains an erosion control project

with a storm drain pipe, basin, and rock weir along a drainage on the southeastern corner of the parcel.

The parcel can support compact development consistent with the Area Plan. The Area Plan designates this area of Kings Beach as "Industrial," which allows for various types of commercial and industrial uses, with conjunctive uses allowed when they are part of the primary use (e.g., housing that serves the commercial or industrial use.)

## **Detailed Description of Recommended Action**

1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action

Conservancy staff requests Board authorization to expend up to \$200,000 to conduct pre-sale activities. Pre-sale activities may include appraisals, inspections, and real estate negotiations, including a solicitation of bids from potential buyers, exclusive negotiations with uniquely qualified partners, or other transfer strategies.

As described in the Conservancy Land Transfer Guidelines, two separate Conservancy Board authorizations are required when considering the transfer of Asset Lands. The first Board authorization is for pre-sale activities and the second authorization is for the transfer of the Asset Lands. Both authorizations are required to ensure sufficient public input and review of any potential private sales of the parcels. All Board actions require appropriate noticing requirements and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance.

Conservancy staff completed the following noticing requirements as part of seeking Board authorization for pre-sale activities:

- Public notices placed on the properties and in the newspaper.
- Direct mail notice sent to property owners within 500 feet of the properties.
- A Conservancy Board tour of the properties, held prior to the pre-sale Board authorization.

As part of the noticing and coordination with local jurisdictions, Placer County recently expressed interest in possibly executing an agreement with the Conservancy to take the lead on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a potential project on 8644 Speckled Avenue. DPR and an adjacent landowner have each expressed interest in potential partnerships with the Conservancy on 8602 Lake Tahoe Boulevard. Conservancy staff will consider all of these possibilities after receiving the proposed Board authorization for pre-sale activities.

# 2. Benefits of the Recommended Action

Pre-sale activities leading to potential projects on the Kings Beach Asset Lands will help implement the Conservancy's TLC Program, the Regional Plan, and Sustainability Action Plan (required by Senate Bill 375). These potential projects may also help implement

Governor Gavin Newsom's recent Executive Order N-06-19 on affordable housing. Proposed project requirements for the Asset Lands may include mixed-use development, affordable housing, and public open space.

#### Schedule

Milestone	Milestone Date
Real estate due diligence (appraisals, title review)	September 2019
Release RFP, pursue partner agreement, or exclusive negotiations	March 2020
Project applications (permitting and environmental review)	December 2020
Disposition agreements to Conservancy Board	March 2021

#### Financing

The Asset Lands pre-sale activities will be funded with up to \$200,000 from the Environmental and Lake Tahoe license plate funds.

Appraisals	\$25,000
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency & Placer County coordination, permits, surveys, and/or CEQA review	\$125,000
Staff time	\$50,000
Total	\$200,000

#### Authority

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

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Pursuant to Government Code section 66907.8(a):

[n]otwithstanding any other provisions of law...the [C]onservancy may lease, rent, sell, exchange, or otherwise transfer any real property or interest therein, or option acquired under this title to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, individuals, corporate entities, or partnerships to fulfill the purposes of this title and to promote the state's planning priorities, consistent with subdivision (i) of Section 79707 of the Water Code.

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

The recommended action is consistent with Strategic Plan Goal 4 (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities), Strategy C (Expand the TLC program to revitalize the Basin's town centers, protect sensitive lands, and meet the goals of the Sustainability Action Plan, Regional Plan, and local area plans.)

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

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Land Bank and Land Transfer Guidelines. The recommended action is also consistent with the TLC Program, which focuses on: 1) removal of the threat of development in roadless subdivisions; 2) removal of aging developed properties on sensitive lands; and 3) retirement or transfer of development rights to help revitalize town centers.

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

The recommended action is consistent with the Regional Plan, Area Plan, the EIP, and the Sustainability Action Plan in compliance with Government Code section 65080, and with State planning priorities in Government Code section 65041.1. The recommended action also helps to implement Executive Order N-06-19.

## Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the State 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 this Project, and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. This Project qualifies for a statutory exemption under State CEQA Guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies. A notice of exemption (NOE) has been prepared for the Project (Attachment 3). If the Board approves the Project, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

#### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 19-06-03 Attachment 2 – Kings Beach Asset Lands Map Attachment 3 – Notice of Exemption

#### **Conservancy Staff Contacts**

Aimee Rutledge, Tahoe Livable Communities Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer aimee.rutledge@tahoe.ca.gov kevin.prior@tahoe.ca.gov

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-06-03 Adopted: June 20, 2019

#### AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT PRE-SALE ACTIVITIES ON CONSERVANCY ASSET LANDS LOCATED IN KINGS BEACH

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.8:

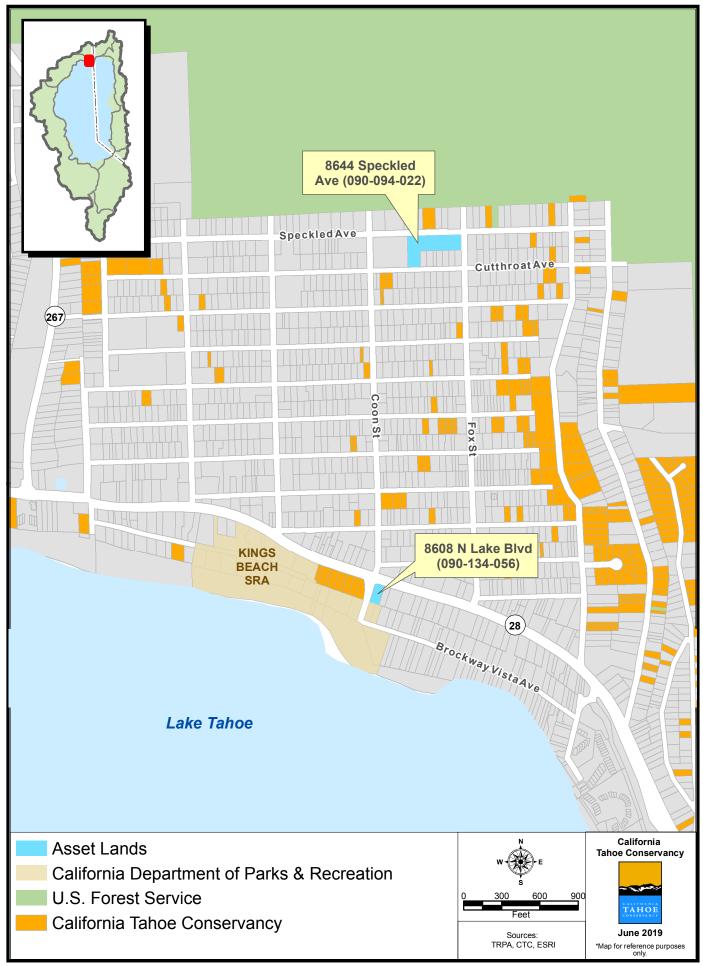
"The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to expend up to \$200,000 to conduct pre-sale activities, including but not limited to appraisals, inspections, and real estate negotiations, on 8644 Speckled Avenue and 8602 North Lake Boulevard in Kings Beach, which is in Placer County (Assessment Numbers 090-094-022 and 090-134-056)."

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 20th day of June, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 2 Authorization to Conduct Pre-Sale Activities on Conservancy Asset Lands Located in Kings Beach



#### ATTACHMENT 3

#### 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:**

Authorization to Conduct Pre-Sale Activities on Conservancy Asset Lands Located in Kings Beach

#### **Project Location – Specific:**

In Kings Beach next to the Kings Beach State Recreation Area and in the industrial zone within the Tahoe Basin Area Plan, in Placer County at 8644 Speckled Avenue and 8602 North Lake Boulevard (Assessment Numbers 090-094-022 and 090-134-056)

# **Project Location – City:** N/A

**Project Location – County:** Placer County

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

Pre-sale activities for potential project sites, which may include appraisals, inspections, and real estate negotiations.

*Name of Public Agency Approving Project:* California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 6/20/2019) (Agenda Item 6)

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

California Tahoe Conservancy

#### **Exempt Status:**

Statutory Exemption (§ 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies)

#### Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project consists of planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions.

# *Contact Person:* Aimee Rutledge

**Telephone Number:** (530) 307-3380

#### Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright Executive Director California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 7 June 20, 2019

## OFLYNG WATER QUALITY PROJECT LICENSE AGREEMENT

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 19-06-04 (Attachment 1) containing the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determinations and authorizing staff to enter into a license agreement with El Dorado County on five California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) parcels to support the Oflyng Water Quality Project (Project).

**Executive Summary:** The recommended action authorizes staff to provide El Dorado County with rights to access, construct, and maintain water quality infrastructure on five Conservancy properties in the Tahoe Paradise neighborhood of El Dorado County. Project elements reduce fine sediment and nutrients from roadway runoff and contribute to regional efforts to restore the clarity of Lake Tahoe. Following Board authorization, staff will enter into a license agreement with El Dorado County to support the Project.

