

CALIFORNIA  
**TAHOE**  
CONSERVANCY



**Board Packet**  
**December 12, 2019**



## MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY BOARD

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Lake Tahoe Community College  
Lisa Maloff University Center, Classrooms U112 & U113  
1 College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

### Directions to the Lake Tahoe Community College University Center:

#### BOARD MEMBERS

NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
*Wade Crowfoot, Secretary*  
*Elizabeth Williamson, Designee*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
*Keely Bosler, Director*  
*Gayle Miller, 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*

From CA/NV Stateline: On U.S. Highway 50 westbound, travel approximately 3 miles. Turn left on Al Tahoe Boulevard. Travel approximately 0.7 mile. Turn right on College Drive. Parking is available in main parking lot or the parking lot adjacent to the University Center building.

From South Lake Tahoe "Y" at U.S. Highway 50 and State Route 89: On U.S. Highway 50 eastbound, travel approximately 2 miles. Turn right on Al Tahoe Boulevard. Travel approximately 0.7 mile. Turn right on College Drive. Parking is available in the main parking lot or the parking lot adjacent to the University Center building.

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### 1. Roll Call

### 2. Consent Items

#### a. Approval of Minutes (action) (Resolution 19-12-01)

#### b. Approval of Board Agenda (action) (Resolution 19-12-02)

#### c. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16 California Regional Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects (action):

Consideration and possible authorization of:

1. the Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project on Conservancy land, including the expenditure of up to \$211,250 and execution of agreements as necessary to implement the project;
2. the award of a grant to the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) for up to \$338,000 to implement the

- STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project; and
3. the award of a grant to California Department of Parks and Recreation for up to \$487,500 to implement Phase 2 of the State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project.

CEQA considerations:

- Categorical exemptions:
  - **Resolution 19-12-03.1** Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project
  - **Resolution 19-12-03.2** South Tahoe Public Utility District Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project
- Previously analyzed:
  - **Resolution 19-12-03.3** State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project (Phase 2)

### **3. Executive Director's Report**

### **4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

**5. Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Action Agenda Update (discussion only):** Discuss the Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Action Agenda, which is a comprehensive strategy for controlling aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe.

**6. Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program Support Grant (action):** Consideration and possible authorization to award a grant of up to \$450,000 to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District for aquatic invasive species control project planning and program oversight in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

### **(Resolution 19-12-04)**

**7. Climate Action Acceleration Grant (action):** Consideration and possible authorization to award a planning grant to the University of California, Berkeley for up to \$74,000 to assess the conditions and make recommendations for how to accelerate climate change adaptation in the Lake Tahoe Basin by developing and deploying practical, science-based management tools and technology applications.

CEQA consideration: statutory exemption

### **(Resolution 19-12-05)**

**8. Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase 3 Update (discussion only):** Discuss El Dorado County’s Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase 3 planning effort and proposed project improvements, which include storm water, restoration, and public access elements on the Conservancy’s Elks Club property.

**9. Conservancy Tahoe Livable Communities Program Update (discussion only):** Discuss the status of the Conservancy Tahoe Livable Communities Program, including property acquisitions, land bank transactions, and the 17 Conservancy asset lands in the City of South Lake Tahoe, Meyers, and Kings Beach.

**10. 2019 Conservancy Highlights and Accomplishments (discussion only):** Discuss the Conservancy’s 2019 highlights and accomplishments.

**11. Chair’s Report**

**12. Board Member Comment**

**a. Potential Agenda Items for the March 12 Board Meeting (discussion only):** Discuss potential agenda items for the March 12 Board meeting.

**13. Conservancy Chair and Vice-Chair Election (action):** Nomination and election of the Conservancy Chair and Vice-Chair.

CEQA consideration: not applicable

**14. Conservancy Board Committee Selection and Assignments (action):** Selection and assignment of Board members to Conservancy Board Committees.

CEQA consideration: not applicable

**15. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

**16. Adjourn**

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**Schedule/General Meeting Information:** Agenda items may be taken out of sequence at the discretion of the Conservancy Board Chair. Items are numbered for identification purposes and will not necessarily be considered in this order. Members of the public intending to comment on agenda and non-agenda items may be asked to use the meeting sign-in sheet before the start of the meeting. The Board Chair may limit the amount of time allocated for public comment on particular issues and for each individual speaker. All Board materials, such as Board books and Board packets, exhibits, 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](https://www.tahoe.ca.gov) at <https://www.tahoe.ca.gov> or at the Conservancy's office. Staff reports will also be available at the Board meeting.

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

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

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

*Cover photo taken by Conservancy staff*

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2a  
December 12, 2019

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 10, 2019**

**October 10, 2019 (9:30 a.m.) Board Meeting**

Staff prepared the minutes from the same-day audio recording and transcription by Foothill Transcription Company, which were certified on October 27, 2019.

**Agenda Item 1. Roll Call**

Chair Laine called the meeting to order with a 9:31 a.m. roll call at the Van Sickle Bi-State Park.

**Members Present:**

Brooke Laine, Chair, City of South Lake Tahoe  
Lynn Suter, Vice Chair, Public Member  
Elizabeth Williamson, California Natural Resources Agency  
Adam Acosta, Public Member  
Sue Novasel, El Dorado County  
Cindy Gustafson, Placer County  
Gayle Miller, California Department of Finance  
Jeff Marsolais, USDA Forest Service (ex officio)

**Others Present:**

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

**Agenda Item 2. Van Sickle Bi-State Park Board Tour**

Chair Laine announced that staff would lead a tour highlighting the Conservancy's and Nevada Division of State Park's cooperative management efforts and conceptual recreation improvements as well as a key hazardous fuels reduction project. Chair Laine said the tour will end at approximately 11:00 a.m. and the meeting will continue at the

Hotel Azure Tahoe between approximately 12:30 and 1:00 p.m.

Chair Laine reconvened the meeting at Hotel Azure Tahoe. Chair Laine announced that there were several public comment letters for the Board to review, most of which relate to the Meyers asset lands. Chair Laine also recommended removing Agenda Item 8, Grant for Climate Action Organizational Analysis, from the agenda. The Board concurred.

### **Agenda Item 3. Consent Items**

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

The Board considered the minutes from the August 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 Vice Chair Suter seconded the motion. Resolutions 19-10-01 and 19-10-02 passed unanimously.**

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

Mr. Wright discussed the recent All-Conservancy meeting and Land Conservation Summit, which together included many of the State's conservation leaders, members of the legislature, and California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot. Mr. Wright said some of the major discussion topics were the role of conservancies in helping address the State's conservation priorities, the boom-and-bust cycle of bonds, and how the administration and legislature may work together to shape an upcoming bond measure as well as look at other funding sources. Mr. Wright also said Secretary Crowfoot spoke about his top priorities, which are climate adaptation, biodiversity, community access to recreation, and making State government a place where people would like to work. Mr. Wright thanked Ms. Freeman, Mr. Dorian Fougères, and the Sierra Business Council for their work on the Summit.

Mr. Wright said the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) announced the Best-in-Basin Awards and the Conservancy had a role with a couple of the winning projects—the USDA Forest Service's (Forest Service) Upper Truckee River Reach 5 Restoration Project and El Dorado County's Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project. Mr. Wright also welcomed a new Conservancy staff member, Aga Kuligowski, Accounting Officer.

Mr. Wright then welcomed Mr. Scott Cecchi, Resources and Public Access Program Project Manager, to briefly discuss the recently completed work at Alta Mira and show

some photographs of the work. Mr. Wright explained that it took a partnership between the Conservancy, City of South Lake Tahoe (City), California Department of General Services (DGS), California Department of Finance, and others to determine how to pay for this type of project.

Mr. Wright then showed a couple of videos on the Conservancy's Land Management Program and the California Highway Patrol's work, in partnership with the Conservancy, at the Upper Truckee Marsh.

#### **Agenda Item 5. 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.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Dollar Creek Forest Restoration Project (action)**

Mr. Joseph Harvey, Forest Operations Specialist, presented Item 6.

Chair Laine invited the Board to comment.

Ms. Gustafson asked when the Conservancy would implement the project. Mr. Harvey said the Conservancy hopes to implement the project by the end of summer in 2020.

Ms. Gustafson asked if the Conservancy planned to provide public notice to the community in the area. Mr. Harvey explained that he posted a public notice regarding this Board item about ten days in advance of this meeting at all of the major access points near the Dollar Creek property. Mr. Harvey said he would continue to work with the community and let them know about the work the Conservancy will complete in the summer of 2020. Ms. Gustafson thanked Mr. Harvey and emphasized the need to let the public know next summer in advance of starting implementation.

Ms. Novasel asked about the ongoing maintenance treatments associated with the project. Mr. Harvey said staff plans to monitor the unit and determine the most effective maintenance treatment methods moving forward. Mr. Harvey said there is no permanent funding dedicated to maintenance treatments.

Mr. Marsolais asked about the type of forestry work, whether it was hand-thinning, mechanical, or a combination of the two. Mr. Harvey said the project involved hand-thinning and pile-burning.

Mr. Marsolais asked whether local jurisdictions would complete the work or if the Conservancy would bring in a private contractor. Mr. Harvey said the Conservancy would contract out the hand-thinning portion and work with a local fire district for the



pile burning.

Mr. Marsolais commented how agencies can take advantage of the pace-and-scale conversation and increase our contracting capabilities. Mr. Marsolais said agencies must continue to invest in attracting new industry folks into the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), while keeping the unit costs appropriate. Mr. Marsolais said it would be great to have a conversation around financial aspects of vegetation management with the Conservancy and other key leaders in the Basin.

Mr. Wright responded to Ms. Novasel's and Mr. Marsolais's comments. Mr. Wright said it is a challenge to pay for maintenance treatments when the Conservancy is funded with bond money and competitive grants, which is different from having a sustained funding source. Mr. Wright said it is an ongoing issue but that the State and federal governments are hearing us. Mr. Wright said agencies need the funding in place from the State and federal side in order to increase the pace and scale.

Chair Laine asked if the pile-burning cost was included in the total cost of the project. Mr. Harvey answered affirmatively.

Chair Laine asked when pile-burning activities usually occur. Mr. Harvey said there is a deadline associated with the grant funding and that the Conservancy will develop a smoke plan in advance of implementation, which will consider safety, time of the year, and other environmental considerations.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment. There were no public comments.

**Ms. Gustafson moved to approve the resolution and Ms. Williamson seconded the motion. Resolution 19-12-03 passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 7. Connelley Beach Public Access Project (action)**

Mr. Cecchi presented Item 7.

Chair Laine requested that staff change the spelling of Connelley Beach to Conolley Beach in response to a public comment.

Chair Laine invited the Board to comment.

Ms. Novasel asked if the Conservancy would replace the existing wooden fence as a component of the easement. Mr. Cecchi answered affirmatively. Ms. Novasel asked about the high water mark. Mr. Cecchi said that the project as rendered would be functional at all water levels.

Chair Laine asked if the project renderings accounted for Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility. Mr. Cecchi explained there is no feasible method to allow for ADA access to Conolley Beach from this location. Mr. Cecchi said the Conservancy is looking into ADA access at the Alta Mira property as part of the comprehensive planning effort.

Chair Laine commented about some of the current issues at Conolley Beach, including restricted public access and lack of parking. Chair Laine thanked the Conservancy for seeing this project through, especially through a lot of different ownerships over the years.

Ms. Miller thanked Beach Retreat and the Conservancy for moving forward with the easement.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment.

Ms. Kim DeYoung, homeowner at Sierra Shores, commented on how she hopes to work with the Conservancy and provide input on the design of the project. Ms. DeYoung said she would like the Conservancy to provide a buffer between the Sierra Shores property and the public space. Ms. DeYoung expressed concerns about foot traffic, drinking, camping, loitering, and other security concerns that the proposed project may bring.

Ms. Norma Santiago, member of the public, asked whether there is a plan to connect the trail along the beach with the Fremont Overlook and Alta Mira sites. Mr. Cecchi said the proposed project would provide connectivity from the "Chimney Property" to Conolley Beach; however, the Conservancy cannot connect a trail from Conolley Beach to Fremont Overlook by the beach because Sierra Shores owns the adjoining property.

There were no additional public comments.

Ms. Novasel requested that staff work with the homeowners nearby and ensure the Conservancy addresses their concerns. Mr. Cecchi agreed to do so.

Mr. Marsolais asked if the Board would see final designs before staff implement them. Mr. Marsolais said, given the level of sensitivity in the area, it might be wise to have the Board review the final designs. Mr. Cecchi said staff had not planned an interim step; however, if the Board would like to see the final designs, staff would be happy to bring it back in front of the Board.

Ms. Miller asked if staff would still finalize the easements and then come back to the Board to ensure there would not be any delay.

Mr. Marsolais said the Board has been consistent about needing check-ins on projects with these types of sensitivities. Mr. Marsolais suggested that this project might need a

check-in with the Board.

Mr. Wright agreed with Mr. Marsolais. Mr. Wright explained that staff is seeking authority to expend funds and execute any necessary agreements.

Mr. Acosta asked if the proposed project budget is high enough to cover any unexpected costs given potential modifications to the project. Mr. Cecchi answered affirmatively. Mr. Cecchi said the budget has a seven percent contingency to account for potential modifications.

Ms. Novasel commented about how there could be some project design changes. Ms. Novasel said she was just made aware that the homeowners are suggesting a wooden staircase, instead of metal, to decrease the amount of noise. Ms. Novasel asked if that type of change would change the budget considerably. Mr. Cecchi said that type of change would have cost implications and potential environmental impacts. Mr. Cecchi explained that staff wanted to move forward with an open-grate metal staircase because it was the least environmentally impactful solution. Ms. Novasel asked that staff consider the potential noise impacts on the neighboring homeowners.

**Ms. Miller moved to amend the resolution to clarify that staff should bring the final designs back to the Board in advance of implementing the project. Vice Chair Suter seconded the amended motion. Resolution 19-12-04 as amended passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 9. Conservancy Grant Guidelines (action)**

Mr. Dorian Fougères, Chief of Natural Resources, presented Item 9.

Chair Laine invited the Board to comment.

Ms. Novasel thanked staff for finalizing the Conservancy Grant Guidelines. Ms. Novasel asked Chair Laine if the City was content with the Grant Guidelines. Chair Laine said the City provided comments on the Grant Guidelines and Conservancy staff clarified and addressed those comments.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment. There were no public comments.

**Ms. Novasel moved to approve the resolution and Vice Chair Suter seconded the motion. Resolution 19-12-06 passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 10. Landscape Level Initiatives Update: Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership and Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (discussion only)**

Mr. Jason Vasques, Landscape Forestry Supervisor, presented Item 10.

Chair Laine invited the Board to comment.

Ms. Gustafson asked if the utility companies are participating in the work within the utility corridors. Mr. Vasques responded affirmatively. Mr. Vasques said Liberty Utilities is partnering with the Conservancy and Forest Service to complete treatments about 100 feet beyond what it is already required to do.

Ms. Gustafson asked whether the Conservancy is considering ingress and egress within subdivisions when analyzing where the highest vulnerabilities may be and direct treatments there. Mr. Vasques responded affirmatively. Mr. Vasques said the partners are looking at the vulnerability of transportation networks in the Basin with respect to wildfire through the Climate Adaptation Action Plan. Mr. Vasques said the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) is thinking about how to treat the transportation corridor from a forest health and public safety perspective.

Mr. Marsolais said he signed a National Environmental Policy Act decision that covers 55 miles of line for the entire Liberty Utility network on National Forest Land on the California side of the Basin. Mr. Marsolais said the partnership with Liberty Utilities is due to both Liberty Utilities having an active maintenance program around hazard trees and Liberty Utilities, as well as the Conservancy, approaching the Forest Service to expand the treatments beyond what is already required, as Mr. Vasques was discussing, with the goal of stopping wildfire.

Mr. Marsolais said about two-thirds of the wildland-urban interface defense zone has been treated in the Basin with a third left to go and much of that third is under contract. Mr. Marsolais said initiatives like the Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership and Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative are that next level. Mr. Marsolais said these initiatives will likely test the social license and acceptance because agencies are starting to increase the pace and scale but that will create a tremendous amount of activity around neighborhoods. Mr. Marsolais said, while agencies are doing good work on the land to avoid catastrophic wildfire, it is unclear how many log trucks the public will accept over the next several years.

Mr. Marsolais thanked Conservancy staff and leadership for contributing to the initiatives. Mr. Marsolais said a lot of this work would not be possible without the federal-State partnership between the Conservancy and Forest Service. Mr. Marsolais said the Conservancy has taken these large-scale, beneficial ideas and has been the glue to move these ideas forward.

Ms. Novasel discussed El Dorado County's vegetation management ordinance, which sets a 500-foot defensible space buffer. Ms. Novasel said two of the key pieces, relating

to Mr. Marsolais' point, will be public education and eventual acceptance from our communities.

Mr. Wright thanked Mr. Marsolais for his leadership with respect to the initiatives.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment. There were no public comments.

### **Agenda Item 11. Conservancy Tahoe Livable Communities Program Update**

Mr. Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer, presented Item 11, with Mr. Jonathan Heim, Asset Enhancement, DGS Real Estate Services Division and Asset Management Branch; Mr. Matt Kowta, Managing Principal, BAE Urban Economics; and Mr. Dean Albright, Architect, Lionakis.

Chair Laine invited the Board to comment.

