

## ATTACHMENT 3.1

### TAHOE CROSS COUNTRY SKI EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**Project:** Las Chicas Program

**Recommended Funding:** \$60,000

**Location:** Tahoe Cross-Country Center in Tahoe City, California and other north Lake Tahoe locations

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#### Overview

##### Background

The Tahoe Cross Country Ski Education Association (TCCSEA) is a nonprofit organization seeking to engage people with nature through education and outdoor experiences that promote environmental stewardship and healthy lifestyles. The TCCSEA runs a variety of youth programs involving cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and other outdoor activities using the extensive trail network originating from the Tahoe Cross-Country Center (TXC) in Tahoe City.

The TCCSEA offers several cross-country skiing and summer mountain biking programs that are low-cost or free for local youth. The TCCSEA has a strong partnership with schools in the Truckee-Tahoe Unified School District, including North Tahoe Middle and High Schools, which are located adjacent to the trail network at TXC. The TCCSEA has worked with the schools and local youth-focused organizations like the North Tahoe Boys and Girls Club for nearly 25 years.

The network of winter cross-country and summer hiking and mountain biking trails originating at TXC includes many trails located on the California Tahoe Conservancy's (Conservancy) Dollar Property. The Conservancy has a license agreement that allows the TCCSEA to groom and maintain the winter trails located on the Dollar Property.

Staff evaluated the TCCSEA's grant application based on the criteria described within the Conservancy's Grant Guidelines, which includes analysis of the project's consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. In addition, staff used the concepts of the California Outdoors for All Strategy when reviewing the application. Staff considered the number of participants from underserved groups, the extent to which the project reduces barriers for underserved people to access Lake Tahoe, and the extent to which the project provides long-term positive impacts on participants. At Lake Tahoe, underserved groups include people of color, people with physical disabilities, people with cognitive or emotional disabilities, low-income individuals or families, English language learners, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

## **Detailed Description**

### **1. Major Elements and/or Steps**

The grant supports a new year-round TCCSEA program called Las Chicas (Program). Through the Program, the TCCSEA will work with middle-school-aged Latina girls to provide instruction and equipment for cross-country skiing in the winter and mountain biking in the summer. The TCCSEA will partner with the Truckee-Tahoe Unified School District and North Tahoe Boys and Girls Club to identify and recruit participants, and will provide transportation to and from TXC and other nearby trailheads. Participants will work with a bilingual coach weekly for 12 weeks in the winter and 12 weeks in the summer. The TCCSEA expects to grow the program over three years from six participants in 2024 to 12 by 2026. Participation, equipment rentals, and transportation will be free.

### **2. Overall Context and Benefits**

Transportation, cultural, and economic barriers prevent many Hispanic and Latinx youth at Lake Tahoe from participating in some outdoor activities. The TCCSEA aims to address these barriers by creating a safe space for Latina girls to participate in summer and winter sports alongside peers with similar racial and cultural backgrounds.

Through conversations with Latina girls who have participated in various the TCCSEA programs, the TCCSEA has recognized the sense of empowerment and connection that occurs when youth of similar backgrounds and abilities learn a sport together. This grant will enable the TCCSEA to use this approach serving Latina youth who may otherwise not be interested or able to participate in cross-country skiing and mountain biking.

The's application includes a support letter from Truckee-Tahoe Unified School District's Superintendent Chief Learning Officer.

This grant provides an opportunity to improve equitable access using the Conservancy's Dollar Property, further enhancing the public benefits that Conservancy lands already provide.

### **3. Schedule**

The grant supports three cohorts of the Program in 2024/25, 2025/26, and 2026/27.

## **Financing**

The Conservancy will finance the recommended grant with General Fund monies to support staff time to develop and implement the Program, equipment rentals, trail entry passes, and transportation costs. The grant will support three years of Program implementation.

Conservancy funding leverages an additional \$53,000 in Program support from other grants, private donors, foundations, and other partners.

Staff recommends the grant budget as shown below. The budget may be adjusted among line items, but total expenditures under this grant will not exceed \$60,000.

| <b>Task</b>        | <b>Amount</b>   |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Cohort 1 (2024/25) | \$16,000        |
| Cohort 2 (2025/26) | \$21,000        |
| Cohort 3 (2026/27) | \$23,000        |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>\$60,000</b> |

### **Authority**

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

The recommended action advances Strategic Plan Goal 1 to steward Conservancy lands because it communicates the value of Conservancy lands to younger generations and encourages citizen stewardship. The recommended action also supports Strategic Plan Goal 3 to provide public access and outdoor recreation for all communities because it supports free and low-cost outdoor programs for under-resourced youth. The recommended action also supports Strategic Plan Goal 6 to promote racial equity and help make the Basin a safe and welcoming place for all because the TCCSEA’s programs provide a safe and culturally inclusive environment for participants to recreate outdoors at Lake Tahoe.

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

Pursuant to 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 grant and has found it to be exempt under CEQA. The authorization of this grant qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines section 15301 – Existing Facilities. Staff has prepared a notice of exemption (NOE) (see Attachment 3.3). If the Board approves this grant, staff will file the NOE with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, section 15062.

#### **List of Attachments**

- Attachment 3.2 – Resolution 23-12-04  
Attachment 3.3 – Notice of Exemption
- Exhibit A – Location Map