The recommended action supports the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy B, as the Project restores the resilience of the Lake Tahoe Basin's (Basin) forests and watersheds; and Goal 4, Strategy A, as the Project integrates climate science and adaptation in planning and investment. In addition, the Project supports the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

**Location:** The Project area is within an existing residential subdivision known as Tahoe Paradise, located along Oflyng Drive from Southern Pines Drive to the intersection with Pioneer Trail in El Dorado County. The Project is bordered by Skyline Drive to the north, Elks Club Drive to the east, Pioneer Trail to the south, and Southern Pines Drive to the west. Specifically, the Project is located in Sections 20, 21, 28, and 29 in Township 12 North and Range 18 East (Mt. Diablo Meridian) (Attachment 2).

**Fiscal Summary:** The proposed license agreement does not involve receipt of funds by the Conservancy, and will result in incidental staff costs related to the preparation and processing of the agreement.

#### Overview

## History

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection developed the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to guide regional efforts to restore Lake Tahoe's famed clarity. To support the TMDL, El Dorado County investigated the Project area in 2016 as part of a comprehensive effort to rank watersheds on their potential to deliver storm water pollutants to Lake Tahoe. During this preliminary investigation, El Dorado County determined that the Project area has significant eroding slopes, is in close proximity to the Upper Truckee River and Trout Creek, and poses a high risk for delivering pollutants to these waterbodies and eventually to Lake Tahoe. El Dorado County is therefore pursuing the Project to reduce pollutants from the Project area and assist the Basinwide partnership in attaining regional TMDL goals.

El Dorado County has worked over several years to address these storm water concerns. In 2017, El Dorado County received funding from the State Water Resources Control Board to develop feasibility studies and environmental documents for the Project. In 2018, El Dorado County developed a feasibility report for the Project and identified five Conservancy parcels as important locations on which to place storm water improvements to capture and treat the storm water. To comply with CEQA, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted a mitigated negative declaration (MND) and mitigation monitoring plan (MMP) for the Project. There were no public comments on the MND.

Between 1988 and 2004, the Conservancy acquired the five subject parcels to protect the natural environment and improve water quality. The Conservancy acquired three of these parcels under its Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program, one through the Land Coverage Program, and one through a donation. El Dorado County's request for a license agreement to access and build water quality infrastructure on these parcels is consistent with the purposes of these acquisitions.

## **Detailed Description of Recommended Action**

1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action El Dorado County requests a license agreement on five Conservancy parcels to support the Project. This involves one long-term license agreement on five Conservancy parcels, Assessment Numbers 081-092-009, 081-092-010, 081-111-012, 034-772-020, and 034-761-008 to construct and maintain water quality improvements. El Dorado County will construct conveyance channels and detention basins, and install perforated pipes to infiltrate storm water, which will increase ground water recharge and reduce storm water volumes, peak flows, and storm water pollutants.

If the Board authorizes the recommended action, staff will prepare the license agreement with legal staff assistance, deliver the agreement to El Dorado County for Board of Supervisor's authorization, and likely execute the agreement by fall 2019.

# 2. Benefits of the Recommended Action

The Project will result in ecosystem and watershed benefits, including the treatment of storm water runoff that discharges to the Upper Truckee River, Trout Creek, and eventually into Lake Tahoe. By constructing the Project, El Dorado County will reduce pollutants from their jurisdiction to assist in attaining their objectives under the TMDL. In addition, El Dorado County is analyzing the impacts of climate change to infrastructure in the Project area, and evaluating the need to increase the capacity of water quality elements. El Dorado County will also eradicate invasive terrestrial weeds in the Project area to enhance ecosystem conditions. The Project supports the EIP by improving storm water quality from urban areas.

## 3. Schedule

Following Board authorization, staff will prepare a license agreement for El Dorado County. Staff anticipates that the license agreement will be complete and recorded by fall 2019. El Dorado County is seeking grant funding to implement the Project in 2020.

## Financing

The proposed license agreement does not involve receipt of funds by the Conservancy, and will result in incidental staff costs related to the preparation and processing of the agreement. Consistent with the Conservancy's Special Use Guidelines, the Conservancy does not charge El Dorado County a fee for the use of Conservancy property because the Project is associated with water quality improvements.

# Authority

# Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended license is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.8 authorizes the Conservancy to lease any real property interest to fulfill the purposes of its enabling legislation and to promote the State's planning priorities. Under Government Code section 66907.9, the Conservancy is authorized to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of its land with local public agencies.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended action supports the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goal 2, as the license for use of Conservancy property for water quality improvements restores the resilience of the Basin's forests and watersheds. The Project supports the Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy B, which is to advance multiple benefit projects that creatively combine restoring and building the resilience of forests and watersheds with water quality protection, recreation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also supports Goal 4, Strategy A, by integrating climate change science and adaptation in planning and investment.

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

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Special Use Guidelines and Erosion Control Program Guidelines because the action furthers the Conservancy's overall agency purposes by allowing El Dorado County to construct and maintain storm water conveyance and treatment infrastructure to improve water quality for Lake Tahoe.

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

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP because it completes the implementation of EIP project #01.01.0021.

#### Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

El Dorado County, acting as the lead agency, prepared an initial study (IS)/MND, including an MMP, for the Project to comply with CEQA. El Dorado County adopted the MND and MMP on February 26, 2019. The MMP for the Project can be found on pages 119-122 of the IS/MND.

A copy of the IS/MND and MMP (Attachment 3) are available for review on <u>El Dorado</u> <u>County's website</u> and at the Conservancy office, 1061 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Staff reviewed the MND and believes that the Project is adequately analyzed in this document. Staff determined that the Project, as mitigated, would not cause a significant effect on the environment.

Staff recommends the Board review and consider the MND adopted by El Dorado County as lead agency; certify that it has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the potential environmental effects of the Project; make the findings as set forth in the attached resolution; adopt the MMP; and authorize the Project. If the Board considers and concurs with the MND and authorizes the license agreement, staff will file a notice of determination (NOD) with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA guidelines, section 15096 (Attachment 3).

#### List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Resolution 19-06-04 Attachment 2 – Project Map Attachment 3 – El Dorado County IS/MND, including the MMP Attachment 4 – Conservancy's NOD

#### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Mark Sedlock, Associate Environmental Planner

<u>mark.sedlock@tahoe.ca.gov</u>

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-06-04 Adopted: June 20, 2019

#### OFLYNG WATER QUALITY PROJECT LICENSE AGREEMENT

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) make the following findings based on the accompanying staff recommendation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.:

"The Conservancy, in its role as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has reviewed and considered El Dorado County's mitigated negative declaration for the Oflyng Water Quality Project (Project), which was adopted by El Dorado County on February 26, 2019. The Conservancy certifies that it has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed Project and finds, on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15097(d), the Conservancy adopts El Dorado County's mitigation monitoring plan (MMP) (Exhibit A), which ensures that required mitigation is implemented for the Project. The Conservancy incorporates the mitigation measures described in the MMP as a condition for approval of the Project.

The Conservancy hereby directs staff to file a notice of determination for this Project with the State Clearinghouse."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code section 66907.8 and 66907.9:

"The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to enter into a license agreement with El Dorado County, over portions of the County Assessment Numbers 081-092-009, 081-092-010, 081-111-012, 034-772-020, and 034-761-008, which permits the construction and maintenance of water quality improvements associated with the Project, and 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 20th day of June, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director

Exhibits:

• Exhibit A - El Dorado County's MMP

## Attachment A

Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan

The Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Oflyng Water Quality Project is available on <u>El Dorado County's website</u> at https://www.edcgov.us/government/dot/pages/ceqa.aspx.

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 8 June 20, 2019

## ALTA MIRA COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 19-06-05 (Attachment 1) authorizing staff to expend up to \$500,000 for planning activities associated with the Alta Mira Public Access Project (Project).

**Executive Summary:** This recommended action will authorize comprehensive planning to consider new beach access points and recreation amenities, such as Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pathways, gathering areas, seating, and improved lakefront views, while improving the quality of storm water and stabilizing sections of eroding shoreline at the south shore of Lake Tahoe on and around the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) Alta Mira property. Public access opportunities on the south shore of Lake Tahoe are limited, and peak summertime use places substantial pressure on existing recreation facilities. Additional improved lake access on the south shore is critical to connect all communities to the outstanding beaches and experiences that Lake Tahoe offers. The recommended action supports planning activities, which includes a comprehensive approach to public access and water quality enhancements at the eastern end of El Dorado Beach near Fremont Avenue, and at Connelley Beach in the vicinity of Takela Drive.

The Conservancy intends to advance Goal 3, Strategy A of its Strategic Plan by providing signature opportunities on Conservancy lands for all people to experience and enjoy Lake Tahoe; Goal 2, Strategy B, by advancing multiplebenefit improvements that creatively combine water quality and recreation improvements; and Goal 4, Strategy A, by integrating climate change resilience and adaptation planning and investment decision-making. In addition, the Project supports the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP).