Ms. Novasel asked for clarification on the process with respect to which entity would be the owner or manager of the request for proposals (RFP). Mr. Heim said it depends on the site. Mr. Heim said, in this instance, DGS is working with the Conservancy, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), so it will likely be a joint RFP.

Ms. Novasel asked whether the ownership would remain with the State or whether the private developer would enter into a lease agreement with the State. Mr. Heim explained that there are numerous ways to move forward. Mr. Heim said, in this instance and if the Board agrees, the Conservancy will likely execute a 75-year ground lease with a private developer after going through the RFP process. Mr. Heim explained that ownership of the land would remain with the Conservancy in this scenario.

Mr. Wright said the Conservancy conducts real estate transactions and generally DGS approves those transactions because it is the State control agency. Mr. Wright explained that this situation is different; DGS is taking a more active role pursuant to the executive order.

Mr. Wright said the Board will need to be comfortable with the Conservancy's joint process with DGS. Mr. Wright said neither the Conservancy nor DGS can get out in front of each other. Mr. Wright said the Conservancy must make sure, given the sensitivity of housing and community interest, that the Conservancy is in lockstep with DGS. Mr. Wright said staff will need to provide the Board with frequent updates on this moving forward, particularly the local Board members.

Ms. Novasel asked whether the potential projects would be deed-restricted for specific income levels and, if not, how the Conservancy and DGS could guarantee that people

with certain income levels would be able to live in these units. Mr. Heim said HCD is focused on that issue with these potential projects. Mr. Heim explained that DGS's Asset Enhancement Branch generally focuses on maximizing returns for the State, not maximizing the affordability of housing.

Ms. Novasel said the biggest issue associated with affordable housing is the cost of the land because it restricts the ability to build affordable housing. Ms. Novasel explained she was asking about deed restricting because the Conservancy and DGS have the opportunity to do that with these potential projects, and to make it affordable for the public and developers.

Mr. Heim discussed the option of entering into a long-term ground lease with the developer for a dollar each year but it comes down to the economics. Mr. Heim said DGS wants to ensure that the project benefits return to the project and not just to the pocket of the developer.

Ms. Novasel asked if DGS is part of the Tahoe Prosperity Center's housing demand assessment taking place in South Lake Tahoe currently. Mr. Heim said that effort is not complete yet, so it is not incorporated in the economic data, but DGS is talking with the Tahoe Prosperity Center currently.

Mr. Wright asked Mr. Prior and Ms. Gustafson to comment about the issue of community input.

Mr. Prior said staff has been discussing the issue of community engagement with the City. Mr. Prior said staff is proposing holding a community engagement meeting in November or December to help obtain more input on the site and determine what the community is looking for on the site. Mr. Prior said after that first meeting, the partners will likely issue an RFP and, once the developer is selected, hold two more community engagement meetings to better inform the selected developer on the sites. Mr. Prior said staff welcomes any suggestions, especially from Placer County.

Ms. Gustafson said, in retrospect, Placer County should have engaged with the public prior to selecting a developer. Ms. Gustafson explained that the public in Placer County felt that the community input was not valid or that Placer County did not provide the public with an opportunity to provide input on the project. Ms. Gustafson said it is important to maximize the investment but also to be conscious of the community's desires.

Ms. Gustafson asked whether the Conservancy and DGS have thought about a "for-sale" type of product where the workforce can live and develop careers, while living in a long-term lease type of situation, similar to the long-term leases on Forest Service land. Mr. Heim said DGS is considering a number of different ideas pursuant to the executive

order.

Ms. Gustafson said she appreciated DGS's leadership on this issue. Ms. Gustafson said the Basin needs all forms of full-time housing. Ms. Gustafson said, when DGS is looking at design of the units, the public needs storage because generally the community is active and has skis, bikes, kayaks, etc. Mr. Heim said that criteria will be included in the RFP.

Mr. Marsolais asked what the endgame is for Lake Tahoe. Mr. Marsolais said he appreciated the due diligence piece recognizing there is a lot of energy around housing and the agencies in the Basin need to get out in front. Mr. Marsolais said there are 58 agencies in the Basin that have some form of responsibility and an agency may have to swim upstream when it gets out in front. Mr. Marsolais asked how the partners might be able to capitalize on lessons learned; how do the partners take advantage of the various plans that are in development; how do the partners obtain the collective capacity of the agencies to pull in one direction.

Mr. Marsolais said he appreciated Mr. Wright talking about how the Conservancy and DGS need to work closely. Mr. Marsolais cautioned the partners to not get out in front of some of the key stakeholders and to focus on the process of how they are engaging with the agencies in the Basin.

Chair Laine invited the public to comment. There were no public comments.

Chair Laine said the City is working with a developer that has acquired five parcels for deed-restricted affordable housing. Chair Laine said, before the City and developer can do anything, the developer has to obtain a lot-line adjustment from TRPA. Chair Laine said the complexities in the Basin make every project challenging.

Chair Laine discussed the potential of the City giving its development rights for free in order to make affordable housing projects work. Chair Laine commented about the Conservancy's Lank Bank and asked whether it may have any development rights available for that use.

Ms. Miller said, with respect to long-term leases, it is important to be mindful of what it means to give it away as opposed to getting some type of right to the land in return. Ms. Miller said property values do increase and the Conservancy likely needs some type of right to the land even if it is leasing the land.

## **Agenda Item 12. Chair's Report**

Chair Laine discussed the Board's 2020 meeting schedule and proposed meeting four times instead of six.

Vice Chair Suter agreed with that approach.

Ms. Williamson said she was fine with quarterly meetings, especially if the Board can add an additional meeting if needed. Ms. Williamson emphasized the importance of having an annual Board meeting in Sacramento.

Ms. Gustafson said she was fine with quarterly meetings, but if necessary adding an additional meeting depending on staff needs.

Mr. Wright said he does not want to lessen Board engagement. Mr. Wright said he would like to have regular meetings with each of the three local jurisdictions. Mr. Wright added that he would also like to get the Board Committees more involved with Conservancy business.

Ms. Novasel said she is fine with quarterly meetings as long as the Conservancy continues to engage with the local jurisdictions on a regular basis. Ms. Novasel asked when the Board would be discussing Board Committees and Board elections again.

Chair Laine said the Board would likely discuss those items in December 2019.

### **Agenda Item 13. Operations Committee**

Vice Chair Suter discussed the California Department of Human Resources' Employee Engagement Survey (Survey) and Conservancy Survey results. Vice Chair Suter summarized the Conservancy Survey results, including the high scores with respect to the Conservancy's mission and motivation based on satisfaction with supervisors, teamwork, and identification with the organization; as well as the lower scores on workload management, better balance between staff work life and private life, and coping with the Conservancy's and State's changing roles and goals.

Ms. Novasel asked how the Conservancy would address workload management. Mr. Wright said the biggest issue with workload is that at a State agency there are always unexpected fire drills, for example, the Alta Mira emergency project was a fire drill because a cliff was collapsing. Mr. Wright said projects like that impact staff's workload.

Ms. Freeman said after the Conservancy finished the strategic planning process, it moved into developing annual operational plans to prioritize work. Ms. Freeman said there have been good discussions around the Conservancy's Strategic Plan goals, how the Conservancy will achieve the goals, and what the highest-priority work or projects are associated with the goals.

Mr. Marsolais suggested that the Board should discuss work environment



improvements at a Basinwide scale.

Ms. Williamson agreed with Mr. Marsolais. Ms. Williamson said the California Natural Resources Agency is creating a task force to work on issues like recruiting quality candidates, retaining employees, having a better work-life balance, and more.

#### **Agenda Item 14. Board Member Comment**

Ms. Novasel said, as a TRPA Board member, she chairs the Local Government and Housing Committee and the Committee is finishing a short-term rental assessment. Ms. Novasel said she looks forward to working with DGS, HCD, and others regionally to ensure affordable housing is a priority issue.

##### **a. Potential Agenda Items for the December 12 Board Meeting**

Ms. Freeman summarized the potential agenda items for the December 12 Board meeting, including Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16 forestry projects, 2019 Highlights and Accomplishments, Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase 3 Update, and more. Ms. Freeman added that there would likely be another Tahoe Livable Communities Update in December as well.

Chair Laine asked if Item 8, Grant for Climate Action Organizational Analysis, would be ready for December. Mr. Wright answered affirmatively.

#### **Agenda Item 15. 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.

#### **Agenda Item 16. Adjourn**

Chair Laine adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution 19-12-01  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on December 12, 2019.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 2019.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 2b  
Resolution 19-12-02  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

**APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

I hereby approve the December 12, 2019 Board agenda of the California Tahoe Conservancy adopted on December 12, 2019.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 2019.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

**SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT ROUND 16  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolutions 19-12-03.1–19-12-03.3 (Attachments 1-3) authorizing the 1) expenditure of up to \$1,036,750 to implement three high-priority fuel hazard reduction and forest health projects, identified through the California Tahoe Conservancy’s (Conservancy) Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant (Grant), and 2) execution of contracts and grants as necessary to implement the three projects:

- Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (65 acres – \$211,250),
- South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (104 acres – \$338,000),
- Phase 2 of the California State Parks (CSP) Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project (150 acres – \$487,500).

**Executive Summary:** The Grant provides funding for fuel hazard reduction and forest health projects on between 1,200 and 1,800 acres within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) over six years. The Grant covers lands owned and managed by the State of California, local jurisdictions, and large private landowners on the California side of the Basin. This will be the fourth authorization of project implementation funding associated with the Grant.

The authorization will result in fuel hazard reduction treatments on 319 acres of WUI-designated land. The three treatment projects include:

- Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (65 acres),
- STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (104 acres),
- Phase 2 of the CSP Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project (150 acres).

The authorization advances the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Goals 1 (Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire) and 2 (Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds), as well as the goals of the Lake Tahoe Basin Environmental Improvement Program (EIP). The authorization is also consistent with the 2014 Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Protection Strategy (Strategy), the

2015 Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and the 2019 Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan (Forest Action Plan).

**Location:** The Ski Run/Bijou project will occur on Conservancy-owned land consisting of 65 acres of open space parcels within the Ski Run and Bijou areas in the City of South Lake Tahoe (City). The STPUD project will occur on 104 acres of land owned by STPUD surrounding their treatment plant facility near Black Bart Road and Pioneer Trail. The CSP project will occur on 150 acres of land owned and managed by CSP at Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park (Park) on the west shore. (Attachments 4a-4c)

**Fiscal Summary:** The Conservancy will use \$1,036,750 from the Grant to fund the recommended authorization; all expended funds associated with the authorization will be reimbursable to the Conservancy.

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## Overview

### History

Following the 2007 Angora Fire, the Basin's most destructive wildfire in recent history, a voluntary group of 21 Basin fire and land management agencies formed the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT). The TFFT has served as a statewide model of multi-agency collaborative fuel hazard reduction and wildfire mitigation project planning and implementation. The TFFT has issued two crucial, Basinwide planning frameworks – the Strategy and CWPP.

In 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which oversees the SNPLMA program, recommended larger-scale, regional projects for funding, as opposed to the smaller-scale, ownership-specific projects that traditionally made up TFFT nominations for funding. It was decided that one partner from California and Nevada would submit one multi-ownership, regional nomination for the SNPLMA Round 16 funding. The TFFT selected the Conservancy as the California agency to submit the nomination. In late 2016, the Conservancy's Round 16 California Regional Hazardous Fuel Reduction nomination was approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

In December 2016, the Board authorized accepting the \$6,814,500 Grant. The Board also approved expending up to \$1,969,500 for planning, monitoring, and assessment, and related direct and indirect costs, with the understanding that staff will return to the Board for authorization to fund specific implementation projects. Staff finalized the grant agreement with BLM in March 2017, and now works closely with the TFFT to prioritize, plan, and monitor projects.

The Board authorized the first round of implementation projects in June 2017, with subsequent authorizations in March 2018 and December 2018. To date, these previous

authorizations have resulted in 267 acres of completed WUI fuel hazard reduction treatments.

<b>Previous Authorizations (Planning and Implementation)</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Acres Treated</b>
December 2016 (Planning)	\$1,989,500	N/A
June 2017 (Implementation)	\$414,074	104
March 2018 (Implementation)	\$42,250	14
December 2018 (Implementation)	\$484,250	149
Total	\$2,930,074	267
<b>Current Authorization (Implementation)</b>	\$1,036,750	319
Grand Total	\$3,966,824	586
Remaining funding and balance of acreage to treat	\$2,847,676	614-1214

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

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

The Recommended Action authorizes staff to enter into agreements as necessary to implement three fuel hazard reduction projects:

- **Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (65 acres – \$211,250):** This is a hand-thinning project on Conservancy-owned property. The project includes open-space parcels in the Bijou and Ski Run areas within the City.
- **STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (104 acres – \$338,000):** This is a combination mechanical (95 acres) and hand-thinning (9 acres) project at the STPUD treatment plant facility property near Black Bart Road and Pioneer Trail in South Lake Tahoe. The Conservancy will award a grant to STPUD to implement the project.
- **Phase 2 of the CSP Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project (150 acres – \$487,500):** This is the second phase of the project, which includes hand-thinning and understory-burning at the Park. The Board previously approved the project in June 2013 when, acting as a responsible agency, it reviewed and considered the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) CSP adopted to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for fuels reduction and understory burning at the Park. In June 2017, the Board authorized

a grant to CSP to implement Phase 1 of the project, which resulted in 104 acres of fuel hazard reduction within the Park. In front of the Board is Phase 2 of the project, which expands upon the previously authorized grant by authorizing funding for an additional 150 acres of fuel hazard reduction within the Park.

## 2. Overall Context and Benefits

The Strategy, CWPP, and Forest Action Plan all identify the three project areas as high-priority treatment areas. The treatments are designed to reduce hazardous vegetative fuel loading, decrease the potential for high-intensity wildfire, and increase forest resiliency. These projects will complement past forestry-related efforts on adjacent federal and non-federal lands, furthering the Basin goal of completing all initial WUI treatments by 2025. The Recommended Action also advances Conservancy Strategic Goals, Conservancy deliverables in accordance with the SNPLMA Round 16 Grant, and the aforementioned Basinwide forestry plans and EIP.

## 3. Schedule for the Recommended Action

Following authorization, staff anticipates executing contracts and grant agreements by spring of 2020, with implementation beginning summer 2020 and continuing through fall 2021.

## Financing

<b>Project</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction	65	\$211,250
STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction	104	\$338,000
CSP Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Phase 2	150	\$487,500
<b>Proposed Contracts/Grants (Current Authorization)</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>\$1,036,750</b>
Planning, Layout, Project Preparation ( <b>Previously Authorized Activities</b> )	319	\$207,350
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$1,244,100</b>

## **Authority**

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

Implementation of these projects 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. Government Code section 66907.9 authorizes the Conservancy to enter into agreements for the management of land under its ownership and control. Finally, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, the Tahoe Transportation District, 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, Goals 1 (Steward Conservancy Lands and Protect Basin Communities from Wildfire) and 2 (Restore the Resilience of Basin Forests and Watersheds). The proposed projects use federal grant funds to facilitate hazardous fuel reduction treatments on 319 acres of land, located within high-priority WUI areas.

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

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

### **Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with the EIP, specifically EIP project #02.01.01.0144.

This action is also consistent with the Strategy, CWPP, and Forest Action Plan

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

### **Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project and STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project**

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. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21001(f) and 21082, the Conservancy has also adopted regulations to implement, interpret, and make specific the provisions of CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 12100 et seq.). Staff has evaluated the Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



and the STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project, and has found them to be exempt under CEQA. These Projects qualify for a categorical exemption under State CEQA Guidelines section 15304 minor alterations to land. Staff prepared notices of exemption (NOE) for the Projects (Attachments 5 and 6). If the Board approves the Projects, staff will file the NOEs with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

#### Phase 2 of the State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project

On June 20, 2013, the Board reviewed and considered the IS/MND for State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project at the Park. CSP prepared and adopted the IS/MND to comply with CEQA. Acting as a responsible agency, the Board considered the IS/MND and approved the Project at the Park. Upon approval, staff filed a notice of determination with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15096. All potential environmental effects of Phase 2 of this Project were analyzed in the IS/MND and previously considered by the Board. Since completion of the IS/MND, there is no new information, substantial changes to the Project, or changes to project implementation that would involve any new significant effects not analyzed in the IS/MND.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Resolution 19-12-3.1

Attachment 2 – STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Resolution 19-12-3.2

Attachment 3 – State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project Phase 2 Resolution 19-12-3.3

Attachment 4a – Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Map

Attachment 4b – STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Map

Attachment 4c – State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project Phase 2 Map

Attachment 5 – Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Notice of Exemption

Attachment 6 – STPUD Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Notice of Exemption

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Milan Yeates, Associate Environmental Planner

milan.yeates@tahoe.ca.gov

**ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution  
19-12-3.1  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

**SKI RUN/BIJOU OPEN SPACE FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT**

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

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project (Project), including the expenditure of up to \$211,250, the execution of agreements, and all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation to implement the Project.”

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 12th day of December, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 2019.

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT 2**

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution  
19-12-3.2  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

**SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT TREATMENT PLANT  
FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT**

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

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the South Tahoe Public Utility District for up to \$338,000 for the South Tahoe Public Utility District Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project and authorizes staff to take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation.”

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 12th day of December, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 2019.

