

ATTACHMENT 4.1

TAHOE RIM TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Project: Inclusive Trailhead Revitalization

Recommended Funding: \$115,000

Location: Various Tahoe Rim Trail trailhead locations on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin in Placer and El Dorado Counties

Overview

Background

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to maintain and enhance the Tahoe Rim Trail system, inspire stewardship, and preserve access to the natural beauty of the Lake Tahoe region. Over 500,000 people use the Tahoe Rim Trail system annually, and the TRTA is working to ensure the trail system provides a welcome and inclusive experience to all users.

Last year, the Conservancy authorized a \$100,000 grant to the TRTA to support several youth and family-oriented hiking and backpacking programs for under-resourced people and people of color.

Tahoe Rim Trail trailhead kiosks are located at major trailheads throughout the trail network. Kiosks provide wayfinding information, stewardship practices, and interpretive information. Kiosks are often the first and only place trail users go to learn information about the nearby trail.

Staff evaluated the TRTA'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 evaluated the project based on the directives in Proposition 68 and considered how the project implements improvements to increase visitation by diverse populations and expands the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials. Staff also evaluated the project for consistency with the Outdoors For All Strategy, including how it would facilitate outdoor access for underserved groups. 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 TRTA will replace nine major (“level one trailheads”) and three secondary (“level two trailhead”) kiosks in California to improve inclusivity, safety, and functionality. The new kiosks will feature Spanish translation of all information, trail accessibility information such as grade, tread surface, and slope, a better map, QR codes where users can find information translated into several additional languages, and a short acknowledgment of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California as the indigenous inhabitants of the region. Attachment A shows where the TRTA will install the new trailhead kiosks in California.

Along with the kiosk updates, the TRTA will update its website so trail users can find similar trailhead information before they embark on their trip. The TRTA’s website will be accessible in multiple languages and include accessibility plugins for people with disabilities.

2. Overall Context and Benefits

Translating trail information into Spanish and providing better wayfinding, accessibility, and safety information is an important step in making Tahoe’s trails more welcoming to a wider variety of trail users, including Spanish speakers and people with varying levels of experience on backcountry trails. Existing trailhead kiosks only display information in English and have limited or outdated wayfinding and safety information. The Tahoe Rim Trail is Tahoe’s most popular and well-known dirt trail system and the TRTA’s leadership translating trail information helps set the expectation and culture for other land and trail managers to provide similar information for other trails.

Using a grant from the Nevada Division of State Parks, private donations, and TRTA funds, the TRTA is implementing the same project for Nevada trailheads in 2024 so trail users will have a consistent experience regardless of where they are on the trail.

The Outdoors for All Strategy identifies translating recreational information and improving accessibility as important strategies to making California’s outdoors more inclusive and welcoming for all. Advancing this directive on the Tahoe Rim Trail system is an important step toward making Tahoe more accessible for all people.

3. Schedule

Using the Nevada kiosks as a template, the TRTA will work with graphic designers, translators, and mapping experts to design the California kiosks in 2024 and early 2025. The TRTA will print and install the new kiosks in the summer and fall of 2025.

Financing

The Conservancy will finance the TRTA grant with \$115,000 in Proposition 68 funding. The grant supports contracts with translation services, graphic designers, and mapping experts to create kiosk and corresponding TRTA website content. Funding also supports TRTA staff time for implementing the project, coordinating with partners, and managing installation. Finally, grant funding supports kiosk production and shipping.

Conservancy funding leverages an additional \$77,000 match in private donations, grants, and other sources.

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 \$115,000.

Task	Amount
Kiosk Translation, Design, and Engineering, including Website Accessibility	\$16,000
Kiosk Production and Shipping	\$78,000
Project Oversight and Administration	\$21,000
Total	\$115,000

Authority

Consistency with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan

The recommended action supports Strategic Plan Goal 3 to provide public access and outdoor recreation for all communities because it supports efforts to make trails more inclusive and welcoming for Spanish speakers and people with a variety of physical abilities. 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 new kiosks will contribute to a creating safe and culturally inclusive environment for all people 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 4.3). 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 4.2 – Resolution 23-12-05

Attachment 4.3 – Notice of Exemption

- Exhibit A – Location Map