California Tahoe Conservancy Agenda Item 3 March 17, 2022

Executive Report

Program Updates

1. Land Management

Tahoe Urgent Care Demolition: In January, the Conservancy removed asbestos and lead from the former Tahoe Urgent Care in the City of South Lake Tahoe (City). Weather dependent, the Conservancy will demolish the facility in May and stabilize the site to prevent soil runoff.

2. Tahoe Livable Communities

Property Acquisitions: The Conservancy has budgeted \$6.9 million over the next five years to acquire high-priority lands when they become available. Staff is taking steps needed for final acquisition approval by the California Public Works Board for the Motel 6 and Knox Johnson parcels in the City.

Land Bank: The Conservancy continues to bank and transfer development rights and land coverage for affordable housing, town center, and other infill projects in the City and El Dorado and Placer counties.

Conservancy Asset Land at 1860 Lake Tahoe Boulevard (AN 032-291-028) and 1029 Tata Lane (AN 032-291-031): In January, the California Strategic Growth Council awarded Related California and the City a \$17 million grant for the Sugar Pine Village multiple-family affordable housing project. This comes on top of a previous \$3 million dollar grant award in December 2021 from the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Sugar Pine Village, the largest affordable housing project in the history of the Lake Tahoe Basin (Basin), will provide 248 affordable housing units.

3. Community Forestry

Forest Treatments: CAL FIRE conducted prescribed pile burns this winter on neighborhood Conservancy lots on the west shore. The Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District also burned piles for the Conservancy at Van Sickle Bi-State Park and on the Dollar property in Placer County. Pursuant to the Conservancy's updated Forestry Program Guidelines adopted in November 2021, staff is planning and preparing forest management projects for implementation in the 2022 field season.

4. Landscape Forestry

Capacity Building: The Conservancy received a \$1.2 million grant in January from the Department of Conservation through its Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant Program. Staff is using the funding to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that improve forest health and fire resiliency.

5. Watershed Restoration and Water Quality

Upper Truckee River Restoration: The Conservancy and its partners recently released a synthesis of accomplishments and opportunities for restoring the <u>Greater Upper Truckee Watershed</u>, which can be found online at https://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/257/2022/03/greater-upper-truckee-watershed-restoration.pdf. The Conservancy also continues conceptual planning for the Sunset Stables Reach 6 Restoration Project, located south of Lake Tahoe Airport.

6. Recreation and Public Access

Explore Tahoe Grants: The Conservancy is developing opportunities to expand equitable access by piloting grant awards that would provide positive experiences for people and communities who face challenges to accessing or enjoying Lake Tahoe.

7. Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity

Climate Adaptation: In February, the Conservancy and its partners released the <u>Tahoe Climate Resilience Action Strategy</u>, which is available online at https://tahoe.ca.gov/programs/climate-change/. The Strategy builds on existing Basin climate and environmental improvement plans to identify five focus areas for creating jobs and building resilience for the Basin's natural resources, residents, and economy. The Strategy identifies estimated funding needed over the next ten years to build resilience across the Basin.

2021 Annual Report: A <u>Conservancy story map</u> details how the agency accomplished work towards its five strategic plan goals: https://tahoe.ca.gov/2021-annual-report/.

Budget and Accounting

In January, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed his budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The budget includes baseline funding that covers a portion of the Conservancy's staffing and operations as well its request to use existing bond funding for:

- Minor Capital Improvements (\$980,000), which includes small restoration projects on Conservancy urban lots;
- Conceptual Feasibility & Planning (\$600,000) for initial watershed project planning; and
- Upper Truckee River Reach 6 Restoration (\$500,000) for environmental planning (if federal grant funding is not secured).

The Governor's budget also includes \$5 million to the Conservancy for wildfire and forest health projects, \$1.025 million for accessibility improvements at Conservancy facilities, and a five percent cut from certain funding sources, as has been required annually since the 2020-2021 budget year.