---

Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT 3**

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution  
19-12-3.3  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

**PHASE 2 OF THE STATE PARKS FUEL REDUCTION AND UNDERSTORY BURNING  
PROJECT**

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

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for up to \$487,500 for the Phase 2 of the State Parks Fuel Reduction and Understory Burning Project and authorizes staff to take all other necessary steps consistent with the accompanying staff recommendation.”

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Conservancy at a meeting thereof held on the 12th day of December, 2019.

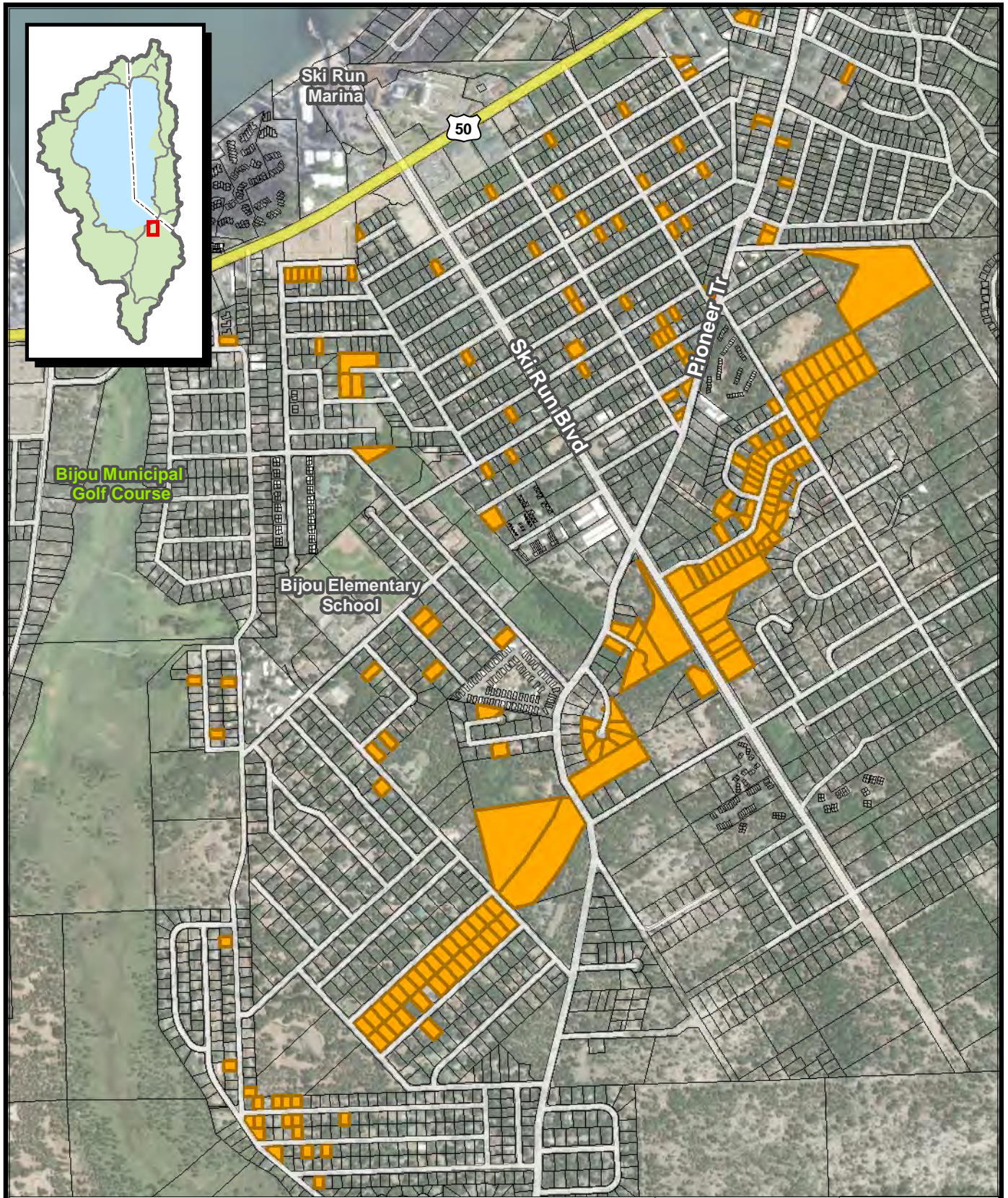
In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 2019.

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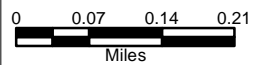
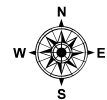
Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT 4A

Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



 SNPLMA 16 Ski Run/Bijou Parcels



Sources:  
TRPA, CTC, ESRI

California  
Tahoe Conservancy

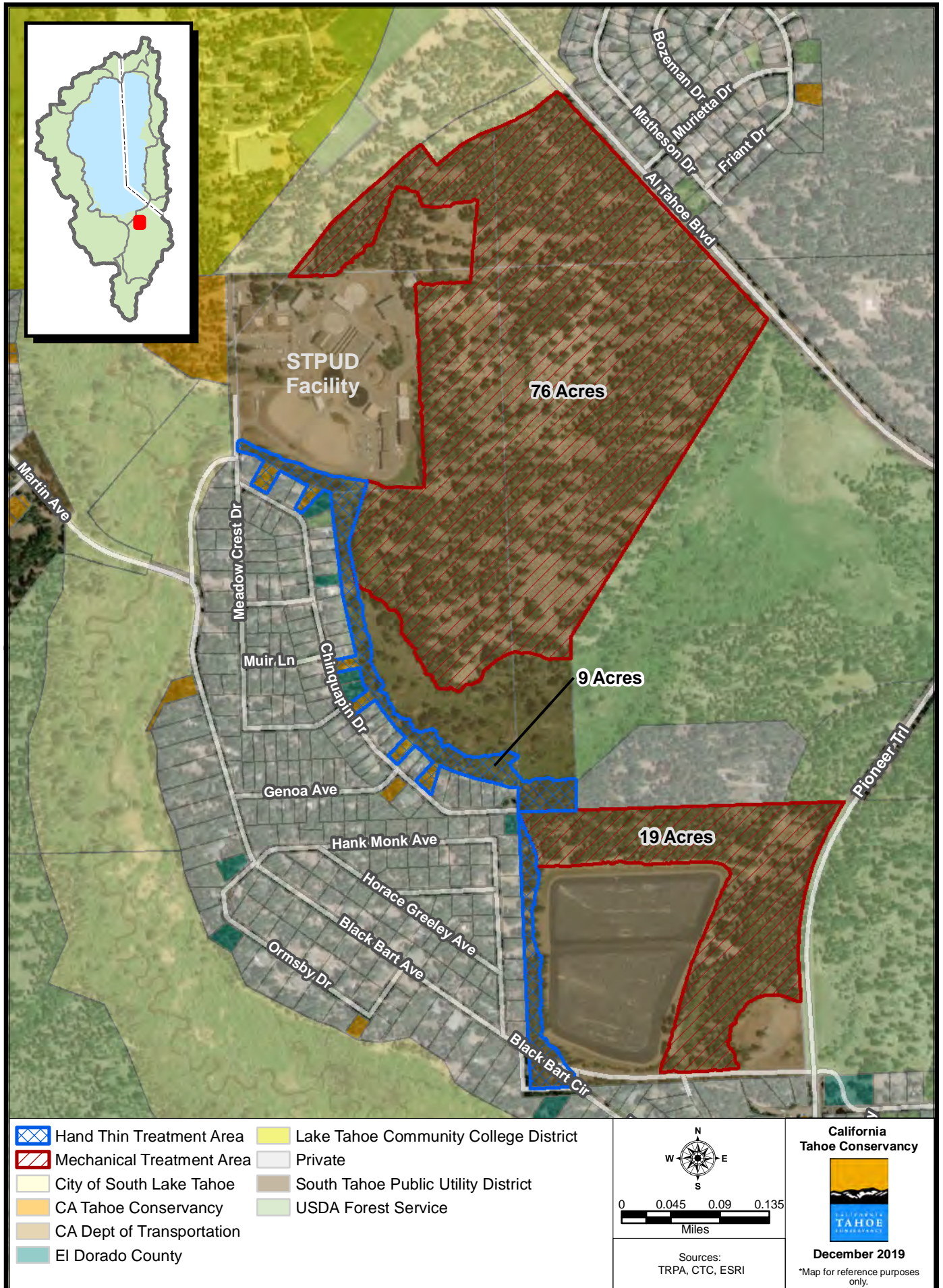


December 2019

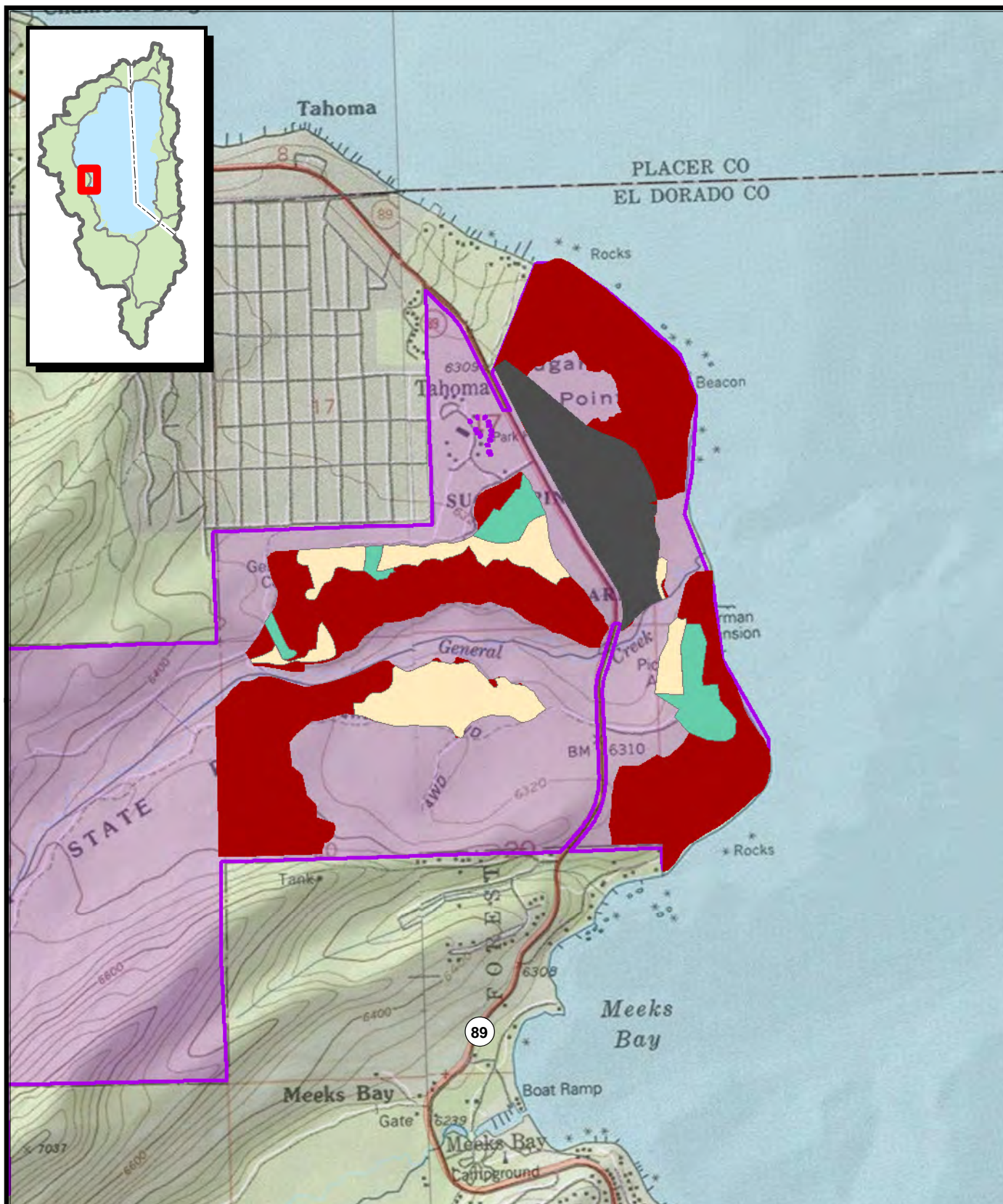
\*Map for reference purposes only.

# ATTACHMENT 4B

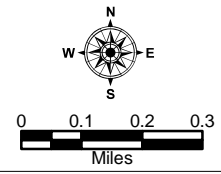
## South Tahoe Public Utility District Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



California State Parks Fuel Hazard Reduction and Understory Burning Project - Phase 2



- SNPLMA Round 16 - Untreated Areas (267 Acres)
- Thin and Chip Completed (22 Acres)
- Thin and Pile Completed (53 Acres)
- Understory Burn Completed (53 Acres)
- Sugar Pine Point State Park



Sources:  
TRPA, CTC, ESRI

**California  
Tahoe Conservancy**



**December 2019**  
\*Map for reference purposes only.

## ATTACHMENT 5

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

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

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**Project Title:**

Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project

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**Project Location – Specific:**

This project is located on 65 acres of California Tahoe Conservancy-owned property within the boundaries of the City of South Lake Tahoe, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

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**Project Location – City:**

South Lake Tahoe

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**Project Location – County:**

El Dorado County

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

The project consists of removing live, dead, dying, and diseased trees, and reducing conifer densities with hand crews on 65 acres of open space parcels. The activity will promote increased health and vigor of the stand, and reduce fire threat to the adjacent community.

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**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:**

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 12/12/2019)

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

California Tahoe Conservancy

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**Exempt Status:**

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

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**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

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

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**Contact Person**

Milan Yeates

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**Telephone**

530-543-6058

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**Date Received for Filing:**

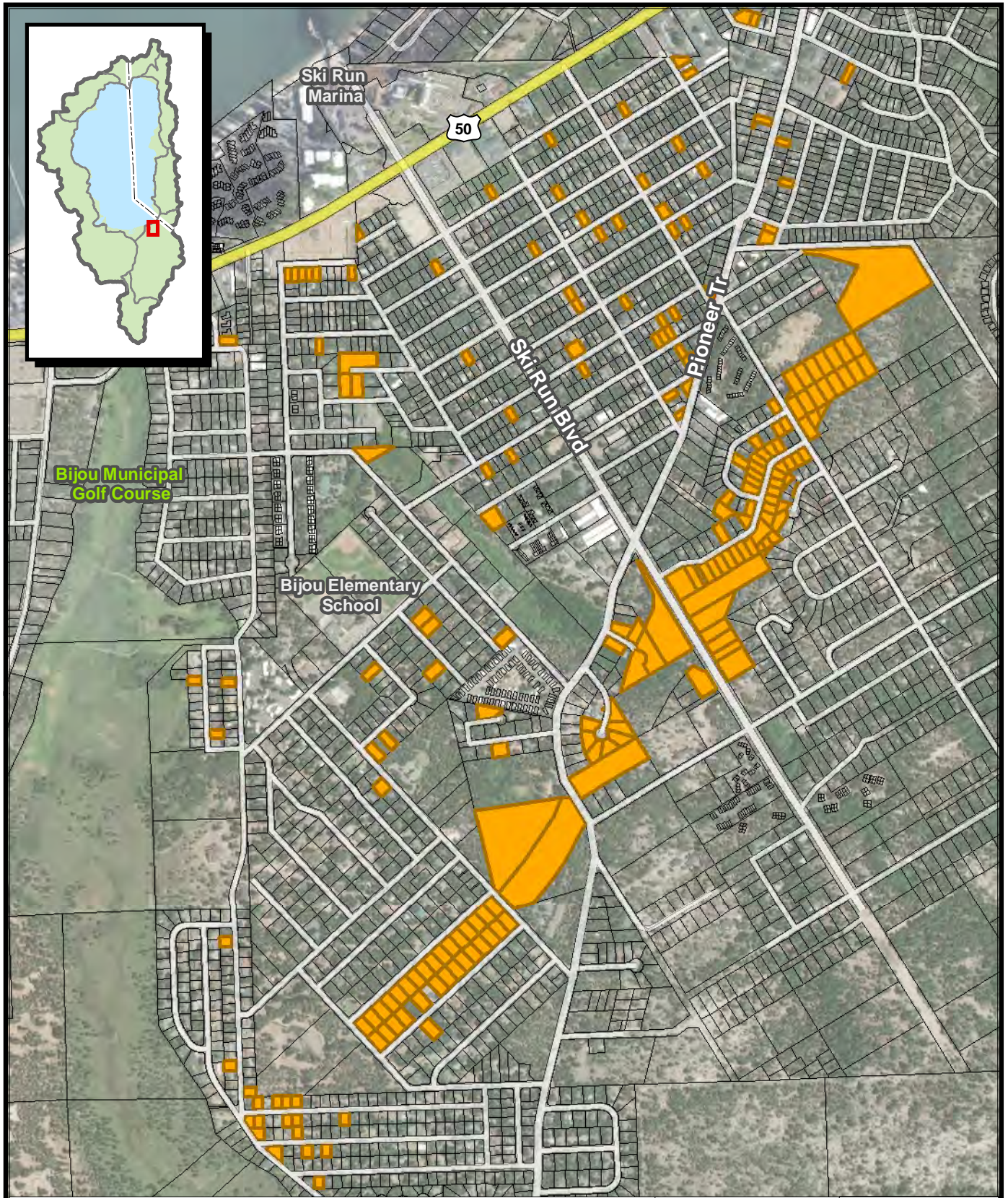
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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

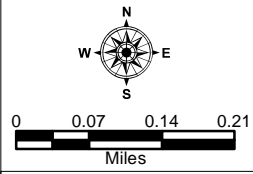


# EXHIBIT A

## Ski Run/Bijou Open Space Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



 SNPLMA 16 Ski Run/Bijou Parcels



Sources:  
TRPA, CTC, ESRI

California  
Tahoe Conservancy



December 2019  
\*Map for reference purposes only.