**Location:** The Project area is located at El Dorado and Connelly Beaches in the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), California, approximately one third of a mile east of Lakeview Commons. The Project area encompasses three Conservancyowned parcels, one California State Lands Commission-owned parcel, two Cityowned parcels, one El Dorado County-owned parcel, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way, and private parcels (Attachment 2).

**Fiscal Summary:** Staff is requesting authorization to expend up to \$500,000 in Proposition 68 funding to support Project planning. Financing under the recommended action is contingent on the 2019 Budget Act enactment.

#### Overview

#### History

The Conservancy and partner agencies, including the California State Lands Commission, the City, and El Dorado County, own several properties within the Project area that present significant potential for enhanced lake access and connections to existing recreation facilities. Neighboring public recreation properties increase and leverage the value of the potential improvements. The Conservancy invested almost seven million dollars in the City's Lakeview Commons Project Phase 1 and 2 planning and Phase 1 construction. Lakeview Commons is located at El Dorado Beach, one third of a mile to the west of the Project. Were Lakeview Commons Phase 2 constructed, it would extend improvements eastward toward the Project area. The City recently completed the El Dorado to Ski Run Bike Trail, which provides a multi-modal trail connection along U.S. Highway 50, extending through Lakeview Commons and the Project area to Ski Run Boulevard.

In 2015, the Conservancy and partners collaborated on initial conceptual plans for redevelopment of a portion of the Project site for public access purposes. The design committee included the Conservancy, the Department of General Services (DGS), Design Workshop, Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe, the Tahoe Fund, the City, El Dorado County, and Caltrans. The Conservancy solicited public comment on draft concept alternatives at the Conservancy's April 2015 Board meeting, and at a May 2015 open house. The Conservancy placed the Project on temporary hold from 2015-2018 due to funding limitations.

In 2018, high lake levels coupled with extreme wind events significantly eroded the shoreline. The Conservancy removed approximately twenty hazard trees, and installed temporary measures to protect the bluff and keep the public out of unsafe areas. The Conservancy and DGS are implementing a slope stabilization project in 2019, which includes additional tree removal, site grading, and rock installation to reduce immediate slope instability. Recent slope failures and construction of the stabilization project are substantially changing site topography and access considerations.

The Conservancy is proposing to update and expand the 2015 concept plan to reflect the new site conditions and broaden the Project scope beyond the Alta Mira site. The Conservancy and DGS will perform immediate stabilization work in 2019, however the proposed new concept plan for improvements after 2019 will contemplate additional treatments such as boulders, retaining walls, and vegetation for long term protection and aesthetic and recreation enhancement. The Conservancy will evaluate other publically owned properties in the vicinity for potential new beach access points and recreation amenities, such as Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant pathways, gathering areas, seating, and improved lakefront views. Staff will also work closely with the City to consider options for regional storm water improvements. Lastly, the Conservancy and partners would then complete environmental review to prepare for implementation.

# **Detailed Description of Recommended Action**

1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action Conservancy staff requests authorization to expend up to \$500,000 to complete conceptual designs and environmental documentation. If authorized, Conservancy staff will work with DGS to hire a consultant, develop an interagency team, and move forward with conceptual designs and public engagement. The Conservancy, DGS, and a DGSmanaged consultant will then proceed with the environmental review process, which will include additional agency and public comment opportunities.

## 2. Benefits of the Recommended Action

Through the planning effort, the Conservancy will identify significant potential outdoor access improvements in a disadvantaged community, endeavor to make the site more resilient to climate change, and investigate approaches for making the steep bluffs more stable during extreme droughts and flood events. The Conservancy plans to work with the City to assess potential storm water improvements for adjacent areas to improve lake clarity. Potential improvements will also leverage existing adjacent recreation and transportation infrastructure, such as Lakeview Commons and the El Dorado to Ski Run Bike Trail, by connecting these public amenities to new public access opportunities along the lake shoreline.

Milestone	Milestone Date
Execute consultant contract	August 2019
Draft conceptual plan set	August 2019 – July 2020
Develop draft environmental document	January 2020 – July 2020
Circulate draft environmental document for comment	August 2020
Finalize environmental document	December 2020
Request Conservancy Board authorization for next steps	February/March 2021

## 3. Schedule

## Financing

The proposed Project funding source is California Proposition 68. Staff recommends the budget as shown below. The final budget amounts may vary between individual items from those shown, but expenditures will not exceed \$500,000.

Item	Amount
Conceptual plan set	\$270,000
Environmental review	\$200,000
Department of General Services Staff Time	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$500,000

## Authority

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

The recommended action 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, including protection of the natural environment. Under Government Code section 66907.9, the Conservancy is authorized to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of its land with public agencies or other entities. Under Government Code section 66906.8, the Conservancy is authorized to select and hire private consultants or contractors to achieve these purposes.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The Conservancy intends to advance Goal 3, Strategy A of its Strategic Plan by providing signature opportunities on Conservancy lands for all people to experience and enjoy Lake Tahoe; Goal 2, Strategy B, by advancing multiple-benefit improvements that creatively combine water quality and recreation improvements; and Goal 4, Strategy A, by integrating climate change resilience and adaptation planning and investment decision-making.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Public Access and Recreation Program Guidelines (2009). The potential improvements will increase regionally significant public access and recreational opportunities by creating new lake access points that are connected to existing recreation facilities.

# **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP because it advances the implementation of EIP Project #03.01.02.0087. The recommended action also supports several important California State mandates, such as the Sustainable Communities Act and Safeguarding California (the State's Climate Adaptation Strategy).

# Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the State of 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 this Project, and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. This Project qualifies for a statutory exemption under State CEQA Guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies. A notice of exemption (NOE) has been prepared for the Project (Attachment 3). If the Board approves the Project, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

# List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Resolution 19-06-05 Attachment 2 – Project Map Attachment 3 – Notice of Exemption

## **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Scott Cecchi, Associate Environmental Planner

scott.cecchi@tahoe.ca.gov

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-06-05 Adopted: June 20, 2019

## ALTA MIRA COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code sections 66906.8, 66907.9, and 66907.10:

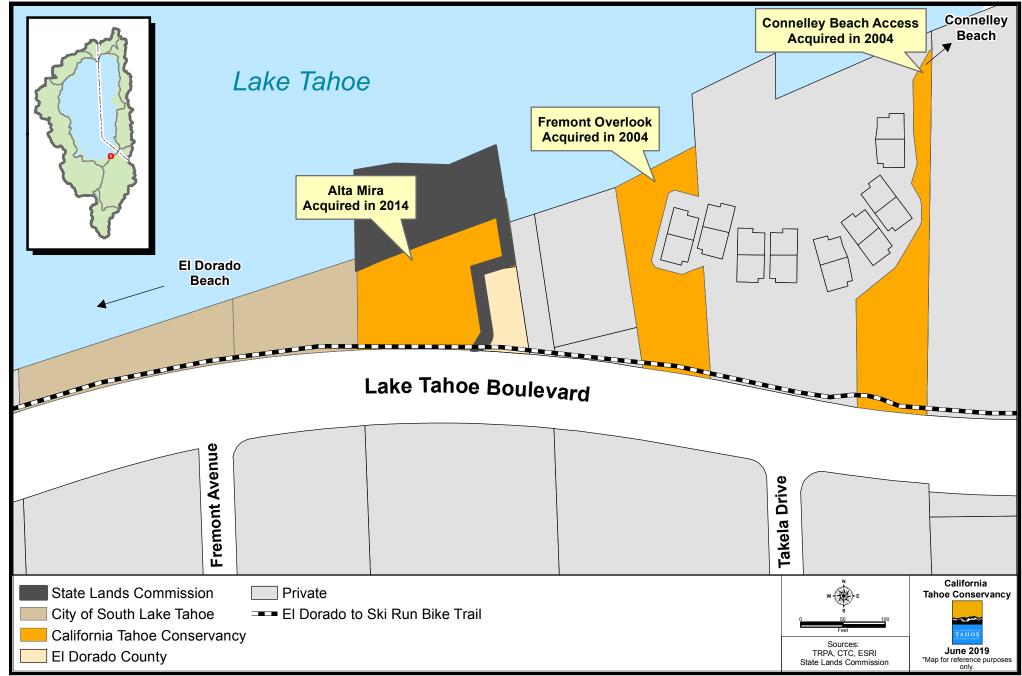
"The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to expend up to \$500,000 for planning activities associated with the Alta Mira Public Access Project, and to take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation."