**ATTACHMENT 6**

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

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

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**Project Title:**

South Tahoe Public Utility District Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project

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**Project Location – Specific:**

This project is located on 104 acres of South Tahoe Public Utility District-owned property in an unincorporated area of El Dorado County, adjacent to the City of South Lake Tahoe, as shown on the attached map (Exhibit A).

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**Project Location – City:**

Unincorporated

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**Project Location – County:**

El Dorado County

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

The project consists of removing live, dead, dying, and diseased trees, and reducing conifer densities with mechanized equipment and hand crews on 104 acres. The activity will promote increased health and vigor of the stand, and reduce fire threat to the adjacent community.

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**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:**

California Tahoe Conservancy

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

South Tahoe Public Utility District

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**Exempt Status:**

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

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**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

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

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**Contact Person**

Milan Yeates

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**Telephone**

530-543-6058

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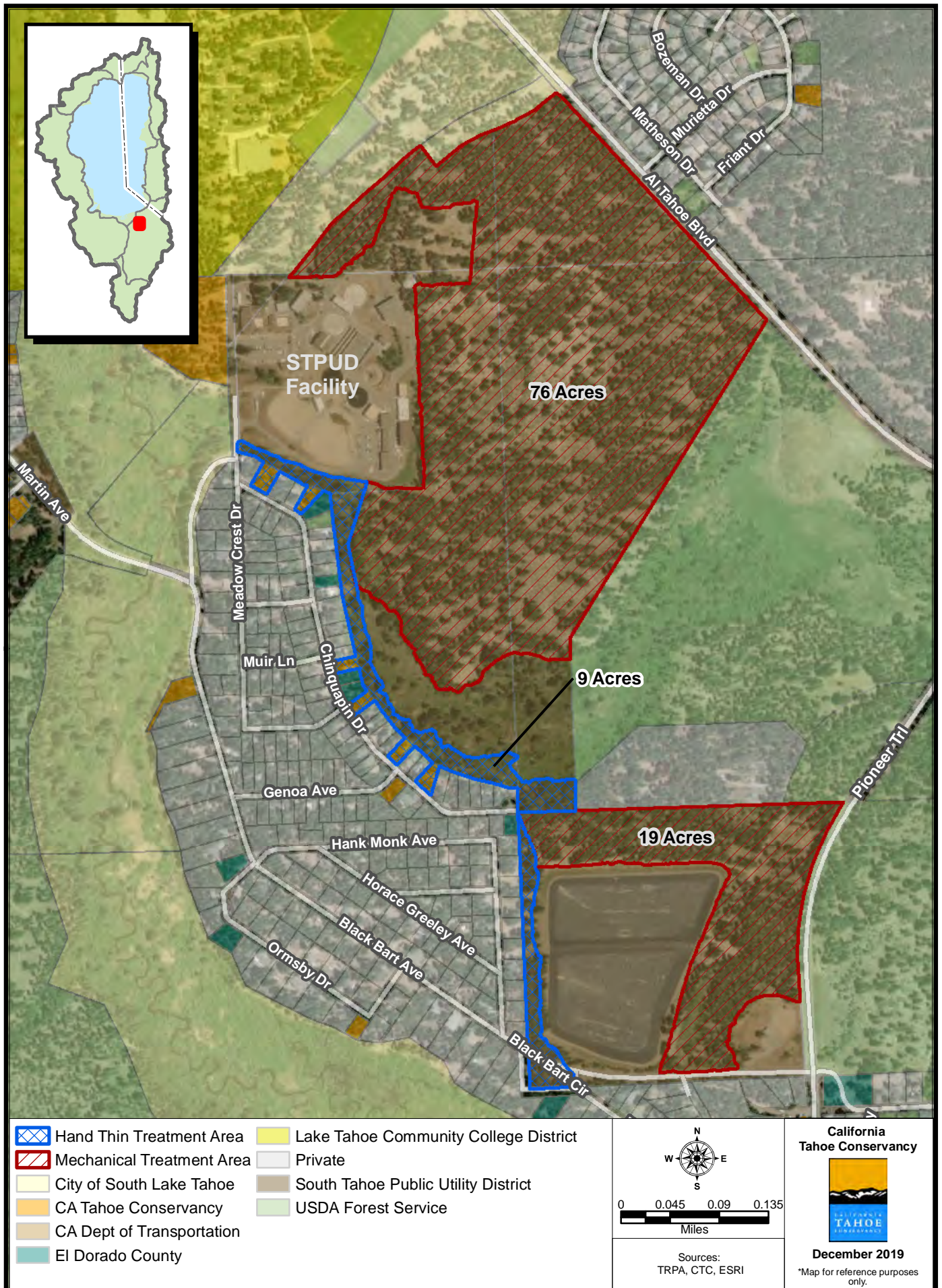
**Date Received for Filing:**

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

# EXHIBIT A

## South Tahoe Public Utility District Treatment Plant Fuel Hazard Reduction Project



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Budget and Accounting**

#### **1. Budget**

##### **Fiscal Year 2019/20**

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) 2019/20 fiscal year appropriations include 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).
- \$12,403,000 for ongoing Conservancy operations including:
  - \$2,825,000 in bond funds from Propositions 12, 40, 50, 68, and 84;
  - \$6,187,000 from special funds dedicated to the Conservancy (Habitat Conservation Fund, Lake Tahoe License Plate proceeds, and Tahoe Conservancy Fund);
  - \$2,891,000 in federal and State reimbursement grants; and
  - \$500,000 in General Funds to address deferred maintenance needs.

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

#### **1. Forest Restoration**

The Conservancy is collaboratively leading several forest restoration projects. The projects and initiatives described below will help build forest and community resilience to disturbances such as wildfire, insects, and disease, while increasing the pace and scale of restoration. They are key components of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and are highlighted in the recently released Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Action Plan, which was presented to the Board in August.

### Good Neighbor Authority

At its August 2018 meeting, the Board authorized staff to execute a Good Neighbor Authority Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with the USDA Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), and to accept and expend federal funds for community forestry and fire protection planning activities. In June 2019, the Board authorized staff to accept and expend up to \$1,350,000 in federal funds to plan additional forest and watershed restoration activities for future implementation under the SPA. Staff has initiated environmental review activities with LTBMU, and is working with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) to align community forestry treatments across land ownerships. Staff expects pilot project implementation to begin next year (pending future Board authorization).

### Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership (LTW)

The Conservancy and five key partners (LTBMU, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency [TRPA], California Department of Parks and Recreation [CSP], TFFT, and the National Forest Foundation [NFF]) form the LTW team. The team recently completed a restoration strategy for the entire 60,000-acre landscape, and contracted with Ascent Environmental to help complete environmental review and analysis in order to meet California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and TRPA requirements.

### Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)

The 2.4 million-acre TCSI aims to accelerate eight 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 is currently recruiting a project lead under the grant. The TCSI science team will complete a landscape resilience assessment and wood supply analysis in January 2020.

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

In August 2017, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) awarded SNC a Forest Health grant that includes six individual projects within the TCSI geographic area. SNC administers the grant, including a sub-grant to the Conservancy for one of the projects. At its June 2018 meeting, the Board approved the Dollar Creek Forest Health Project and authorized staff to enter into an agreement with SNC to begin implementation. Project implementation began in September 2019 on the Conservancy's Dollar Creek property on the north shore. A private contractor mechanically thinned the entire 151 acres, and is now removing the biomass from landings and transporting this material to a biomass facility.

In July 2018, CAL FIRE awarded the Conservancy a \$2.3 million Forest Health

grant. At its October 2018 meeting, the Board authorized staff to accept the grant and begin planning. The grant consists of three components: fuels reduction and prescribed burning at Burton Creek State Park, further fuels reduction at the Conservancy's Dollar Creek property, and removal and utilization of biomass on the California side of the Basin. At its August 2019 meeting, the Board authorized funds to CSP for fuels reduction and prescribed understory burning on 132 acres at Burton Creek State Park. CSP completed a 19-acre prescribed burn the week of November 11. During its October 2019 meeting, the Board authorized staff to implement the 260-acre Dollar Creek Forest Restoration Project. This manual fuel reduction effort is scheduled for fall 2020.

At its December 2016 meeting, the Board authorized planning and preparing fuels reduction treatments on State and locally-owned parcels funded through a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 16 grant to the Conservancy. The first round of treatments began in September 2017, and subsequent rounds will continue through the 2022 field season. This summer and fall, crews from the Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District, California Conservation Corps (CCC), and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District completed 60 acres of hand-thin treatments, including 40 acres at the Van Sickle Bi-State Park, 10 acres at Montgomery Estates in El Dorado County, and 10 acres adjacent to the community of Tahoma in Placer County. Staff will present a proposal for treating an additional 319 acres at the December meeting.

In September of 2016, North Tahoe Fire Protection District (North Tahoe FPD) received a \$763,155 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program to reduce hazardous fuels on 881 Conservancy-managed parcels covering 203 acres. Staff is providing administrative and technical support to North Tahoe FPD to implement the project. This summer North Tahoe FPD completed 154 parcels totaling 27 acres of hand-thin treatments on lots in Placer County.

## **2. Climate Adaptation**

The Conservancy is leading a coordinated effort to develop a Climate Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) that identifies specific projects and programs that agencies in California and Nevada are implementing, or will begin implementing shortly, to adapt to climate change in the Basin. Stakeholders have provided draft lists of actions to which they are willing to commit. Conservancy staff will host a stakeholder workshop on December 10, 2019 to review and refine the draft actions. Working with the graphic design firm Studio Percolate, staff has developed several infographics that will be included in the CAAP and social media campaigns. A full draft CAAP is expected by March 2020.

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

Conservancy staff and Basin partners worked with the consulting firm Creative Resource Strategies (CRS) to identify the actions and costs associated with comprehensive AIS control in the Lake Tahoe region. This work resulted in a common set of AIS management performance measures, a systematic approach to AIS control, and an investment plan to optimize program spending. CRS has worked closely with the Lake Tahoe AIS Coordinating Committee, which represents 13 public agencies including TRPA and the LTBMU, and several smaller working groups during the project. CRS finalized the document in September 2019 and a Lake Tahoe Region AIS Action Agenda (Action Agenda) working group has developed a corresponding investment plan. Together, the investment plan and the Action Agenda form a comprehensive road map for AIS control.

The Action Agenda identifies the need to increase agency capacity to manage the necessary increase in AIS control project pace and scale. In response, Conservancy staff is recommending to award a grant to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) to support its AIS control project planning and program administration efforts.

The Board will receive presentations on both the Action Agenda and proposed grant award at its December meeting.

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

The Conservancy continues work on the UTP, a new initiative that will support the variety of existing restoration, recreation, and resource protection projects within the south side of the Basin. The initial UTP product will be a Synthesis that presents the existing programs and projects, identifies future opportunities and information needs, and provides a vision for a resilient landscape. Over the summer, Conservancy staff held initial meetings with agencies, stakeholders, and the public, and received valuable feedback on the Synthesis development and the draft maps that show the breadth of efforts in the greater watershed. Most recently, staff convened a committee of key partners to help coordinate on the project schedule, the review of draft deliverables, and decisions about how to best organize the Synthesis. As the next step, staff will engage the EIP working groups to solicit their feedback and input on the draft materials.

## **C. Land Management Program**

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

Under delegated authority, the Conservancy granted the following three licenses:

- Short-term (under three years) license to TRPA to access and take water samples from an existing groundwater well on the Conservancy's Cove East property.

- Short-term license to Affordable Construction Incorporated to access Conservancy property to deliver and remove material needed to construct a driveway and replace a natural gas line on an adjacent, residential private property.
- Short-term license to Transform Operating Stores, LLC to continue access to use and maintain a communications cable that runs beneath Conservancy property and connects two Kmart stores.

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

The Conservancy and the Nevada Division of State Parks closed the Park for the season on November 12, 2019.

## **3. Tahoe Resource Conservation District**

The Tahoe RCD and Conservancy entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in 2011, which strengthened the relationship that began in the late 1980's. Staff is now working with the Tahoe RCD to increase crew resources and capacity for the 2020 field season and beyond. This effort is in response to a statewide focus on wildfire prevention, forest health and resilience, and climate change, and trends towards landscape planning, increased pace and scale for restoration, and equitable public access to open space and recreational opportunities. Through the JPA, the Conservancy and Tahoe RCD expect to better address their growing dependence on state and federal grant funds to implement projects and manage lands. Staff anticipates a presentation to the Board in June 2020 highlighting the important work of the Tahoe RCD and valuable partnership between the Tahoe RCD and Conservancy.

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

### **1. Tahoe Pines Restoration**

In September and October of this year, Conservancy contractors conducted site preparation work and initial restoration activities at the Conservancy's Tahoe Pines property. Contractors removed infrastructure associated with the defunct campground, including a well, retaining walls, water distribution facilities, a foot bridge, and fragments of concrete and asphalt. They also removed debris along the banks of the Upper Truckee River (UTR), stabilized the banks of Echo Creek with rock and fabric, and planted vegetation to enhance aquatic habitat. CCC crews also cut dead and dying trees on the property to improve forest health. Crews piled most of the resulting logs for burning in fall 2019.

In September 2019, the California Department of General Services (DGS) advertised for construction bids for additional restoration and recreation improvements at Tahoe Pines. This includes restoring the floodplain and constructing a universally-accessible parking area and trail to the UTR. DGS will award a construction contract for this future work in December 2019, and the



DGS contractor will complete the work by November 2020.

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

##### **1. Forest Restoration**

See the four projects described above in the sub-section on Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Forest Health, and Biomass Projects.

##### **2. Polaris Creek and Wetland Restoration Project**

Over the last two years, the Tahoe RCD and several partners have been conducting a feasibility analysis for the Polaris Creek and Wetland Restoration Project. Supported by a Conservancy Proposition 1 planning grant from the Conservancy, partners are evaluating options to relocate recreation facilities and restore a unique stream and wetland complex in Placer County just north of Tahoe City. They are looking at relocating the Lake Forest Campground, the Pomin Park Ball Fields, and some existing onsite parking, which would allow them to restore these areas back to wetlands. They identified potential relocation sites and developed several project restoration concepts, and conducted a public meeting on November 5, 2019 to solicit public input on these concepts. Tahoe RCD will incorporate public and agency comments as they complete the Feasibility Study in spring of 2020.

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

##### **1. Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration**

The Conservancy is actively planning restoration activities at the Upper Truckee Marsh (UTM), which will improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the largest wetland in the Basin. Staff recently executed a Wyden Agreement with the LTBMU that will provide up to \$1 million dollars in federal funding. Additionally, the California Wildlife Conservation Board recently awarded the Conservancy \$2.98 million in funding for the project. Staff is currently pursuing the final project approvals necessary to proceed to construction.

DGS will advertise for construction bids this winter, with restoration activities anticipated to start in the spring and summer of 2020.

##### **2. Alta Mira**

Extended periods of high lake levels and wave erosion impacted several Conservancy lakefront sites in 2018 and 2019, including Alta Mira and Fremont Overlook. In summer 2019, staff worked with the Tahoe RCD and CCC crews to complete an interim slope protection project that limits additional erosion of the slope. Subsequently DGS managed a construction contract for additional slope stabilization work, and reconstruction of a City-owned storm water outfall at the

Alta Mira site. This work stabilizes and prepares the site for future improvements.

Staff and DGS are developing a consultant contract to advance conceptual designs and environmental documentation for expanded public access and recreation opportunities, permanent slope stabilization, parking, and storm water treatment in this area. Potential improvements will complement existing and future recreation and transportation infrastructure in the area, such as 56 acres, Lakeview Commons Phases 1 and 2, Conolley Beach, and the El Dorado to Ski Run Bike Trail. Staff is coordinating closely with the California State Lands Commission, the City, and the Basin's Shoreline Working Group, which includes relevant federal and state regulatory agencies.

**3. South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail**

El Dorado County is on schedule to construct the South Tahoe Greenway (Greenway) Phases 1b and 2 in 2020, which will provide critical trail connections in the City and El Dorado County. El Dorado County advertised the project for construction bids in November 2019.

**4. Conolley Beach Public Access Project**

Staff and DGS are developing a consultant contract for engineering services to construct the project in 2021. Staff is negotiating an easement and a right of entry with the Beach Retreat to support project implementation. Staff also met with Sierra Shores homeowners immediately following the October 2019 Board meeting to further discuss their concerns and identify potential ways to address them. Staff will bring final designs back to the Board in advance of implementing the project.

**5. Bijou Park Creek Watershed Priority Acquisitions**

In 2017 and 2018, the Board authorized Proposition 1 awards to the City for priority property acquisitions in the Bijou Park Creek Watershed. In November 2019, the City Council authorized staff to acquire one parcel, located at 3755 Rockwood Drive. The City will demolish the existing structure and restore the sensitive property to provide habitat and water quality benefits.

**LAKE TAHOE REGION AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES  
ACTION AGENDA UPDATE**

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) threaten the integrity of rivers, streams, and lakes throughout the country. AIS compete with native species, lessen water quality, and cause damage to boats and other infrastructure. As with other areas in the west, invasive plants, fish, invertebrates, and amphibians are impacting Lake Tahoe.

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy), in coordination with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD), and other agency partners led the development of the Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Action Agenda (Action Agenda) to provide resource managers with a comprehensive strategy for controlling AIS at Lake Tahoe. Building on more than ten years of collaborative AIS management, the Action Agenda refines existing strategies to address both current and emerging regional AIS issues and defines new outcome-based performance metrics that enhance program progress assessment. The Action Agenda stresses the need to increase the pace and scale of AIS control efforts and implement an “all taxa” approach that targets invasive fish, invertebrates, and amphibians in addition to the traditional focus on invasive plants. The Action Agenda also emphasizes the importance of increasing resource management agency capacity to effectively guide enhanced program implementation.

The document identifies the resources needed, on an annual basis, to achieve specific AIS control targets. Structured in two phases, the Action Agenda outlines a ten-year AIS management framework. The first phase (2021-2025) aggressively treats AIS throughout the region to reduce invasive plants to maintenance levels in areas outside the Tahoe Keys while treatment methods and environmental impacts are evaluated for Tahoe Keys AIS control. The second phase (2026-2030) continues efforts to maintain, reduce, or eradicate (when possible) AIS in the region while focusing efforts on reducing invasive plants and fish in the Tahoe Keys.

The Action Agenda represents an important step in limiting the spread of existing AIS populations in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), eradicating AIS where possible, and reducing the ecological and social harm caused by AIS. These objectives are consistent with and supportive of the Conservancy’s 2018-2023 Strategic Plan goal of restoring the resilience of Basin watersheds.

Implementing the comprehensive regional approach described in the Action Agenda will require ongoing coordination and collaboration between Basin resource management agencies and continued investment in AIS research, monitoring, prevention, and control activities. The Conservancy is committed to working with Basin partners to identify and secure new funding to support the AIS program and participate in interagency efforts to prioritize the investment of available resources. As an initial step, the Conservancy is seeking grant approval to increase the Tahoe RCD's staff capacity to lead AIS program efforts.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Action Agenda 2021-2030 Summary

### **Conservancy Staff Contacts**

Robert Larsen, Water Quality Program Manager

[robert.larsen@resources.ca.gov](mailto:robert.larsen@resources.ca.gov)



**LAKE TAHOE REGION**  
**AQUATIC**  
**INVASIVE**  
**SPECIES**

**ACTION AGENDA 2021-2030**  
Enhancing Resilience in the Lake Tahoe Region

# The Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Action Agenda 2021–2030:

- Increases the pace and scale of aquatic invasive species control work
- Identifies priorities for AIS investments
- Maximizes return on investment
- Incorporates new performance metrics
- Supports adequate levels of monitoring
- Adds capacity to achieve goals
- Defines a complete approach to addressing aquatic invasive species in the Region

## Regional AIS Goals:

- Prevent new introductions of AIS to the Region.
- Limit the spread of existing AIS populations by employing strategies that minimize threats to native species, and extirpate existing AIS populations when possible.
- Abate harmful ecological, economic, recreational, and public health impacts resulting from AIS

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## The Action Agenda is a 10-year plan with two five-year implementation phases:

**Phase I (2021–2025)** aggressively treats and controls AIS throughout the Region while completing environmental documents and AIS control testing for the Tahoe Keys. The Phase I goal is to reduce aquatic invasive plants to maintenance levels (or complete eradication) in areas outside of the Tahoe Keys.

**Phase II (2026–2030)** focuses on reducing aquatic invasive plants and invasive fish in the Tahoe Keys while continuing to maintain, reduce, or eradicate AIS in other parts of the Lake Tahoe Region.



This document was prepared by  
Creative Resource Strategies, LLC

## The Time to Act is Now

Aquatic invasive species pose one of the greatest threats to Lake Tahoe's ecology, and to the \$5 billion recreation-based economy of the Lake Tahoe Region. Now is the time to increase the pace and scale to reduce the distribution and abundance of aquatic invasive species in the Lake Tahoe Region.

Failure to implement comprehensive control actions on all aquatic invasive species through 2030 will:

- Lessen chances of eradicating and controlling AIS populations;
- Harm the ecological function of Lake Tahoe;

- Inject uncertainty into the regional economy;
- Make it more difficult to recover populations of the federally-listed Lahontan cutthroat trout;
- Degrade the quality of experiences of residents and visitors; and
- Significantly increase long-term costs to address AIS in the Region.

Enhancing the resilience of Lake Tahoe by addressing AIS threats will achieve the most strategic return on investment and ensure the Region continues to thrive.

## Aquatic Invasive Species Performance Metrics

New performance metrics assess both effort and outcomes associated with AIS control projects in the Region.

### Programmatic Metrics



Acres treated for invasive species



Number of projects completed



Invasive species risk assessment completed



Funds expended per unit

### Outcome-based Metrics



#### PLANTS

- Percentage increase or decrease in infested area (acres) per species
- Number of AIS-infested acres
- New aquatic invasive plant populations that have become established



#### INVASIVE FISH

- Reduction of invasive fish in regions of Lake Tahoe



#### AQUATIC INVASIVE INVERTEBRATES

- Reductions of signal crayfish and mysid shrimp in designated regions of Lake Tahoe



#### INVASIVE AMPHIBIANS

- Reductions of bullfrogs in designated regions of Lake Tahoe

## Achieving an Optimal Return on Investment, 2021–2030

The Action Agenda proposes a three-fold increase in pace and scale relative to current actions. Complete Action Agenda implementation will cost an estimated \$74 million through 10 years (\$7.4 million annually) and will achieve the greatest return on investment, maximize benefits to ecosystem services, minimize risk, and reduce degradation to fish and wildlife habitats in the Region. Implementing this recommendation will achieve:

- 90 percent reduction to eradication of aquatic invasive plants in nearshore and upstream areas and the Tahoe Keys;
- 90 percent reduction in invasive fish biomass in priority areas;
- Reductions of aquatic invasive invertebrates and amphibians in regions of the lake and upstream areas;
- Support for effective Early Detection Rapid Response actions through the creation of an emergency invasive species fund;
- Newly developed detection and monitoring tools;
- Comprehensive nearshore-wide and in-situ diver survey and drone transects;
- Strategic investment in new technologies and methodologies to control aquatic invasive species;
- An assessment of high-risk invasive species every two years; and
- Investment in a marina engagement strategy.



The plan outlines four funding levels to achieve Region AIS goals:



**Level A:** Complete AIS control throughout the Region, including Tahoe Keys

**Level B:** AIS plant-only control throughout Region, including Tahoe Keys

**Level C:** AIS plant-only control throughout the Region, excluding Tahoe Keys

**Level D:** AIS plant-only control in nearshore, excluding Tahoe Keys

Implementing Action Agenda Level A achieves the greatest biological integrity in the Lake Tahoe Region while minimizing risk to the economic, environment, and societal values. Implementing Level D funding achieves the least biological integrity and involves the greatest risk.



## Strategic Investments Needed to Implement the Action Agenda, 2021–2030

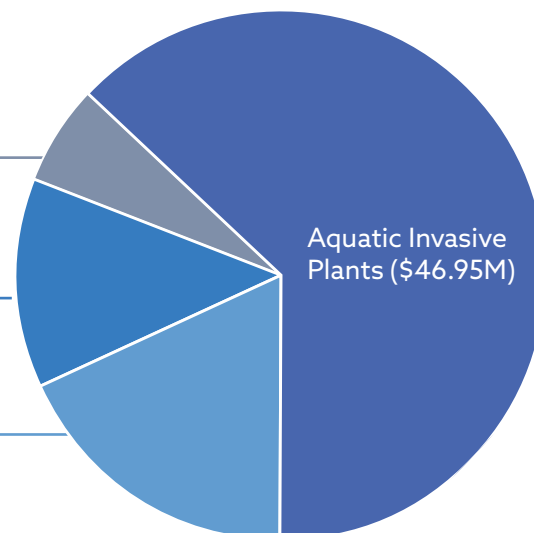
Strategic Outcomes	Phase I (2021–2025)	Phase II (2026–2030)
Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Outside Tahoe Keys 90% reduction in acreage of aquatic invasive plant populations outside the Tahoe Keys	\$12.5 M	\$6.25 M
Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Outside Tahoe Keys Early Detection and Rapid Response - no new aquatic invasive plant populations become established outside the Tahoe Keys	\$1.25 M	\$1.25 M
Aquatic Invasive Plant Control in Tahoe Keys 90% reduction, or eradication, of aquatic invasive plant populations in the Tahoe Keys	\$7.0 M	\$17.2 M
Aquatic Invasive Plant Control in Tahoe Keys Environmental documentation that informs control work in the Tahoe Keys	\$1.5 M	\$0
<b>Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Totals</b>	<b>\$22.25 M</b>	<b>\$24.70 M</b>
Aquatic Invasive Fish, Invertebrate, and Amphibian Control 90% reduction of invasive fish biomass, and invasive aquatic invertebrates and American bullfrogs in regions of the lake	\$2.63 M	\$1.85 M
<b>Aquatic Invasive Fish, Invertebrate and Amphibian Control Totals</b>	<b>\$2.63 M</b>	<b>\$1.85 M</b>
Research and Monitoring Enhanced detection of aquatic invasive species, surveys conducted (nearshore, in-situ diver, drone), assessments of AIS population abundance and distribution, investments in new technologies	\$4.29 M	\$5.235 M
<b>Research and Monitoring Totals</b>	<b>\$4.29 M</b>	<b>\$5.24 M</b>
Assessment, Emergency Fund, Infrastructure Enhancements to Prevent Spread of AIS, and Added Staff Capacity High-risk assessment of AIS every two years, established partnership program to advance infrastructure at marinas and other lake locations, establish an Early Detection and Rapid Response emergency fund, and hire sufficient staffing to implement the Agenda.	\$7.2 M	\$6.28 M
<b>Administrative Totals</b>	<b>\$7.20 M</b>	<b>\$6.28 M</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$36.39M</b>	<b>\$38.06 M</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$74.45 M</b>

### AIS Budget, 2021–2030

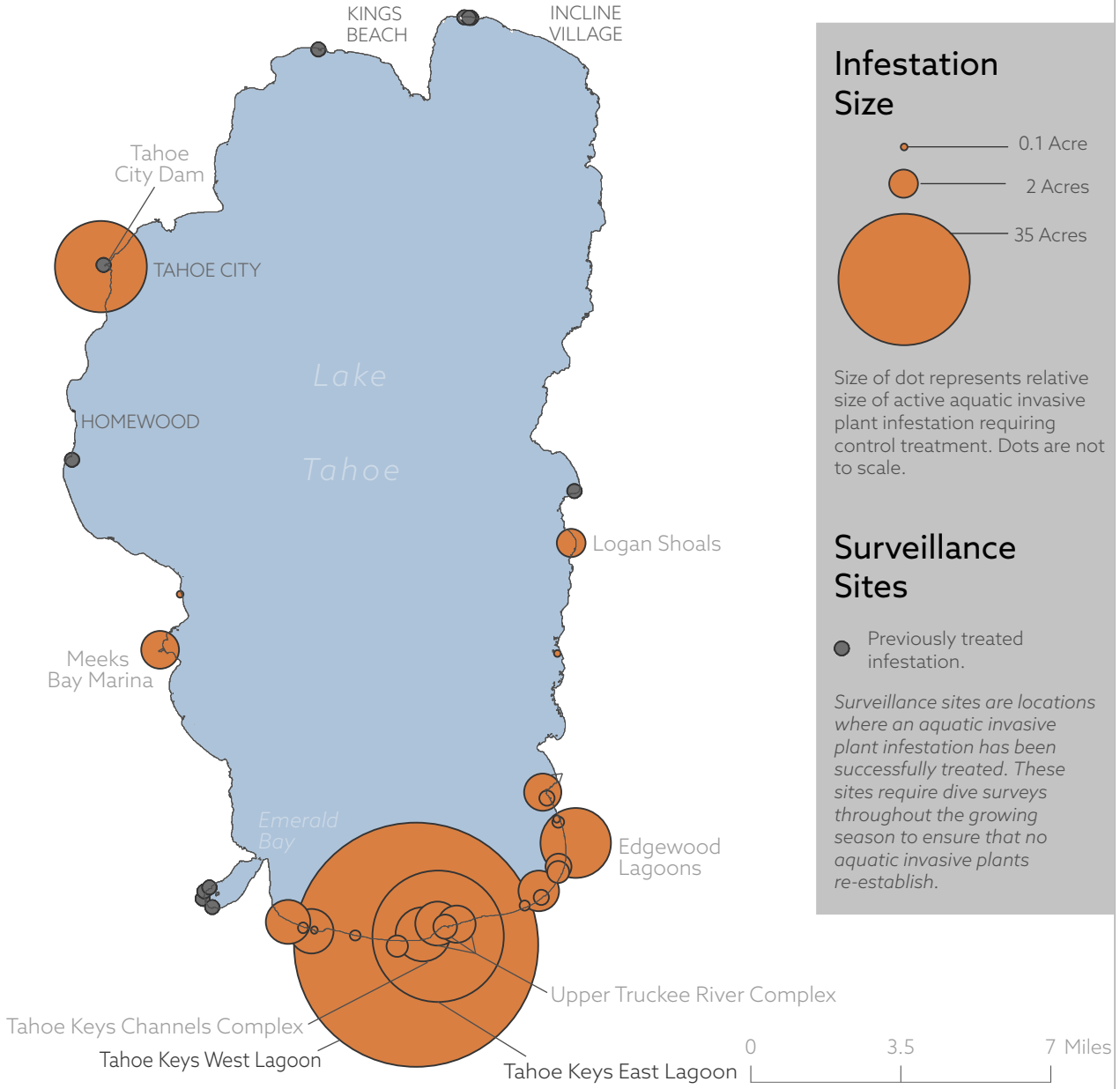
Aquatic Invasive Fish, Invertebrate, and Amphibian Control (\$4.47M)

Research and Monitoring (\$9.53M)

Assessment, Emergency Fund, Infrastructure Enhancements, Staff Capacity (\$13.48M)



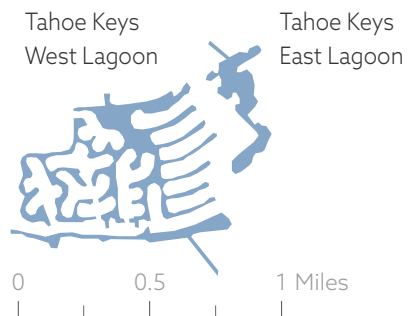
# Aquatic Invasive Plant Infestations 2019



## The Tahoe Keys Challenge

Based on acreage, the Tahoe Keys comprise 70 percent of all aquatic plant infestations in Lake Tahoe. The size of these infestations and the complexity associated with the geography of the Tahoe Keys make identifying and implementing control treatments a challenge. Although most marinas contain one or two embayments, the Tahoe Keys complex contains a myriad of connected waterways equalling approximately 170 acres.

Map produced by S. Matthews, Tahoe RCD 2019.



# MOST UNWANTED LAKE TAHOE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive plants, fish, invertebrates, and amphibians are degrading Lake Tahoe Region ecosystems.