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 20th day of June, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 2 Alta Mira Comprehensive Planning



## **ATTACHMENT 3**

#### 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:**

Alta Mira Comprehensive Planning

#### **Project Location – Specific:**

The project area is located at El Dorado and Connelly Beaches, in the City of South Lake Tahoe (City), California, approximately one third of a mile east of Lakeview Commons. The project area encompasses three Conservancy-owned parcels, one State Lands Commission-owned parcel, two City-owned parcels, one El Dorado County-owned parcel, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way, and private parcels. (Exhibit A)

## Project Location – City:

City of South Lake Tahoe

**Project Location – County:** El Dorado County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Planning activities for a public access and recreation site.

#### Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 6/20/2019) (Agenda Item 8)

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

California Tahoe Conservancy

#### **Exempt Status:**

Statutory Exemption (§ 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies)

#### Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project consists of planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions.

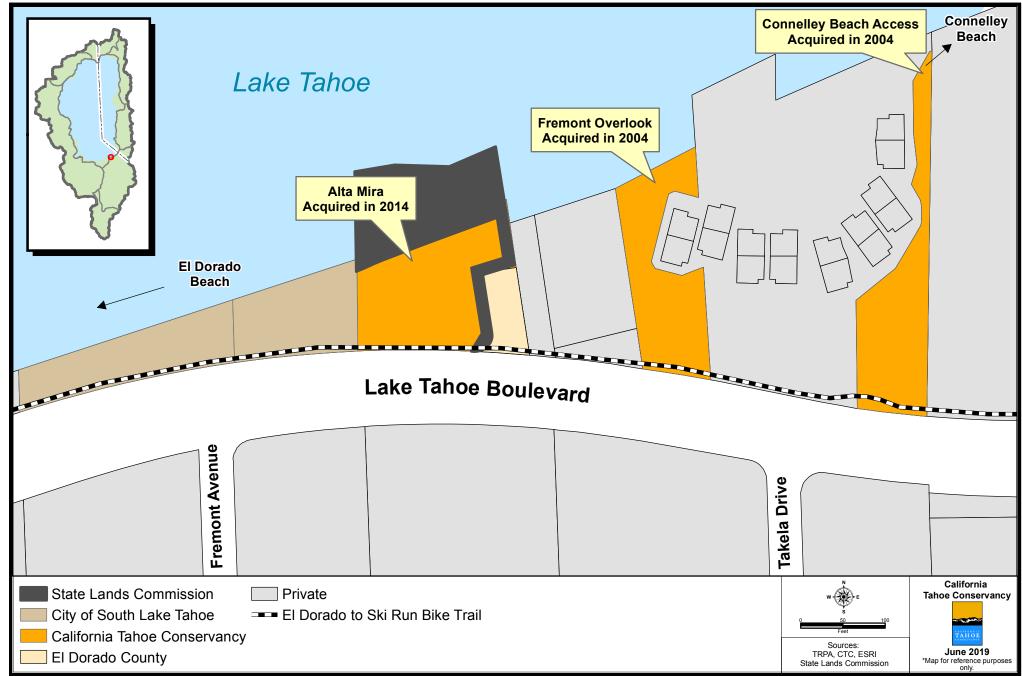
#### Contact Person: Scott Cecchi

**Telephone Number:** (530) 543-6015

#### Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright Executive Director

EXHIBIT A Alta Mira Comprehensive Planning



## California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 9 June 20, 2019

#### GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AGREEMENT

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 19-06-06 (Attachment 1) authorizing staff to accept and expend up to \$1,350,000 in federal funding to plan additional forest and watershed restoration activities for future implementation on State, federal, and other non-federal land pursuant to the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA).

**Executive Summary:** The GNA allows the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System Lands and complementary activities on non-federal lands. California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff seeks authorization to accept and expend federal funding to plan forest and watershed restoration activities on State, federal, and other non-federal land in accordance with the SPA, which the Board authorized staff to enter into in August 2018. This planning exceeds the scope and funding of the SPA pilot project that the Board previously authorized at the same time. The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire) and Goal 2 (Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds).

**Location:** Planning will cover State and National Forest System Lands, and other non-federal lands throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin).

**Fiscal Summary:** Receive and expend up to \$1,350,000 during the 2019/20 through 2021/22 fiscal years. Under the anticipated terms of the SPA, the USFS, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) will reimburse the Conservancy for actual costs, making the proposed action fiscally neutral to the State.

#### Overview

#### History

The GNA allows the USFS to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System Lands, and complementary activities on non-federal lands. An existing Master Good

Neighbor Agreement between the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and USFS Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) provides the basis for an SPA between the Conservancy and LTBMU.

On August 8, 2018, the Board authorized staff to enter into a GNA SPA with the LTBMU, to accept up to \$500,000 of Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) funds to pilot a Community Forestry and Fire Protection (CFFP) project, and to expend up to \$300,000 for planning and related costs associated with the CFFP pilot project.

Recognizing the need for stronger collaboration across a broader suite of initiatives and new funds coming available, staff and LTBMU determined it would be beneficial to broaden the scope of the SPA. Therefore, staff is working with LTBMU to develop a final SPA. Once completed, staff will begin work on the pilot project. Additionally, since the Board's August 2018 action, LTBMU has indicated a desire to make additional funding available to the Conservancy under the SPA. The money expected to be available consists of up to \$1,350,000 in federal funding. Given the increase in available federal funding, staff now seeks to plan additional activities under the SPA, beyond the CFFP pilot.

## Detailed Description of Recommended Action

1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action Staff seeks Board authorization to accept and expend additional federal money to plan forest and watershed restoration activities under the SPA. The planning is beyond the area and scope of the CFFP pilot project that the Board authorized in August 2018. The planning will likely include projects that are part of the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW) and the Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership; additional wildland-urban interface fuel reduction activities; and other forest and watershed improvement activities that are within the scope of the GNA.

The recommended action authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of federal money for planning activities. This will include, among other things, conducting lot inspections to assess fuels reduction and other needs, and performing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analyses. As needed, staff will seek future Board authorization to implement projects upon completion of planning and environmental review.

# 2. Benefits of the Recommended Action

The recommended action allows for increased flexibility to plan and conduct a wider range of activities under the SPA. The recommended action supports multiple Basin priorities, as described in the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. These plans establish goals for creating fire-adapted communities, identifying potential fuel reduction treatments, restoring and maintaining fire-resilient landscapes, and facilitating communication and cooperation among those responsible for implementation.

The recommended action also supports LTW, another Basin priority. The Conservancy, along with the LTBMU, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, National Forest Foundation, and Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, initiated LTW at the end of 2015 to increase the resilience of the west shore forests and watersheds to prolonged drought, wildfire, flooding, beetle epidemics, and climate change.

The activities that will be completed under this recommended action create a bridge between community forestry and fire protection and landscape restoration. The activities will coordinate fuels reduction and forest health efforts that protect communities from wildfire and improve the resilience of the Basin's forests and watersheds.

This recommended action also supports State mandates and priorities. Executive Orders B-52-18 and N-05-19 call for increasing the pace and scale of fuels reduction and forest health activities, and for working across all land ownerships to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

State priorities also include implementing the California Forest Carbon Plan. The Plan promotes healthy and resilient wildland and urban forests that enhance forest carbon storage and sequestration, and emphasizes working collaboratively at the landscape scale. Fuel reduction treatments involve some immediate loss of carbon, but these treatments can increase the stability of the remaining and future stored carbon.

## 3. Schedule

Planning for LTW will begin in the fall of 2019. Planning activities for the CFFP pilot project will likely begin in the summer/fall 2019, subsequent to execution of the SPA. The timing of other activities will be determined on an ongoing fashion.

## Financing

The Conservancy will receive and expend up to \$1,350,000 during the 2019/20 through 2021/22 fiscal years. Under the anticipated terms of the SPA, the LTBMU will reimburse the Conservancy for actual costs, making the proposed action fiscally neutral to the State.

## 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 funds from public sources. Additionally, section 66906.8 authorizes the Conservancy to select and hire consultants and contractors to provide services necessary to achieve the Conservancy's mission, including protection of the natural environment at Lake Tahoe. Pursuant to section 66907.7, the Conservancy may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for purposes consistent with its mission.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goal 1 (Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire) and Goal 2 (Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds).

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

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's Forest Improvement Program Guidelines. The planning activities will reduce the risk of property and forest loss from catastrophic wildfire, and increase the health and vigor of the retained trees. Future activities will sustain adaptive and resilient forests, restore forest mixture and structure, reduce hazardous fuels, protect wildlife, wetlands, and sensitive areas, and reduce insect and disease outbreaks. Healthy forests and watersheds, including meadows, are better equipped to deal with the effects of climate change, sequester carbon, increase visual appeal, and improve wildlife habitat.

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

The recommended action is consistent with the federal GNA, which authorizes the USFS to enter into agreements with states to carry out forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services. (16 U.S.C. § 2113a.)

## Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the State 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 CNRA to have no significant effect on the environment. Staff evaluated the planning activities and found them to be exempt under CEQA. These activities qualify for a statutory exemption under State CEQA Guidelines section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies). Staff prepared a notice of exemption

(NOE) for the activities (Attachment 2). If the Board approves the recommended action, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

## **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 19-06-06 Attachment 2 – Notice of Exemption

## **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Forest Schafer, Community Forestry Supervisor

forest.schafer@tahoe.ca.gov

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-06-06 Adopted: June 20, 2019

#### GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AGREEMENT

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code sections 66906.8, 66907.7, and 66908:

"The Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to accept and expend up to \$1,350,000 in federal funding to plan additional forest and watershed restoration activities for future implementation on State, federal, and other non-federal land pursuant to a Good Neighbor Authority Supplemental Project Agreement, and 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 20th day of June, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

#### 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:**

Good Neighbor Authority Supplemental Project Agreement

#### **Project Location – Specific:**

State, National Forest System Lands, and other non-federal lands throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin

**Project Location – City:** N/A

**Project Location – County:** El Dorado and Placer

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

The purpose of this authorization is to receive and expend federal funding from the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to plan forest and watershed restoration activities on State, federal, and other non-federal land.

#### Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 6/20/2019) (Agenda Item 9Click here to enter text.)

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

California Tahoe Conservancy

#### **Exempt Status:**

Statutory Exemption (§ 15262) (Feasibility and Planning Studies)

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

The authorization enables planning of possible future forest and watershed restoration activities.

#### **Contact Person:** Forest Schafer

**Telephone Number:** (530) 543-6003

#### Date Received for Filing:

Patrick Wright Executive Director California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 10 June 20, 2019

## FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 ANNUAL PROGRAM BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 19-06-07 (Attachment 1) authorizing the expenditure of up to \$3,160,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/20 for purposes that include feasibility analysis, project planning and monitoring, land management, technical assistance, and land bank activities.

**Executive Summary:** This staff recommendation provides an overview of the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) expected FY 2019/20 budget and priorities and requests Board authorization of up to \$3,160,000 in State operational and capital fund program expenditures. This is an annual authorization for expenditures including consultant and contract services, license plate marketing, and land bank operational plans. The proposed authorization is an estimate and reflects potential expenditures based on prior experience. Actual expenditures depend upon the enactment of the budget, and relative Conservancy priorities as established throughout the FY, but will not exceed the total funds requested.

The recommended activities are consistent with all of the Strategic Plan's goals and strategies including: Goal I - Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire; Goal II - Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds; Goal III - Provide Public Access and Outdoor Recreation for all Communities; Goal IV - Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities; and Goal V - Strive for Organizational Learning and Excellence.

**Location:** Program and project activities throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin).

**Fiscal Summary:** The requested FY 2019/20 annual authorization is \$3,160,000 from State operational and capital funding sources (Propositions [Prop.] 1, 40, 68, 84, Habitat Conservation Fund, General Fund, Tahoe Conservancy Fund, and Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account).

#### Overview

## History

Staff submitted a proposed FY 2019/20 budget and related materials to the California Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Finance during the fall of 2018. The Governor's Budget included most of the Conservancy's proposals. The legislature is preparing a final budget now and once enacted, funding will be available in the new FY, starting July 1, 2019 (Attachment 2).

The proposed FY 2019/20 budget includes:

- \$26,112,000 in capital outlay and local assistance funding for the Conservancy's programs, including support of the Basin's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The Conservancy generally uses capital outlay and local assistance funding for its projects and acquisitions, and grants to Basin partners, respectively. The funding sources include:
  - \$17,309,000 in bond (e.g., Props. 1, 68, 84) funds available to the Conservancy;
  - \$2,054,000 in special funds (e.g., Habitat Conservation Fund) dedicated to the Conservancy; and
  - \$6,749,000 in authority to accept and use grants through the Federal Trust Fund and other reimbursements.
- \$12,403,000 and 43 personnel years for ongoing support. Support funding is for operations such as salaries and benefits, building lease, land management contracts, including the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) crew support, Lake Tahoe license plate marketing, and technical assistance and planning and monitoring contracts. The Conservancy's support funding comes from various bonds, special funds, and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy, rather than from the General Fund, with the exception of a one-time General Fund allocation in this coming FY for deferred maintenance projects. The support budget includes funding from the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF), Props. 1, 12, 40, 50, 68, Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe license plate revenues, and other revenues and reimbursements to the Tahoe Conservancy Fund. It also includes up to \$2,891,000 in federal and State grant reimbursements for staff activities directly related to project implementation.
- The Conservancy's proposed FY 2019/20 budget includes the following new items:
  - Six new positions: four positions plus \$2,279,000 in Prop. 68 funding to implement Prop. 68 provisions as part of the Conservancy's recently adopted Strategic Plan; one Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative position; and one grant manager position.

- A joint Lake Tahoe Science and Nearshore Water Quality Program Officer position with the California Natural Resources Agency. The position is the Program Officer for the Tahoe Science Advisory Council and associated Bi-State Executive Committee, and the Conservancy's lead for its nearshore water quality program, which includes aquatic invasive species (AIS), storm water, and nearshore issues.
- Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) Program funding (\$6,997,000 from Prop.68 and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) excess coverage mitigation fees) for opportunistic land and building acquisitions.
- Prop. 68 funding for the Alta Mira Public Access Project comprehensive planning (For more information see agenda item 8).
- Prop. 68 (\$5,000,000) for local assistance grants.
- A one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 to address deferred maintenance needs on Conservancy lands and facilities.

The following are the Conservancy's FY 2019/20 priorities, by Strategic Plan goals, that are supported by the proposed FY 2019/20 budget.

<u>Goal I – Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire</u> The Conservancy owns and manages nearly 4,700 parcels, including thousands of quarter-acre lots within the Basin's urban areas. These parcels provide open space, water quality, and recreational benefits, and significantly reduce the potential level of development in the Basin. Yet, they also present management challenges for the Land Management Program including trespass and encroachments, responding to citizen concerns, and public facilities maintenance. Conservancy staff and Tahoe RCD crew inspect, restore, and protect these parcels and provide outreach and education at high use sites, such as the Upper Truckee Marsh. The Conservancy also coordinates interagency forest health projects and works with the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) to more effectively fund and implement vegetation treatments on Conservancy and LTBMU urban parcels.

FY 2019/20 Major Priorities:

Forest Health/Fuels Reduction/Hazard Tree Abatement

- Continue to use Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16, Federal Emergency Management Act, and various State funding to plan and implement high priority Community Wildfire Protection Plan projects.
- Assist Liberty Utilities with forestry maintenance of power line corridors through Conservancy parcels.
- Establish a Supplemental Project Agreement under Good Neighbor Authority with the LTBMU to improve community wildfire protection and resilience.

Urban Lot and Recreation Facilities Management

- Implement the Conservancy's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan and associated upgrades.
- Maintain, restore, and inspect Conservancy lots for water quality, forestry, habitat, and recreational purposes.
- Continue to resolve and reduce backlog of 533 encroachments on Conservancy lands.

Land Transfers

• Continue to work towards Lake Tahoe Restoration Act land transfers among LTBMU, the Conservancy, and California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

Water Quality Protection

• Use Conservancy upland roads inventory to prioritize and plan resource projects that advance the Basin's Total Maximum Daily Load water quality requirements.

**Deferred Maintenance:** 

• Conduct deferred maintenance to retain the value of Conservancy investments.

## <u>Goal II – Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds</u>

The Conservancy has launched landscape initiatives that deliberately work across land ownerships and jurisdictions to create management efficiencies of scale and scope. This approach increases the pace and scale of restoration in the Basin. Over the next year, the Conservancy will focus much of its efforts on three landscape initiatives: the Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership (UTP), Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), and the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW). In addition to these initiatives, the Conservancy will continue to invest in a range of EIP multiplebenefit forest health, watershed restoration, storm water, and AIS projects.

FY 2019/20 Major Priorities:

- Continue to administer and complete by June 2020 16 Prop. 1 grants for planning, implementation, and acquisition projects, which will collectively result in significant acquisitions, AIS control, storm water treatment, and planning products to support future project implementation.
- Collaboratively lead the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and hazardous fuel reduction grant coordination efforts.
- Collaboratively lead landscape-level and programmatic planning efforts, including:
  - LTW, which is completing science modeling and a landscape restoration strategy, and developing an environmental review approach for 60,000 acres on the west shore. Subsequent project planning will begin early in 2020.
  - TCSI, which is a science-based effort that will restore social and ecological resilience to a 2.4 million-acre landscape that includes the

Basin. The Conservancy plans to hire a TCSI coordinator to support landscape assessment, research, and planning necessary to overcome barriers to increasing the scale of forest restoration.

- Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR), which is comprehensively analyzing forest fuels treatments across State and private lands on the California side of the Basin, to meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The PTEIR will accelerate landscape-level implementation of fuels treatments and related projects.
- UTP, which will link resource protection and restoration, recreation, and transportation projects within the region. The greater watershed includes the Upper Truckee River and Trout Creek watersheds, but also contains some smaller adjacent watersheds (Bijou, Bijou Park, Camp Richardson, Taylor, and Tallac). UTP partners currently preparing a synthesis of existing work within the watershed.
- Collaboratively develop a Basinwide AIS performance and investment plan that includes a common set of performance measures, an action plan that provides a systematic approach to management, and an investment plan that optimizes spending on AIS control.
- Enhance storm water planning, including analyzing storm water metrics and improving regional approaches to storm water management.
- Implement projects on Conservancy land, including :
  - Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration: Pursue and secure additional external project funding to support restoration implementation efforts. Secure oversight agency approvals to proceed with construction. Advertise for construction bids, award contract, and start construction in spring 2020.
  - Tahoe Pines Restoration Project: Work with California Department of General Services to put the project out to bid and award construction contract.

## <u>Goal III – Provide Public Access and Outdoor Recreation for All Communities</u>

With new Prop. 68 funding, the Conservancy will support public access and outdoor recreation projects and focus on improving community access to outdoor recreation in the disadvantaged communities of South Lake Tahoe and Kings Beach. The Conservancy will also continue to integrate public access into its landscape restoration projects.

FY 2019/20 Major Priorities:

Implement Conservancy projects with partners, including:

- South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail, Phase 1b/2:
  - Work with El Dorado County to finalize construction plans, obtain permits, and start construction during spring of 2020.

- Alta Mira:
  - Complete slope stabilization work.
  - Work with partners to explore options and start environmental review for comprehensive recreation and storm water improvements.

Coordination on partner projects:

- Participate on and lead interagency and stakeholder EIP committees to coordinate and facilitate EIP implementation.
- Award new grants with Prop. 68 or other funding, which will support partners in advancing priority projects.
- Continue partnerships to envision and pursue multiple-benefit recreation projects.
- Continue partnering with DPR and others to identify implementation funding for the Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan and Pier Rebuild Project.

<u>Goal IV – Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities</u> The Conservancy is developing a Basinwide Climate Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP). The CAAP assesses the Basin's vulnerability to climate change impacts and identifies specific agency commitments to adaptation projects and programs. The Conservancy is also addressing climate impacts through the TLC Program. The TLC program prioritizes the following land transactions:

- Acquire and restore aging developed properties on environmentally sensitive lands, and either retire or transfer the associated development rights to town centers;
- 2. Sell, lease, or exchange vacant Conservancy land in town centers; and
- 3. Prevent future development by acquiring the remaining private properties in several of Lake Tahoe's roadless subdivisions.

FY 2019/20 Major Priorities:

**Climate Adaptation** 

- Lead the development of an interagency CAAP. The CAAP will advance the State's climate adaptation strategy (Safeguarding California 2018 Update), and support Conservancy and partner climate adaptation and restoration projects. The CAAP includes the following deliverables:
  - Climate change vulnerability assessment for all natural resource topics (including Lake Tahoe, forests, fish, and wildlife), as well as the built environment and communities (transportation, water and energy infrastructure, public health, recreation and cultural resources, and public safety).
  - Corresponding analyses of economic costs of climate change impacts.
  - An action plan that identifies specific actions that partner agencies and organizations commit to implementing in the next two to three years.

 Translation of the CAAP into visually accessible communications for public outreach and awareness, including disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

The CAAP will provide the foundation for subsequent Conservancy investment in the highest priority scientific and engineering information and technical guidance needed to ensure Conservancy projects meet the State requirement to integrate climate change, and to support Basin partners in their own adaptation planning.

Tahoe Livable Communities

- Partner with Strategic Growth Council to coordinate and integrate State agency investments in the Basin to meet State and regional goals, with a particular focus on sustainable communities and climate change adaptation programs.
- Pursue key acquisitions, including TLC program parcels.
- Continue to transfer coverage and marketable rights pursuant to TRPA, local, community, and State planning goals.
- Continue pre-sale activities on asset lands.

<u>Goal V – Strive for Organizational Learning and Excellence</u>

The Conservancy's operations provide the organizational backbone for its programs and investments. As a major part of implementing the Strategic Plan, staff has developed operational plans that guide how day-to-day tasks and project work contribute to Strategic Plan goals. The Conservancy will also fill key vacancies, provide professional development and mentorship, and upgrade its financial, recordkeeping, and other support systems to improve the accountability, transparency, and cost effectiveness of its programs.

FY 2019/20 Major Priorities:

- Invest in professional development and workforce health to increase staff autonomy and leadership, improve work products and efficiency, and retain staff for the long term.
- Support Conservancy Board members in learning about and developing fluency with Conservancy programs and operations.
- Seek updates to the Conservancy's legislative authority for implementing State priorities.
- Improve federal grant billing and reporting to support Conservancy expansion of grant-funded projects and programs.
- Continue integration of the State accounting system with bond accountability and reporting software.
- Continue accounting reconciliation of the federal trust fund account and reappropriate deposits into FY 2020/21 budget.
- Improve processes to monitor and document past projects, and work with partners to enhance their similar processes.
- Further develop and expand internal guidance documents related to grant and project management.

• Provide administrative, marketing, and other promotional activities associated with encouraging the sale of Lake Tahoe license plates.

## Detailed Description of Recommended Action

1. Major Elements and/or Steps of the Recommended Action The recommended authorization encompasses program expenditures during FY 2019/20 to implement the Conservancy operational plans. This is an annual authorization of expenditures to secure consultant and contract services and resources and for land bank operations. The requested funding amount up to \$3,160,000 is a subset of the overall Governor's Budget for the Conservancy and State and includes \$3,005,000 in State operational funds and \$155,000 in capital outlay funds.

Additionally, the Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account and Environmental License Plate Fund will provide up to \$170,000 for license plate marketing. Vehicle Code section 5060 provides that up to 25 percent of the Lake Tahoe license plate revenues may be used for administrative, marketing, and other promotional activities associated with encouraging the sale of plates. The recommended authorization falls within this threshold.

Budget Authorization	FY 2019/20 Funding
Feasibility, Planning, and Monitoring	
Forest Climate Assessment	\$110,000
Storm Water Monitoring	50,000
License Plate Marketing	170,000
Technical Assistance to Support Key Partnerships	
Climate Adaptation	965,000
Greater Upper Truckee River Watershed Partnership	410,000
TLC Benefit Quantification	100,000
Land Management on Conservancy Parcels	
Deferred Maintenance	1,000,000
Maintenance	200,000
Restoration Projects	155,000
Total	\$3,160,000

As described above, staff has identified activities to support the land management program, which are part of this Board authorization.

The Conservancy was appropriated \$1,000,000 in General Fund to address deferred maintenance on its lands and facilities. Staff prepared a list of projects per Department of Finance direction. To better assist the decision-making process and identify the highest priority needs, staff rated each deficiency based on the five criteria below. While staff ranked needs to prepare the following distribution, in practice staff will use the funds for the highest and best use at the actual time of expenditure. The Conservancy reserves the right to modify deferred maintenance priorities to allow flexibility to

accommodate changing circumstances over the next year including, but not limited to: compliance requirements, contracting issues, staff workload, emerging issues, and other organizational funding constraints and opportunities. Staff considered the following:

- 1. **Public Health and Safety including Fire Risk** The degree to which deferred maintenance will maintain Conservancy lands in a condition that is safe for the public and promotes public health, including reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- 2. **Purpose of Acquisition** The degree to which deferred maintenance will maintain and protect the purpose of initial acquisition and accomplish the Conservancy's mission.
- Regulatory Requirements The degree to which deferred maintenance is necessary to comply with regulatory requirements, such as water quality protection.
- 4. **Increased Future Costs** The degree to which the Conservancy can avoid increased costs associated with remediating deterioration that has continued over time, rather than remediating deterioration soon after it starts.
- 5. **Facility Maintenance** The degree to which deferred maintenance protects facilities and maintains Conservancy capital investments.

Distribution of Deferred Maintenance Funds	
Facilities and Land Management	\$457,000
Forest Management	243,000
Restoration Associated with Encroachment Resolution	300,000
Total:	\$1,000,000

## Authority

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Enabling Legislation

Implementation of this project/program is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66906.8 authorizes the Conservancy to select and hire consultants or contractors to provide services necessary to achieve the purposes of the Conservancy, including protection of the natural environment at Lake Tahoe. Government Code section 66907.8 authorizes the Conservancy to lease, rent, or otherwise transfer, including through license agreements, any real property interest to fulfill the purposes of its enabling legislation and to promote the State's planning priorities. Under Government Code section 66907.9, the Conservancy is authorized to initiate, negotiate, and participate in agreements for the management of

land under its ownership and control with local agencies, nonprofit organizations, individuals, corporate entities, or partnerships. Government Code section 66907.10 authorizes the Conservancy to improve and develop acquired lands for a variety of purposes, including protection of the natural environment, protection of public access and recreational facilities, preservation of wildlife habitat areas, and facilitation of access to and management of Conservancy-owned lands.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended activities are consistent with all of the Strategic Plan goals and strategies including: Goal I - Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire; Goal II - Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds; Goal III - Provide Public Access and Outdoor Recreation for all Communities; Goal IV - Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities; and Goal V - Strive for Organizational Learning and Excellence.