## Plants

### Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed

- Reduce native species
- Degrade water quality by
  - Contributing to nutrient loading
  - Impairing boating navigation
  - Reducing clarity
- Reduce scenic quality
- Create habitat for other invasives



## Invasive Fish

- Alter food web function
- Decrease the biodiversity of native fish
- Compete with native fish
- Inhibit Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery



# Aquatic Invertebrates

## Asian Clams

- Where present, Asian clams comprise the majority of benthic community biomass
- Contribute to algal blooms
- Shell deposits affect nearshore aesthetics



## Mysid Shrimp

- Reduce or eliminate native phytoplankton
- Alter food web dynamics
- Inhibit Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery
- Reduce clarity



## Signal Crayfish

- Comprise the bulk of littoral-zone benthic biomass
- Reduce food for native benthic macroinvertebrates
- Degrade water quality
- Reduce native aquatic invertebrates



# Invasive Amphibians

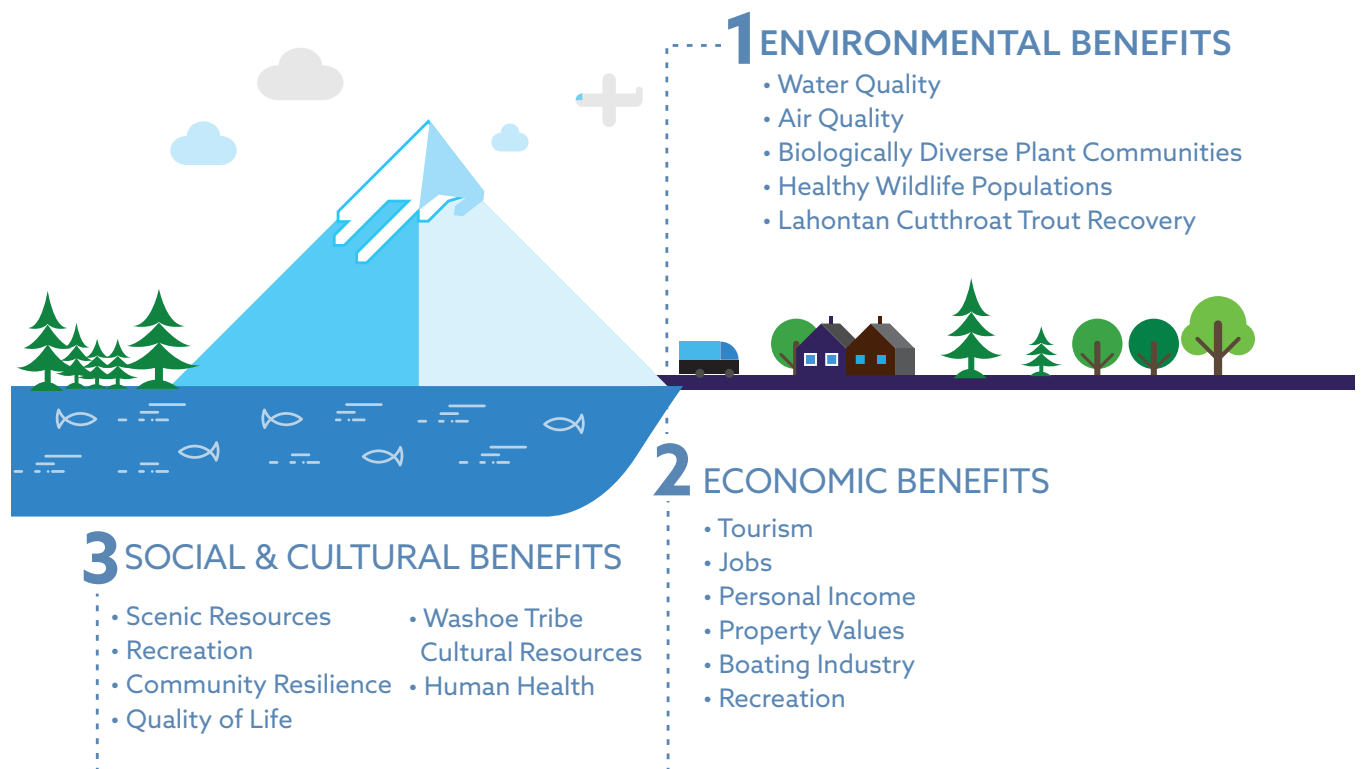
## American Bullfrogs

- Transmit fungus to other amphibians
- Outcompete native species
- Consume native fish, birds, and amphibians



# The Regional Economy Depends on a Healthy Lake Tahoe

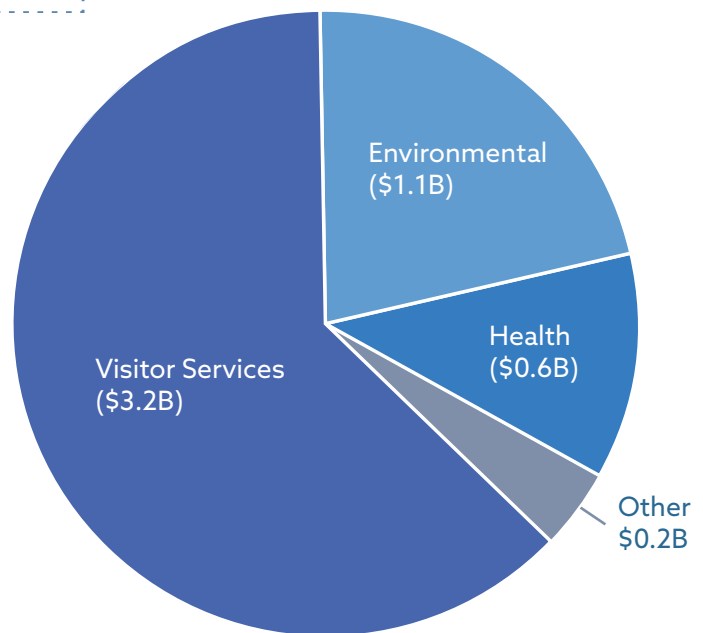
Lake Tahoe is one of the largest subalpine lakes in the world and is recognized nationally and globally as a natural resource of special significance. Lake Tahoe is also an Outstanding National Resource Water known for its extraordinary clarity and blue color. Maintaining and sustaining a healthy Lake Tahoe protects valuable economic, environmental, and social/cultural resources in the Region.



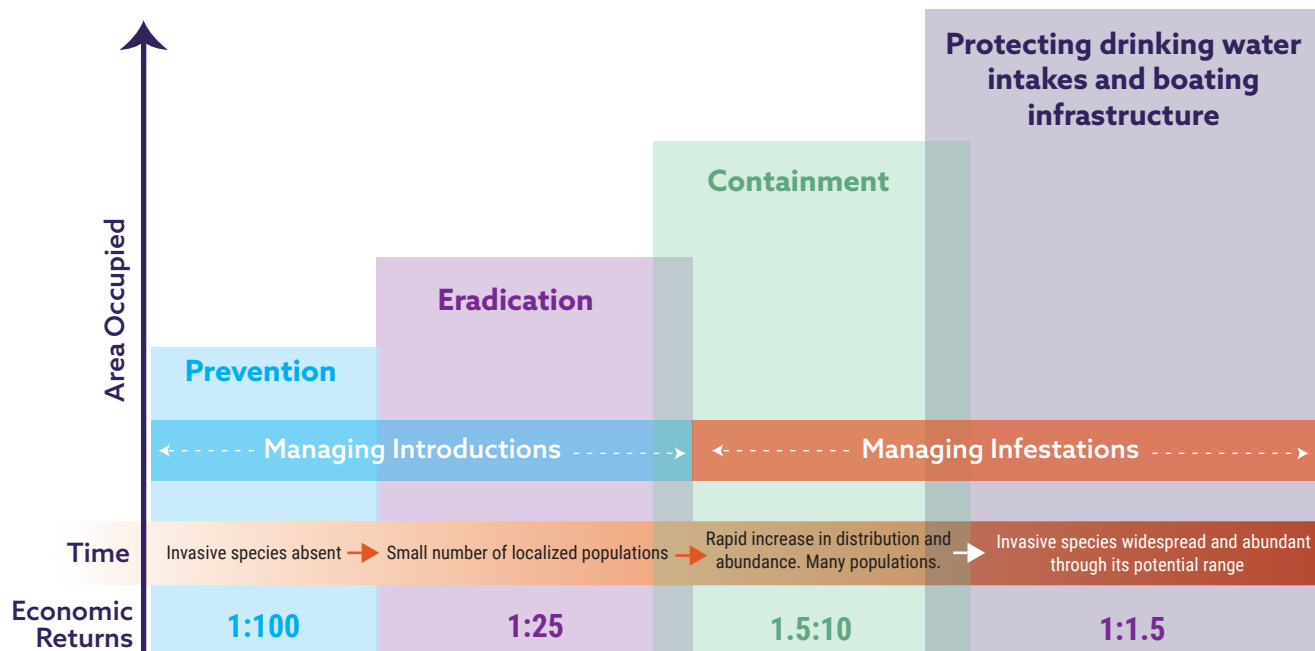
## \$5 Billion Regional Economy

Visitor services, Environmental, Health, and Other clusters drive 95 percent of the regional economy (Applied Development Economics 2015). Recreation is the second most important component of the Visitor Services cluster. The top three clusters depend on the continued outstanding quality of the natural environment.

**Total Tahoe Economy = \$5.1 billion**



## Cost-Effectiveness of AIS Management Approaches



### Prevention

The most cost-effective approach to managing invasive species is to **prevent** their introduction. As populations become established, containment and management result in the greatest long-term economic, environmental, and social damages.

The watercraft inspection program shields the Tahoe Basin from an invasive mussel infestation by focusing on the *Clean, Drain and Dry* strategy. This includes watercraft inspection and decontamination stations, and outreach and education. During the past 11 years, these strategic investments have prevented the introduction of quagga or zebra mussels to the Region, at a fraction of the cost of containment and eradication. An infestation of these invasive mussels would cost the Region millions of dollars annually and in perpetuity.

### Eradication

The next most cost-effective invasive species management method is to eradicate infestations when their populations are small and localized. Eurasian watermilfoil is an aquatic invasive

plant found both inside the Tahoe Keys and along Lake Tahoe's shoreline. Managers have effectively **eradicated** newly detected populations of Eurasian watermilfoil along the shoreline while populations are small.

### Containment

The Tahoe Keys, which are infested with aquatic invasive plants and invasive fish, serve as invasive species source populations for the Region. Managers work to **contain** AIS in the Tahoe Keys while pilot projects are completed to test the efficacy of eradication methods. Containment is costlier than eradication, or prevention.

### Asset Protection

When invasive species cannot be prevented, eradicated, or contained, actions to **protect assets, such as drinking water intakes and boating infrastructure**, have the greatest cost and fewest returns on investment.



The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program is a collaborative partnership working together to achieve the environmental goals of the region. The Aquatic Invasive Species Action Agenda implements the partnerships' priorities to control or eradicate aquatic invasive species to protect the biological diversity and scenic resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin.





## **LAKE TAHOE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM SUPPORT GRANT**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 19-12-04 (Attachment 1) authorizing a grant award to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) of up to \$450,000 for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control project planning and program oversight in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin).

**Executive Summary:** AIS are a growing threat to waterways throughout the nation and the west, as they can degrade aesthetics, impair drainage infrastructure, reduce water quality, threaten wildlife habitat, and impact navigation, recreation, and land values. In partnership with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and other agencies, the Tahoe RCD leads AIS prevention and control in the Basin. This grant increases Tahoe RCD's AIS management capacity by supporting its planning, administrative, and oversight role with up to three years of funding. The grant advances the mission of the interagency Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee (LTAISCC) to prevent, detect, and control aquatic invasive species in the region, and supports Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) efforts to control AIS and protect native species. This grant also promotes the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy B, by advancing a multiple-benefit project that creatively combines restoring and building the resilience of watersheds with water quality protection and climate change adaptation. Finally, the grant continues the Conservancy's commitment to addressing AIS in the region by building on recently developed AIS management plans and leveraging federal funding dedicated to AIS control.

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

**Fiscal Summary:** The grant will use up to \$450,000 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account, Senate Bill 630 (SB 630).

## Overview

### History

AIS pose a serious threat to the Basin's unique natural environment and economy. For over a decade, Basin partners have led efforts to prevent, control, and detect AIS in the Tahoe region and have established an effective interagency program to address AIS concerns. The LTAISCC is a collaborative working group of representatives from federal, state, regional, and local agencies and nonprofits committed to the prevention, control, and early detection of AIS at Lake Tahoe. In 2009 (with a 2014 update), the LTAISCC developed the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (Management Plan) to achieve its mission. In 2015, the University of Nevada, Reno collaborated with the LTAISCC to prepare a corresponding Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan tiers from the Management Plan and identifies strategies for AIS removal and control.

Using the Management and Implementation Plans as a foundation, the Conservancy led work in 2018-19 to develop a Lake Tahoe Regional AIS Action Agenda (Action Agenda) to evaluate the magnitude of effort and cost to comprehensively address AIS in the Basin. The Action Agenda provides short- and long-term management targets and identifies both specific and programmatic control actions to reduce the economic, environmental, and social effects of AIS in the region. Importantly, the Action Agenda specifically identifies the need to increase agency capacity to plan, administer, and oversee the anticipated increase in program activity.

The Tahoe RCD plays an essential role in implementing the regional AIS program. It has the unique ability and capacity to implement AIS monitoring, detection, and rapid-response control measures. In addition to leading direct project implementation, the Tahoe RCD serves as LTAISCC co-chair to help guide project prioritization. The grant increases Tahoe RCD's capacity to continue serving as one of the primary regional AIS program leads as planning and management needs grow.

### Detailed Description of Recommended Action

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

Following Board authorization, Conservancy and Tahoe RCD staff will develop a grant agreement. The grant will increase Tahoe RCD's staff capacity to coordinate project planning and prioritization, and provide programmatic oversight and administration. Anticipated activities include the following:

- Preparing agenda and materials, facilitating and collaboratively leading, and managing follow-up activities for the regular meetings of several collaborative planning groups that guide Basinwide AIS programmatic work (e.g., LTAISCC, Nearshore Aquatic Weed Working Group, the Tahoe Keys AIS Stakeholder Committee);

- Leading annual processes to collaboratively prioritize regional AIS control projects for the EIP, Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and other funding opportunities, consistent with the AIS Action Agenda;
- Coordinating the distribution of AIS implementation funding from federal and state agencies;
- Participating in reviewing and providing comments on the Basinwide marina AIS control partnership strategy; and
- Providing oversight of Basinwide AIS programmatic work, including periodic briefings of key peer agencies and the Tahoe Interagency Executives Steering Committee;
- As needed, providing administrative support for each of the prior activities.

Activities are anticipated to occur throughout the life of the grant (up to three years).

## 2. Overall Context and Benefits

Combatting AIS at Lake Tahoe requires the coordinated efforts of multiple resource management agencies and demands creative and collaborative funding strategies. Administrative, planning, and oversight are critical program functions that are often inadequately supported. This grant provides the Tahoe RCD the resources needed to lead inter-agency coordination efforts and guide project prioritization.

Regional partners are committed to AIS management and have prevented new AIS introductions to safeguard Lake Tahoe from the detrimental effects of AIS on both Lake ecology and human experiences. Dedicated federal funding from the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act provides the foundation for enhanced control work to reduce AIS populations to maintenance levels. Further agency coordination and oversight is needed to effectively plan and coordinate future investment.

Enhancing the Tahoe RCD’s capacity to effectively manage AIS in the Basin will allow resource managers to direct a larger portion of other state, federal, and local funding sources to project implementation.

## 3. Schedule for the Recommended Action

Following Board authorization, Conservancy and Tahoe RCD staff will develop a grant agreement to guide AIS program planning and administration activities. The following table generally describes actions the Tahoe RCD will take.

<b>Anticipated Activities for Proposed Grant</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Manage collaborative planning groups	2020 – 2023
Lead annual prioritization processes	2020 – 2023
Coordinate the distribution of AIS implementation funding	2020 – 2023

Review and comment on the Basinwide marina AIS control partnership strategy	2020 – 2023
Provide oversight of Basinwide AIS programmatic work	2020 – 2023

**Financing**

The grant will be funded by available SB 630 resources.

**Authority**

**Consistency with the Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation**

Implementation of this program is consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to local public agencies for purposes consistent with its mission.

**Consistency with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan**

The recommended action is consistent with the Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy B: to advance multiple-benefit projects that creatively combine restoring and building the resilience of forests and watersheds with water quality protection, green infrastructure, recreation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Consistency with the Conservancy’s Program Guidelines**

There are no Conservancy Program Guidelines for AIS.

**Consistency with External Authorities**

The recommended action is consistent with the authority given to the Conservancy through SB 630 pursuant to Public Resources Code section 6217.6.1. The Conservancy informed the SB 630 stakeholder group in advance of the proposal to award this grant and the reasons for its selection. The recommended action also implements EIP project 01.04.02.0070 (Action Agenda) to cohesively address AIS in the Basin and is consistent with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (January 2008).

**Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act**

Pursuant to the State 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 2). 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 19-12-04

Attachment 2 – Notice of Exemption

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Robert Larsen, Water Quality Program Manager

[robert.larsen@resources.ca.gov](mailto:robert.larsen@resources.ca.gov)

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution  
19-12-04  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

### **LAKE TAHOE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM SUPPORT GRANT**

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

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District of up to \$450,000 for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control project planning and program oversight in the Lake Tahoe Basin, 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 12th day of December, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 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

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***Project Title:***

Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program Support Grant

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***Project Location – Specific:***

California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin

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***Project Location – City:***

N/A

***Project Location – County:***

El Dorado County and Placer County

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

The California Tahoe Conservancy will award a grant to the Tahoe Resource Conservation District for aquatic invasive species control project planning and program oversight in Lake Tahoe.

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

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 12/12/2019) (Agenda Item 6)

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

Tahoe Resource Conservation District

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***Exempt Status:***

- Ministerial (§ 15268)
  - Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
  - Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
  - Statutory Exemption (§ 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies)
- 

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

The project consists of planning and feasibility studies for future aquatic invasive species control actions.

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***Contact Person:***

Robert Larsen

***Telephone Number:***

(916) 402-7508

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***Date Received for Filing:***

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

## **CLIMATE ACTION ACCELERATION GRANT**

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution 19-12-05 (Attachment 1) authorizing the award of a planning grant to the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) for up to \$74,000 to assess the conditions and make recommendations for how to accelerate climate change adaptation in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) by developing and deploying practical, science-based management tools and technology applications.

**Executive Summary:** California and Nevada both recognize the need to move from climate change planning to action. The Lake Tahoe Basin Climate Adaptation Action Plan (CAAP) demonstrates that major needs exist for climate science to inform practical management tools and technology applications that protect water resources, reduce wildfire risk while improving forest health, maintain biodiversity, sequester carbon, enhance community resilience, and sustain the Basin's recreation economy. However, it remains unclear how to best develop and deploy such tools and applications. With Conservancy grant funding, UC Berkeley will provide an assessment and recommendations on how to most effectively meet these needs, including a supporting organizational structure. The work will address State of California and Nevada mandates, help protect Basin communities, support the forthcoming Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) update, help achieve the goals of Proposition 68, and advance the Conservancy's mission and Goal 4 of its Strategic Plan (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities). If authorized by the Conservancy Board, staff will execute a grant agreement with UC Berkeley. UC Berkeley will then present assessment findings and recommendations to the Board.