## Consistency with the Conservancy's Program Guidelines

The recommended action is consistent with the Board's existing policy direction, including the Special Use Guidelines, Forestry Guidelines, and Land Transfer Guidelines.

## **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended funds allow the Conservancy to conduct feasibility and conceptual analysis, which may result in projects that fulfill EIP, sustainability, and other Conservancy and statewide resource and environmental objectives. The land management activities are consistent with the EIP because they implement EIP project # 06.01.03.0002 - California Tahoe Conservancy Land Management Program, and facilitate the implementation of other individual EIP projects related to forestry and restoration.

# Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

The Annual Program Budget Authorization does not involve any commitment to any specific activity which has the potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is therefore not a "project" within the meaning of CEQA. Staff will evaluate individual projects, however, prior to implementation to determine the appropriate level of CEQA review.

# **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Resolution 19-06-07 Attachment 2 – Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget

## **Conservancy Staff Contacts**

Matt Whalen, Budget Officer Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer matt.whalen@tahoe.ca.gov kevin.prior@tahoe.ca.gov

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy Resolution 19-06-07 Adopted: June 20, 2019

#### FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 ANNUAL PROGRAM BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

Staff recommends that the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) adopt the following resolution pursuant to Government Code sections 66906.8, 66907.8, 66907.9, and 66907.10:

"Conditioned upon and subject to the enactment of the Budget Act of 2019, the Conservancy hereby authorizes staff to expend up to \$3,160,000 for purposes that include feasibility analysis, project planning and monitoring, land management, technical assistance, and land bank activities, and 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 20th day of June, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of June, 2019.

Patrick Wright Executive Director

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

## CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 BUDGET

The following is a summary of the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) fiscal year (FY) 2019/20 budget, which includes capital outlay and local assistance, and support. Capital outlay refers to funding to support projects on Conservancy land. Local assistance is funding provided as grants and agreements to local and State agencies, research institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Support refers to operational items such as salaries and benefits, rent and facilities costs, and costs associated with managing programs and land.

#### **Capital Outlay and Local Assistance Budget**

The capital outlay and local assistance budget provides funding for the Conservancy to meet the State's commitment and responsibilities under the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), and fulfill priorities identified in the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. As of July 1, 2019, the Conservancy will have a total available balance of \$19,363,000 in State capital outlay and local assistance funding, and has secured authority for \$6,749,000 in reimbursements from State or federal grants. Additional details on Conservancy commitments and funding authorities follow:

#### **Capital Outlay and Local Assistance Funding**

Conservancy Dedicated Funds	Fiscal Year 2019/20	
Tahoe Conservancy Fund	\$	204,000
Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account (i.e., LT license		
plate fees)		200,000
Lake Tahoe Science & Improvement Fund (S.B. 630)		450,000
Habitat Conservation Fund		1,200,000
Conservancy Bond Allocations		
Proposition 12		95,000
Proposition 40		274,000
Proposition 50		211,000
Proposition 1		1,039,000
Proposition 68		13,800,000
Proposition 84		1,890,000
Other Funding Sources		
Reimbursements (from State and federal grants)		6,749,000
Total	\$	26,112,000

A brief description of the Conservancy's varied funding sources follows:

Proposition 1, 12, 40, 50, and 84 Bonds:

During the 2000s, California voters passed a series of bonds that included allocations to the Conservancy to fund EIP implementation activities. This includes allocations totaling \$15 million under Proposition 1, \$50 million under Proposition 12, \$40 million under Proposition 40, \$40 million under Proposition 50, and \$36 million under Proposition 84. The Conservancy has spent most bond funds under prior appropriations. The Conservancy will receive remaining fund balance appropriations of 1, 12, 40, 50, and 84 bond funds in FY 2019/20.

- \$1.039.000 from Proposition 1
- \$95,000 from Proposition 12
- \$274,000 from Proposition 40
- \$211,000 from Proposition 50
- \$1,890,000 from Proposition 84

## Proposition 68 Bond:

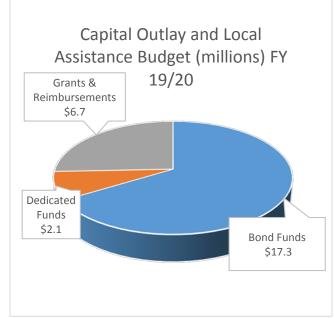
On June 5, 2018, voters approved Proposition 68. The Proposition provides bond funding for parks and other activities and includes \$27 million for the Conservancy for projects consistent with its statutory authority. In the FY 2019/20 budget, \$3,200,000 will be available for the Upper Truckee River (UTR) and Marsh Restoration Project, \$600,000 for the Alta Mira Public Access Project, \$5,000,000 for local assistance grants, and \$5,000,000 for opportunistic acquisitions. Board authorization is required for \$500,000 for the planning portion of the Alta Mira Public Access Project.

# Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF):

The Mountain Lion Initiative (Proposition 117) of 1990 established the HCF. The measure mandates annual appropriations totaling \$30 million statewide for wildlife and wildlife habitat projects through FY 2019/20. The Conservancy's annual appropriation is \$341,000 (\$322,000 for capital outlay, with the remaining \$19,000 for the support budget). The Conservancy uses these funds for a variety of specified wildlife habitatrelated purposes.

# Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account (LTCA):

The legislature established the Lake Tahoe license plate in 1993. The Conservancy uses proceeds from the plates for preservation and restoration projects, and to construct trails and other forms of non-motorized public access at Lake Tahoe. In the FY 2019/20 budget, \$100,000 is included for local assistance or capital outlay purposes (an additional \$984,000 is in the support budget for staff efforts for these purposes).



In addition, California Department of Parks and Recreation is receiving a direct appropriation of LTCA monies to fund management activities on Conservancy-owned beaches on the north shore. This arrangement will continue at \$120,000 in FY 2019/20.

#### Tahoe Conservancy Fund (TCF):

The Conservancy's enabling legislation establishes the TCF. Monies in the fund are available for the purposes of the enabling legislation when appropriated by the Legislature. Deposits into the fund include Land Bank proceeds, special use fees, lease and license revenues, Asset Land sales, donations, and other miscellaneous revenues. In FY 2019/20, \$204,000 will be appropriated for minor capital outlay projects (an additional \$722,000 is included in the support budget).

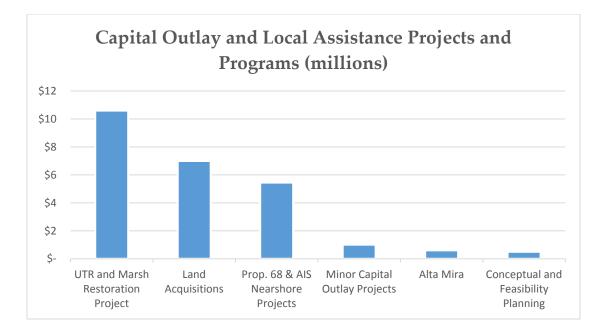
#### Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account (S.B. 630):

In 2013, the Legislature and Governor approved S.B. 630 establishing the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account. 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, near-shore aquatic invasive species (AIS) or public access projects, and near-shore water quality monitoring. Funding for near-shore monitoring must be matched by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (or another public agency), and funding for near-shore projects must be matched by the Conservancy or another public entity. In the FY 2019/20 budget, \$450,000 is appropriated to the Conservancy (an additional \$1,000 is included in the support budget).

#### Other Funding Sources:

The Conservancy will receive reimbursement authority for federal funds and other reimbursements (e.g., State grants) of up to \$8,937,000 in FY 2019/20. This reimbursement authority will provide an accounting mechanism to apply and receive grant monies and other reimbursements.

Conservancy staff will use the capital and local assistance funding sources to help complete the following projects and programs.



## UTR and Marsh Restoration Project (Construction Phase) - \$10,598,000:

Staff and contracted consultants will restore natural processes and functions of Conservancy-owned or controlled lands within the UTR and Marsh. The project improvements will enhance the area's ecological values and water filtering capacity, with a complementary and appropriate level of recreation infrastructure. Funding for the construction phase was provided in FY 2018/19, however a re-appropriation was requested to match the construction timeline.

#### Opportunity Land Acquisitions - \$6,997,000:

Staff will pursue pre-acquisition activities and execute strategic acquisitions in roadless subdivisions, high priority watersheds, lakefront areas, or other environmentally sensitive or significant resource areas.

#### Grants for Proposition 68, AIS, and Nearshore Projects - \$5,450,000:

Through a partnership, including State, federal, and local government agencies, as well as private and nonprofit sector stakeholders, staff will recommend grants for projects that provide public access or for near-shore environmental improvement activities.

#### Minor Capital Outlay Projects - \$1,006,000:

Staff and contracted work crews will design and implement minor improvements needed for management of open space, upgrades on developed facilities, and improvements to water quality.

#### Alta Mira Public Access Project (Study Phase) - \$600,000

The Conservancy will expend \$500,000 to initiate comprehensive planning to improve public access and site resilience to climate change in the area around the Conservancy's Alta Mira property. Conservancy staff costs will be \$100,000 to manage the project.

# Conceptual and Feasibility Planning - \$322,000:

This line item appropriation funds investigation of project opportunities for a number of Conservancy ownerships along the UTR, at several potential lakefront access points, and other sites requiring restorative treatments and improvements. Staff anticipates this will lead to the creation of future funding proposals for preliminary planning, working drawings, and construction phases of projects.

#### Support Budget

The Conservancy's FY 2019/20 support budget includes a baseline budget of \$12,403,000 and 43 positions for the Conservancy's support function (i.e., staff services, office operations, and management of acquired lands). This involves \$10,215,000 from various State sources. In addition, the budget provides authority for up to \$2,188,000 in staff and related support costs from federal and other reimbursements.

The following is a comparison of positions and expenditures between FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20.

#### Total Positions and Expenditures

	Positions		Expenditures	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
	Estimated	Proposed	Estimated	Proposed
Total Positions, Wages	37	43	\$ 4,942,000	\$ 5,750,000
Operating Expenses and Equipment			2,987,000	6,653,000
Totals, Positions and Expenditures			\$ 7,929,000	\$ 12,403,000

The Conservancy's budget increased from \$7,929,000 to \$12,403,000 from FY 2018/19 to FY 2019/20. Detailed below, the increase is due to a one-time general fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 to support deferred maintenance on Conservancy land, \$2,279,000 of Proposition 68 funding for both staff time and contract costs to implement Proposition 68 and Strategic Plan priorities, and an increase from \$808,000 to \$2,188,000 of State and local reimbursement authority to implement grants the Conservancy has received to carry out its Strategic Plan.

## **Conservancy Support Funds**

Conservancy Funds	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	-	\$1,000,000
Environmental License Plate	3,843,000	3,961,000
Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account	1,034,000	984,000
Tahoe Conservancy Fund	708,000	722,000
Lake Tahoe Science Improvement Account (S.B. 630)	50,000	1,000
Habitat Conservation Fund	19,000	19,000
Conservancy Bond Allocations		
Proposition 1	772,000	454,000
Proposition 12	21,000	21,000
Proposition 40	50,000	50,000
Proposition 50	21,000	21,000
Proposition 68	0	2,279,000
Other Funding Sources		
Federal Trust Fund	603,000	703,000
Reimbursements	808,000	2,188,000
Totals, Expenditures, All Funds	\$7,929,000	\$12,403,000

The Conservancy's support funding sources not already discussed in the Capital and Local Assistance budget follows:

## Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF):

The ELPF was established in 1979 to fund the California Environmental Protection Program. Funding is derived from the sale of personalized motor vehicle license plates. Beginning in FY 2002/03, Conservancy funding shifted from the General Fund to ELPF to support the Conservancy's operations. The Conservancy will receive \$3.9 million in FY FY 2019/20.

## Proposition 1 Bond:

Proposition 1, approved in November 2014, provided \$15 million to the Conservancy to fund multiple-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects through the award of competitive grants. After deducting statewide bond processing costs, program delivery costs, and ten percent to support planning and monitoring activities, the Conservancy had approximately \$12.6 million to award to high priority projects. The Board authorized the award of all of the \$12.6 million for grants in 2016 and 2017. The Conservancy will receive \$454,000 in Proposition 1 planning, monitoring, and program delivery funding in FY 2019/20 to ensure grantees implement the projects successfully and the benefits associated with the projects are fully realized.

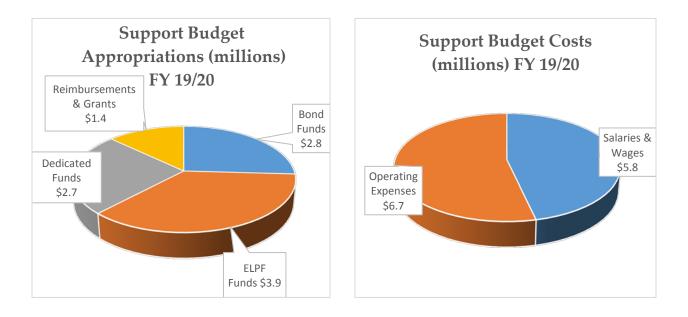
## Proposition 68 Bond:

The Conservancy will receive \$2,279,000 of Prop. 68 in the support budget. The funding will: accelerate implementation of Proposition 68 programs; provide enhanced technical assistance to support pending Proposition 68 grants; and facilitate increased alignment between Proposition 68 programs and the Conservancy's recently adopted Strategic Plan.

#### Other Funding Sources:

In addition, an estimated carryover of \$116,000 in funding is available for Conservancy expenditures from the Beverly Charter Trust Fund.

The following pie charts summarize the FY 2019/20 appropriations and budgeted costs.



California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 11 June 20, 2019

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) serves as the signature program to restore and protect natural resources in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin). Since 1997, EIP partner agencies have invested over \$2 billion in over 600 projects to help attain the collective environmental goals of the region. More than fifty partners plan and implement these projects through a collaborative process overseen by the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee (TIE SC). Eleven work groups provide month-to-month coordination and guidance for project planning, implementation, and monitoring. The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) represents the California sector in the EIP and on the TIE SC. The State of California has invested over \$850 million in the EIP, including more than \$500 million from the Conservancy.

In 2008, the EIP partners updated the EIP goals, priorities, and strategies for the next decade (2008-2018). They took the original list of projects and created six priority areas, with the last two supporting the entire program. These include:

- 1. Watersheds, Habitat, and Water Quality
- 2. Forest Management
- 3. Air Quality and Transportation
- 4. Recreation and Scenic Resources
- 5. Applied Science
- 6. Program Support

Each year the TIE SC reports on project and programmatic accomplishments. For example, signature accomplishments in 2017 included completing: the Angora Ridge bike trail; water quality improvements at Zephyr Cove; Snow Creek wetland restoration; Basinwide boat inspections to exclude new aquatic invasive species; and over 3,500 acres of hazardous fuels treatment. In 2018, accomplishments included: acquiring Johnson Meadow, the largest remaining private parcel along the Upper Truckee River; completing the Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail; retrofitting Roundhill Pines Resort to prevent water quality degradation; and approving the Kings Beach Public Pier Rebuild project. The EIP partners also invest consistently in scientific research to advance program areas.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's website and data platform (https://laketahoeinfo.org/) provides a one-stop shop for tracking EIP project implementation, lake clarity, Basin thresholds, sustainability measures, and other critical environmental information. The website improves Basinwide transparency and accountability for the use of public and private funds, and also aids future project planning.

In late 2018, the TIE SC initiated an update to the EIP to once again refresh and renew goals, priorities, and strategies for the future. The first phase involves reviewing the six priority areas and cross-cutting themes to ensure they align with the following: Basinwide trends in climate change and visitation; revisions to major Basin plans, such as the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan; and evolving state, federal, and local government priorities. The TIE SC will complete this first step before the annual Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit in August. The second phase involves strengthening the conceptual models that underlie EIP performance measures, and will take several more months. At its annual retreat in December 2018, the TIE SC agreed to have the update look out over five years, instead of ten, to ensure the document stays current.

Tentatively, the priority areas may include the following:

- 1. Watersheds and Water Quality
- 2. Forest Health
- 3. Transportation and Sustainable Recreation
- 4. Sustainable Communities
- 5. Science, Stewardship, and Accountability

Cross-cutting themes could include topics such as climate change adaptation, visitor experience, landscape restoration, air quality protection, scenic quality, and resident quality of life.

Next steps include TIE SC review of a draft update in July, and TIE SC approval of a final update before the Summit.

# **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Dorian Fougères, Ph.D, Chief of Natural Resources dorian.fougeres@tahoe.ca.gov

California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 13.a June 20, 2019

## POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST 21 BOARD MEETING

Staff is seeking input from the Board regarding the agenda items for the August 21, 2019 Board meeting.

A tentative list of agenda items beyond the normal standing items includes:

- Meyers Asset Lands Tour (discussion only)
- Meyers Asset Lands Pre-Sale Authority (resolution)
- Tahoe City Public Utility District Cross-Country Ski License Agreement (resolution)
- Climate Change Investments Projects (resolution)
- Executive Director Compensation (resolution)
- Draft Conservancy Grant Guidelines (discussion only)

#### **Conservancy Staff Contacts**

Patrick Wright Jane Freeman patrick.wright@tahoe.ca.gov jane.freeman@tahoe.ca.gov