**Location:** The California and Nevada sides of the Basin.

**Fiscal Summary:** The grant is for up to \$74,000 from Proposition 68 funding.

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## Overview

### History

Climate change has moved to the center of Conservancy work because it affects so many aspects of land management, forest and watershed restoration, recreation and public access, and livable communities. The Conservancy identified the primacy of climate change adaptation in both its 2012-2017 and 2018-2023 Strategic Plans. In parallel, the 2012 Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Plan also identified climate change as a priority, and prior to this, the Basin's EIP 2008 Update did the same. In late 2017, the Conservancy launched a CAAP process to first update information on expected climate impacts to communities, the Lake, and forests, and then to identify agency and stakeholder projects, initiatives, and services that address these impacts. The corresponding CAAP deliverables consist of a vulnerability assessment and an action plan. Staff will present a draft action plan to the Board in March 2020, including key vulnerabilities.

Notwithstanding the actions in the CAAP, partners have identified several weaknesses in the ability of the Basin and surrounding Sierra Nevada to adapt to the range of likely impacts. Weaknesses include specific scientific, engineering, and economic data gaps. For example, partners lack projections of future flooding in each of the Basin's major watersheds, from the steep and narrow Ward Creek to the meandering and broad Upper Truckee River. Partners also lack guidance to help them redesign infrastructure or restoration projects that anticipate climate impacts. For example, additional analysis could better inform the appropriate size of storm water basins to handle extreme rain events. Finally, resource managers need tools and technology applications that combine climate science and technical guidance and make their fieldwork more efficient and effective. For example, how remote sensing data can be used to adjust tree thinning projects in response to drought, or to measure impacts to pavement from extreme flooding.

### Detailed Description of Recommended Action

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

UC Berkeley will provide an assessment and make recommendations for how to best accelerate Basin and Sierra Nevada climate adaptation through management tools, technology applications, climate science, and a supporting organizational structure. The work will explore three main topics.

- A. The practical contributions that would create the greatest value for Basin partners, the Basin's vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and the surrounding Sierra Nevada region. For example, contributions could include tools for fieldwork, computer applications, assessment methods, technical guidance manuals, professional assistance, and direct research. At the same time, specific needs vary in their urgency, scope, cost and potential funding, and relevance. The

work would include prioritizing climate science information that is essential to advance tools and applications.

- B. The organizational configuration that would most effectively accelerate the development and deployment of practical tools and applications for managers. Basin partners vary in whether they manage land, conduct scientific research, and develop and market applied technologies. UC Berkeley will investigate the organizational structure that could best build on and support—rather than duplicate or compete with—the work of partners such as the USDA Forest Service (USFS) (which both manages land and conducts science), the South Lake Tahoe and Incline Village chapters of the Entrepreneurs Assembly, the Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), and the Tahoe Science Advisory Council (TSAC). This will include whether and to what degree an organization dedicated to accelerating climate adaptation could function as part of one of these existing agencies and science institutions. Nonprofits, businesses, universities, and government each have different strengths and weaknesses, and the most effective configuration might need to combine different elements from each of these.
- C. The financial model that would make an organization sustainable. UC Berkeley will assess what combination of philanthropy, grant-seeking, loans, endowments, product and application sales, and in-kind contributions would provide durable footing for an organization that accelerates climate adaptation. UC Berkeley will also assess how the work and services of such an organization should be communicated and marketed. While profit is not a primary motive, the sale of management tools and technology applications can help to recoup a portion of the research, development, and administrative costs; generate additional investment dollars that complement public funding; and help make an organization self-sustaining.

Critical information would come from interviews with local partners, such as Placer County, El Dorado County, the City of South Lake Tahoe, public utility districts, and water suppliers; federal and state partners, such as the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board; and research institutions such as TERC, the Desert Research Institute, and TSAC. It would also come from key partners in the surrounding Sierra Nevada, such as the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, and The Nature Conservancy.

If authorized by the Board, staff will execute a grant agreement with UC Berkeley. The UC Berkeley team will then conduct research, interviews, and other analyses, prepare a report, and present their assessment findings and recommendations to the Board.

## 2. Overall Context and Benefits

The CAAP indicates that critical gaps exist in the climate science and corresponding management and technology applications necessary to accelerate Basin adaptation. Prioritizing these needs and determining what organizational structure could best address them are the first steps toward improving how partners plan and implement projects, manage land and resources, provide services, and respond to crises. In this regard, the recommended action will:

1. Address State of California mandates, such as the Global Warming Solutions Act, Safeguarding California, the Forest Carbon Plan, Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, and executive orders on adaptation (B-30-15), biodiversity (B-54-18), and carbon neutrality (B-55-18); as well as State of Nevada mandates, such as the renewable portfolio standard and solar project investments.
2. Safeguard the Basin's communities, including those that are vulnerable or disadvantaged, by addressing the impacts of climate change on public health and safety, particularly wildfires, smoke, and flooding.
3. Support the EIP's renewed emphasis on integrating climate change throughout environmental protection and restoration projects in the Basin, and developing corresponding performance measures.
4. Achieve the drought, water, wildlife, and climate preparedness goals of Proposition 68, the funding source for the technical assistance grant.
5. Advance the Conservancy's mission and Goal 4 of its Strategic Plan (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities).

## 3. Schedule for the Recommended Action

If authorized by the Board, staff anticipates the following approximate schedule.

<b>Task or Deliverable</b>	<b>Date</b>
Execute grant agreement	Winter 2020
Prepare for interviews, begin research and analyses	Winter and Spring 2020
Draft report covering assessment findings and recommendations	Spring 2020
Final report	Summer 2020
Board presentation	Summer or Autumn 2020

## Financing

The grant is for up to \$74,000 from Proposition 68 funding.

**Authority**

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

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation. Specifically, Government Code section 66907.7 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to public entities and nonprofit organizations for purposes consistent with its mission.

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

The recommended action supports the Conservancy's Strategic Plan Goal 4 (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities).

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

There are no Conservancy program guidelines for climate change adaptation.

**Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act**

Pursuant to the State 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 2). 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 19-12-05

Attachment 2 – Notice of Exemption

**Conservancy Staff Contact**

Dorian Fougères, Chief of Natural Resources

dorian.fougeres@tahoe.ca.gov

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Resolution  
19-12-05  
Adopted: December 12, 2019

### **CLIMATE ACTION ACCELERATION GRANT**

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

“The Conservancy hereby authorizes the award of a grant to the University of California, Berkeley for up to \$74,000 to assess the conditions and make recommendations for how to accelerate climate change adaptation in the Lake Tahoe Basin by developing and deploying practical, science-based management tools and technology applications.”

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 12th day of December, 2019.

In WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of December, 2019.

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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

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**Project Title:**

Climate Action Acceleration Grant

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**Project Location – Specific:**

California and Nevada sides of the Lake Tahoe Basin

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**Project Location – City:**

N/A

**Project Location – County:**

El Dorado County and Placer County

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

Assess the conditions and make recommendations for how to accelerate climate change adaptation in the Lake Tahoe Basin by developing and deploying practical, science-based management tools and technology applications.

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**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:**

California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy meeting of 12/12/2019) (Agenda Item 7)

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

University of California, Berkeley

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**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial (§ 15268)
  - Declared Emergency (§ 15269(a))
  - Emergency Project (§ 15269(b)(c))
  - Statutory Exemption (§ 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies)
- 

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

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

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**Contact Person:**

Dorian Fougères

**Telephone Number:**

(530) 543-6013

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**Date Received for Filing:**

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Patrick Wright  
Executive Director

## **COUNTRY CLUB HEIGHTS EROSION CONTROL PROJECT – PHASE 3 UPDATE**

### **History**

El Dorado County is pursuing comprehensive water quality and restoration improvements in the Country Club Heights subdivision. Storm water generated in this neighborhood flows to the Upper Truckee River (UTR) with limited treatment of pollutants. Past development impacted stream environment zones (SEZ) by filling floodplains and diverting flows away from meadows. In 2017, the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) Board authorized a \$250,000 Proposition 1 site improvement grant to El Dorado County for one phase of the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project. In 2018, the County completed the work associated with the grant, which included environmental improvements to achieve multiple benefits.

At the same 2017 meeting, the Board also authorized a \$250,000 Proposition 1 grant to El Dorado County for planning and preliminary design of the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase 3 (Project). The Project includes storm water, restoration, and public access elements on additional lands in the neighborhood, such as the Conservancy's Elks Club property. The planning grant supports preconstruction monitoring, and preparation of a feasibility report with preliminary designs and environmental documents.

The Conservancy purchased the three-acre Elks Club property in 2008 to restore SEZ and improve public access. When acquired, the property included a structure that operated as the Elks Club Lodge for over 40 years. The development in the SEZ had caused extensive disturbance to the UTR floodplain, resulting in an elevated and dried impervious surface without floodplain or wetland habitat benefits. Following acquisition, the Conservancy demolished the Elks Club structure but retained the parking area to provide public access.

The planned improvements at the Elks Club property will affect the South Lake Tahoe Flea Market (Flea Market). The Flea Market operated at the Elks Club site for over 20 years prior to Conservancy acquisition. Following acquisition, the Conservancy agreed to allow the Flea Market to continue operating at the Elks Club site on a temporary basis through annual special use agreements until the Conservancy fully restores the site. The Conservancy will allow the Flea Market to operate in 2020, but will not permit the Flea Market to operate after El Dorado County begins Project construction, which is anticipated to begin in 2021.

## **Current Project Status**

In June 2019, El Dorado County completed the Project feasibility report, which describes the existing site conditions, opportunities and constraints, and potential restoration and public access alternatives. El Dorado County presented the alternatives to partner agencies and the public to solicit feedback and inform Project design. The County then incorporated public and agency comments into the preferred alternative.

In September 2019, El Dorado County completed a preferred alternative memorandum that outlines the Project elements and benefits. The Project Map (Attachment 1) highlights proposed site improvements on the Elks Club property and adjacent parcels, which include:

- Basins to treat storm water runoff on publicly-owned lands,
- Over one acre of SEZ restoration by removing fill and impervious areas,
- A smaller parking lot on the Elks Club property that meets erosion control requirements, and
- Permanent recreation facilities such as trails, educational signage, a restroom, and a covered day use area.

The Project will result in several benefits consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. It will improve water quality by increasing storm water treatment, reducing impervious surfaces, and enhancing floodplain conditions. This will strengthen the resilience of the site to extreme precipitation events – both floods and droughts – expected with climate change. The Project will also improve wildlife habitat by removing fill, raising groundwater, and reestablishing SEZ and wetland vegetation. The reconfigured facilities will support multiple recreation and access opportunities to the UTR and adjacent public lands for all communities. Specifically, the new universally-accessible trail will improve access to the UTR from the parking lot, including to an existing sandbar where people launch boats.

## **Next Steps**

In early 2020, El Dorado County will complete environmental analysis of the Project consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency requirements. Staff intends to enter into a short term license agreement with El Dorado County in the summer of 2020 to provide the necessary rights to work on Conservancy lands. Pending funding availability, El Dorado County plans to construct the Project in 2021.

## **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Project Map

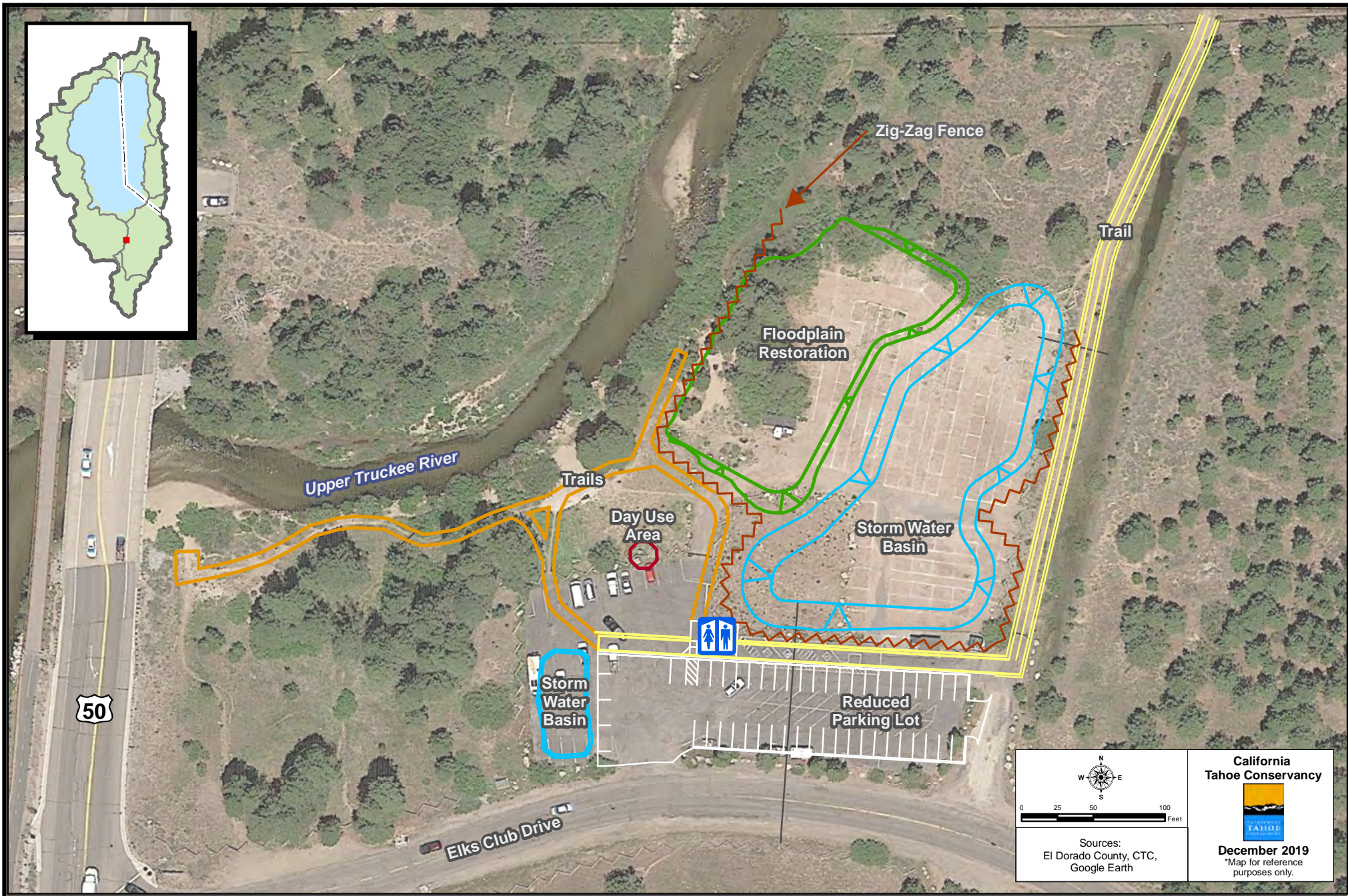
## **Conservancy Staff Contact**

Jen Greenberg, Associate Environmental Planner

[jen.greenberg@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:jen.greenberg@tahoe.ca.gov)



ATTACHMENT 1  
Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project - Phase 3 Update



## **CONSERVANCY TAHOE LIVABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM UPDATE**

The purpose of this update is to provide background and status of the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) Tahoe Livable Communities (TLC) Program. The Conservancy launched the TLC program in 2014 to accelerate implementation of State Senate Bill 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Plan (Regional Plan). The goals of the TLC program are to:

1. acquire and restore aging developed properties on environmentally-sensitive lands and retire or transfer the development rights to town centers;
2. sell, lease, or exchange vacant Conservancy land in town centers; and
3. acquire the remaining private properties in several of Lake Tahoe's roadless subdivisions to remove the threat of development.

In the last five years, the Conservancy acquired ten developed or roadless subdivision properties, restored the environmentally sensitive portions of the properties, and banked the development rights for housing and other infill projects in town centers. Conservancy staff sold banked development rights for several sustainable communities projects, including a remodel of an aging, shuttered lodge to a new housing development in Kings Beach. Additionally, the Board designated 17 of the Conservancy's parcels in town centers as "Asset Lands" to support housing and sustainable compact development consistent with local area or town center plans.

### **Tahoe Livable Communities Program Status**

Since our last update in October 2019, Conservancy staff initiated and coordinated the following items for the TLC Program. With these ongoing efforts and accomplishments, the Conservancy is well positioned to deliver on Strategic Plan Goal 4 (Foster Basinwide Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Communities).

1. **Tahoe Strategic Growth Program Manager:** In August 2019, the Conservancy announced the recruitment of a Tahoe Strategic Growth Program Manager. The position is new within the Conservancy and is in coordination with the Strategic Growth Council. The position will supervise and direct the work of staff under the TLC Program. Additionally, the position will help coordinate and integrate State agency investments in the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin) to meet Conservancy and statewide, regional, and area plan goals, with a particular focus on sustainable

communities. The Conservancy is interviewing candidates for this position and plans to have the new position in place by winter 2020.

## 2. Conservancy Acquisitions and Land Bank

- **Property Acquisitions:** The Conservancy has budgeted \$6.9 million over the next five years to acquire environmentally-sensitive lands and developed properties to prevent further degradation of water quality and promote the transfer of development from outlying areas to town centers. The Conservancy is in negotiations and has initiated due diligence activities for several parcels.

Conservancy staff is also working on the acquisition of three roadless subdivision parcels. Two parcels, located in El Dorado County, are pending Department of General Services (DGS) appraisal review and approval. The third parcel, located in Placer County, is pending a boundary survey. Conservancy staff anticipates completion of the appraisal review and boundary survey by early spring 2020. Next steps will include Board authorization for acquisition once staff negotiations and due diligence activities are complete.

- **Conservancy Land Bank:** The Conservancy continues to bank and transfer development rights to promote housing and sustainable communities projects in town centers. In August 2019, Conservancy staff completed the sale of development rights to the Tahoe City Lodge. This type of transaction accelerates environmental restoration by transferring aging development from sensitive areas to a town center, which is a central focus of the Regional Plan. In December 2019, the Conservancy completed an updated appraisal of fair market values for its development rights. The updated development right values ensure the Conservancy properly prices the rights sold to the public. Overall, the value of the development rights increased 20 percent. Potential residential units of use and restored hard coverage on developable land saw the largest increases in value, which is attributable to the limited supply and strong housing market.

## 3. Conservancy Asset Lands and Related Statewide and Local Initiatives

- **Governor Gavin Newsom Executive Order N-06-19:** Executive Order N-06-19 requires the DGS and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to identify and prioritize excess state-owned property, and aggressively pursue sustainable, innovative, cost-effective housing projects. As part of its implementation of the Executive Order, in September 2019, DGS selected two Conservancy asset land parcels for housing projects – 860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard and 1029 Tata Lane. The ensuing Conservancy partnership with DGS

and HCD will provide access to contracted economic and architectural services, and expertise regarding alternative land transfer approaches such as a long-term ground lease. Conservancy staff convenes weekly coordination meetings with DGS, HCD, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) on the two DGS-selected asset lands. See “Asset Lands in the City” below for more detail.

- **South Shore Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan:** The Conservancy is a Strategy Group Member for the Tahoe Prosperity Center (TPC) South Shore Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan. The TPC released the Housing Needs Assessment (Assessment) for the south shore in October 2019 and carried out a public roll-out in November 2019. Next steps include an implementable five-year housing action plan detailing specific housing strategies, policies, and programs.

Similar to the Bay Area Economics south shore housing needs presentation to the Conservancy Board in October 2019, the Assessment concluded that homes, both rental and ownership, are becoming less affordable for south shore residents, with only 21 percent of residents able to afford the median home price. The Assessment also found housing affordability changes the dynamic of the community and presents problems for employers. Some specific findings include:

- One-half of employers surveyed had employees leave or refuse a job offer because they could not find suitable housing.
- Rental vacancy rates have not exceeded two percent over the past several years. In the winter, most properties surveyed are at zero percent vacancy. Rentals are considered to be in short supply when vacancy rates drop below six percent.
- New housing units needed by 2026 number 3,290, with 2,025 being rentals.
- The only affordable rental project built since 2010 has a waiting list of 150 households.

More information on the Assessment and related documents can be found on the TPC’s website at <https://tahoeprosperty.org/housing-study/>

- **Conservancy Asset Lands Status:** In March 2014, the Conservancy Board identified 17 asset lands in three urbanized areas (City, Kings Beach, and Meyers) that could support sustainable compact development consistent with local area or town center plans. The Conservancy will consider selling parcels only when they are not needed to achieve Conservancy conservation or recreation goals, or when State ownership is no longer necessary to achieve the goals of the original

acquisition. Over the next year, Conservancy staff may seek Board authorization to identify additional Conservancy parcels eligible to include in the asset lands program.

The Conservancy Board authorized staff to conduct due diligence activities for six asset lands in the City in March 2014 and September 2016, two asset lands in Kings Beach in June 2019, and nine asset lands in Meyers in August 2019. The asset lands are an important tool to revitalize the Basin's town centers, protect sensitive lands, and meet the goals of the Regional Plan and local area plans.

Since October 2019, Conservancy staff has initiated and coordinated the following items on Conservancy asset lands:

### **Asset Lands in the City (Attachment 1)**

- 833 Emerald Bay Road, Assessment Number (AN) 023-171-009  
In November 2018, the Conservancy released a request for proposals for the purchase and development of the Conservancy's asset land at 833 Emerald Bay Road. The Conservancy received a proposal in March 2019. The Conservancy is in discussions to enter into an exclusive negotiating agreement (ENA) with Dinsmore Sierra. Conservancy staff and Dinsmore Sierra continue to meet with the City and South Tahoe Public Utility District to discuss site design and permitting fees.

- 2070 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, ANs 023-381-001 and 023-231-003  
In June 2018, the Conservancy entered into an ENA with an adjacent landowner, Sutter Capital Group (SCG). The Conservancy attended pre-application meetings at both the City and TRPA with SCG in fall 2018.

SCG has now entered into a joint venture with Alpine Corporation, an affordable housing developer. In July 2019, the joint venture submitted a revised site plan to the Conservancy. The site plan includes workforce housing eligible for TRPA deed-restricted residential bonus units, a commercial building on U.S. Highway 50, and a portion of the City's planned Greenbelt trail and storm water project. Additionally, the site plan contains public plaza areas, bike and pedestrian paths, and a transit stop connecting the property to plazas on SCG's adjacent property, known as "The Crossing." The Conservancy entered into an updated ENA in December 2019 with the joint venture. Next steps include pre-application meetings with the City and TRPA about the revised site plan.

- 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard (AN 032-291-028) and 1029 Tata Lane (AN 032-291-031)  
The Conservancy continues to coordinate with DGS and HCD on a weekly basis on both economic consultant expertise and real estate documents to implement

a master plan and eventual project on both parcels. The Conservancy and the consultant team, in partnership with TRPA and the City, are holding a community outreach meeting on December 11, 2019 at South Tahoe High School to gather input on the potential project. (We will provide a summary of feedback received in our Board meeting presentation.) Next steps may include issuance of a request for qualifications and request for proposals in 2020 for a developer to conduct master planning, further community outreach, and a project.

### **Asset Lands in the Kings Beach Area Plan (Attachment 2)**

- 8602 North Lake Boulevard (AN 090-134-056) and 8644 Speckled Avenue (AN 090-094-022)

In June 2019, the Board authorized staff to conduct due diligence activities on the Kings Beach asset lands. Conservancy staff has received separate requests from Sierra State Parks Foundation and a private developer for the Conservancy to enter into exclusive negotiations on the transfer and development of 8602 North Lake Boulevard, which is located adjacent to the Kings Beach State Recreation Area. Staff is continuing discussions with Placer County and California Department of Parks and Recreation to determine best approaches and uses for the two parcels. Next steps may include a request for proposals on 8602 North Lake Boulevard and further coordination with Placer County to discuss partnership options on 8644 Speckled Ave.

### **Asset Lands in the Meyers Area Plan (Attachment 3)**

- ANs: 034-331-015 (3131 U.S. Highway 50), 034-311-023 (3121 U.S. Highway 50), 034-300-025 (no address), 034-300-026 (no address), 034-300-027 (no address), 034-300-028 (no address), 035-261-004 (no address), 035-261-005 (961 Pomo Street), and 035-261-006 (945 Pomo Street)

In August 2019, the Board authorized staff to conduct due diligence activities on the Meyers asset lands. Conservancy staff has received inquiries from local and State government agencies concerning possible uses of various asset lands in Meyers. The Conservancy met with El Dorado County in October 2019 to further discuss opportunities to partner on the Meyers asset lands. The Conservancy met with TRPA and Tahoe Resource Conservation District in November 2019 to discuss a potential partnership for a boat inspection station on four of the Meyers asset lands. The Conservancy has also received input from the California Conservation Corps about their need for land for equipment storage.

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – City of South Lake Tahoe Asset Lands Map

Attachment 2 – Kings Beach Asset Lands Map

Attachment 3 – Meyers Asset Lands Map

## Conservancy Staff Contacts





Aimee Rutledge, Tahoe Livable Communities  
Kevin Prior, Chief Administrative Officer

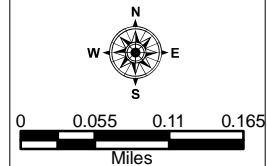
[aimee.rutledge@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:aimee.rutledge@tahoe.ca.gov)  
[kevin.prior@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:kevin.prior@tahoe.ca.gov)

City of South Lake Tahoe Asset Lands Map



**Ownership**

-  California Tahoe Conservancy
-  CA Dept of Parks & Recreation
-  USDA Forest Service
-  Asset Lands



Sources:  
TRPA, CTC, ESRI

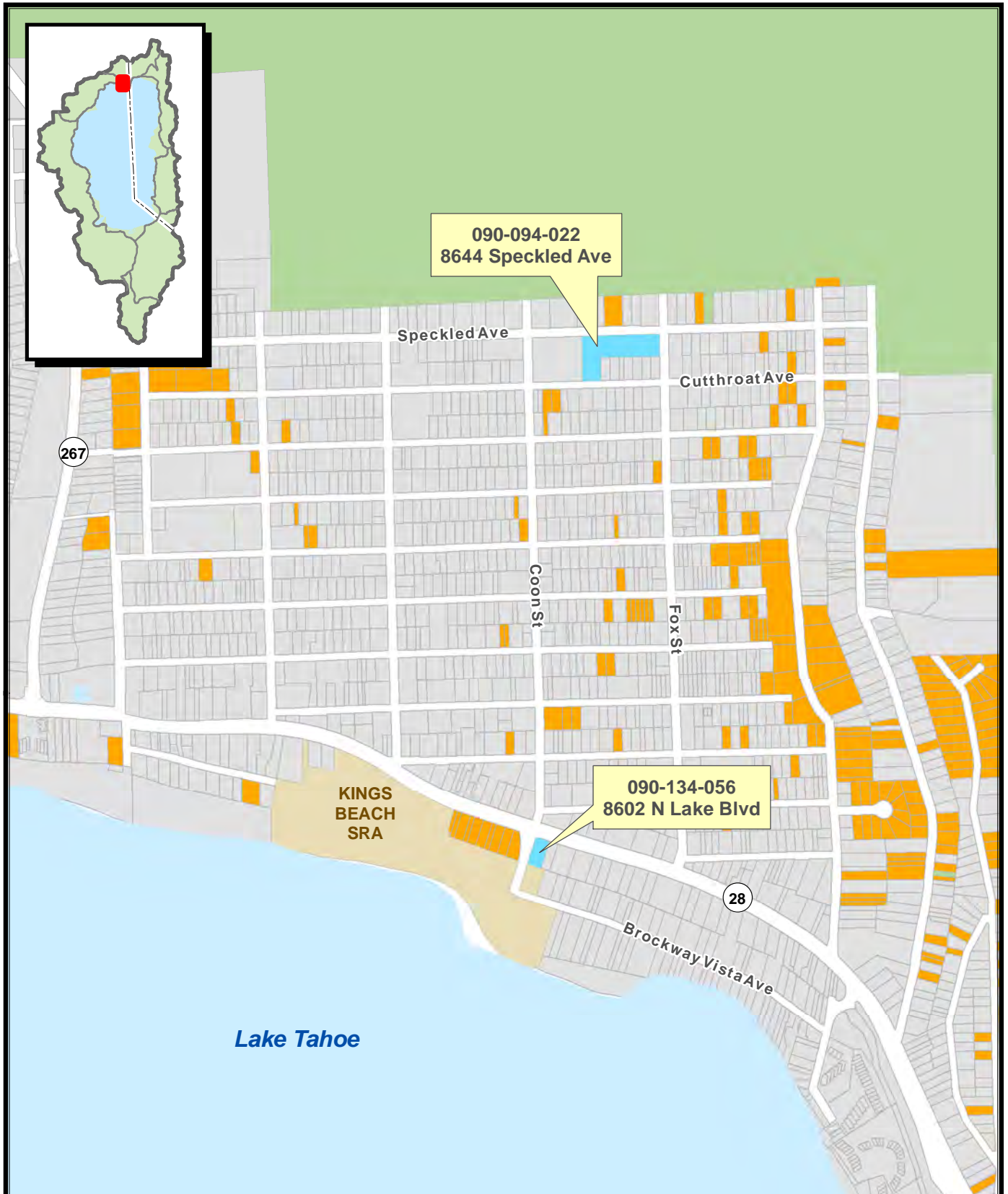
California  
Tahoe Conservancy



September 2019  
\*Map for reference purposes only.

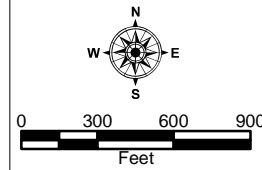


ATTACHMENT 2  
Kings Beach Asset Lands Map



**Ownership**

- California Tahoe Conservancy
- CA Dept of Parks & Recreation
- USDA Forest Service
- Asset Lands



Sources:  
TRPA, CTC, ESRI

California  
Tahoe Conservancy



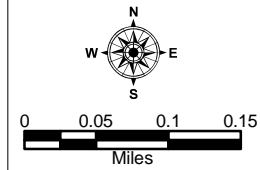
October 2019  
\*Map for reference purposes only.

**ATTACHMENT 3**  
Meyers Asset Lands Map



**Ownership**

- California Tahoe Conservancy
- CA Dept of Parks & Recreation
- USDA Forest Service
- Asset Lands



Sources:  
TRPA, CTC, ESRI

**California Tahoe Conservancy**



**July 2019**

\*Map for reference purposes only.

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 10  
December 12, 2019

**2019 CONSERVANCY HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) staff will present the 2019 Conservancy highlights and accomplishments. There is no staff report on this item.

**Conservancy Staff Contact**

Chris Carney

[chris.carney@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:chris.carney@tahoe.ca.gov)

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 12a  
December 12, 2019

**POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 12 BOARD MEETING**

Staff seeks input from the Board regarding the agenda items for the March 12, 2019 Board meeting.

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

- Secretaries Panel Discussion (discussion only)
- Sustainable Communities Panel Discussion (discussion only)
- Climate Change Plan and Panel Discussion (discussion only)
- Forest Health and Fire Panel Discussion (discussion only)
- U.S. Forest Service Groundwater Contamination Monitoring Well License Agreement (action)
- Climate Grant(s) (action)

**Conservancy Staff Contacts**

Patrick Wright, Executive Director  
Jane Freeman, Deputy Director

patrick.wright@tahoe.ca.gov  
jane.freeman@tahoe.ca.gov

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 13  
December 12, 2019

**CONSERVANCY CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTION**

The California Tahoe Conservancy Board will consider motions for the elections of a Chair and Vice-Chair. There is no staff report on this item.

**Conservancy Staff Contact**

Michael Steeves

[michael.steeves@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:michael.steeves@tahoe.ca.gov)

## **CONSERVANCY BOARD COMMITTEE SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Consistent with the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) Board Procedures, Board committees may be established by the Chair of the Board, or by resolution of the Board, during the open session of any regular Board meeting. When a committee is established, the Chair or Board resolution must specify the committee's subject matter area, period of existence (if any), and membership. Committee membership should be made on the basis of the Board member seats (*i.e.*, City of South Lake Tahoe, Director of Finance designee, etc.) rather than the individual Board member, as this will ensure continuity in the event an individual Board member is replaced by their appointing body or designator.

Unless otherwise provided in an adopted resolution of the Board, Board committees may serve in an advisory capacity only, make any recommendations to the full Board in open session of a regular Board meeting, and may not provide independent direction to Conservancy staff or consultants outside of a scheduled Board meeting. Advisory committees consisting of no more than two persons are not subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Act.

Any delegation of power to a committee – authorizing a committee to serve in more than an advisory capacity and to take action on behalf of the Board – must be made by resolution of the Board. The resolution shall set forth the power delegated to the committee, the term of existence (if any) of the delegation, and the membership (which must consist of two or more members). Any committees with delegated power, and any committees, including advisory committees, consisting of three or more persons, are subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Act. (Gov. Code, § 11121.) The meetings of such committees shall comply with notice and agenda requirements and be open to and allow for public participation from members of the public. All Board committees shall provide updates regarding committee deliberations and recommendations during the portion of regular Board meetings reserved for Board member comment or other appropriate time during the open session of the meeting.

In December 2017, the Conservancy established three advisory committees as follows:

1. **Operations Committee:** This committee provides input to staff on Board processes for agenda items, such as the Board's Strategic Plan discussions or the Board's performance review of its Executive Director. Currently, this committee consists of the Board appointees from the City of South Lake Tahoe

and the Speaker of the Assembly because, at the time those appointees were selected, they were Chair and Vice Chair.

2. **Local Government Committee:** This committee helps make linkages between Conservancy and local government activities and helps staff to identify strategic opportunities for closer collaboration and coordination with local government staff. This committee also provides information to the Board on key local government initiatives and actions that are of interest to the Board. Currently, this committee consists of the Board appointees from the Counties of El Dorado and Placer.
3. **Legislative Committee:** This committee works with staff to update the Conservancy's enabling legislation, keeps the Board apprised of key legislative proposals and legislation, and shares information about the Conservancy to legislative staff, as requested. Currently, this committee consists of the Board appointee of the Senate Committee on Rules, and the designee of the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

At this time, Conservancy staff recommends the Board reevaluate the current committees, their purposes and memberships, and consider whether any changes should be made. In order to maintain flexibility in functionality and convention, Conservancy staff recommends the Board continue its current use of advisory committees consisting of no more than two Board members each.

### **Conservancy Staff Contact**

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