

NORTH TAHOE SHARED-USE TRAIL – SEGMENT 1

Recommended Actions: Adopt Resolution 24-04-05 (Attachment 1) making the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination and authorizing an implementation grant to Placer County for up to \$1,200,000 to construct the North Tahoe Shared-Use Trail – Segment 1 (Project).

Executive Summary: The recommended action authorizes a \$1,200,000 grant to Placer County to construct the Project. The Project will add to north Lake Tahoe’s shared-use trail network by connecting the North Tahoe Regional Park to Carnelian Bay with 2.52 miles of paved Class 1 shared-use trail (Attachment 2). The Project is also part of the Placer County Resort Triangle Trail Network and the Tahoe Trail, which will eventually connect the three major north shore communities of Kings Beach, Tahoe City, and Truckee, and encircle Lake Tahoe with a Class 1 trail system. The recommended action is consistent with Goals 3 and 4 in the California Tahoe Conservancy’s (Conservancy) Strategic Plan, which aims to provide public access for all and foster sustainable communities. The Project also supports the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and the Lake Tahoe Active Transportation Plan. The recommended action includes reviewing Placer County’s initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) and the Conservancy’s Addendum, and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP). Upon Board authorization, staff will execute an agreement with Placer County.

Location: The Project is located on USDA, Forest Service and private lands on the north shore of Lake Tahoe near State Routes 28 and 267 in Placer County.

Fiscal Summary: The Conservancy will award an implementation grant of up to \$1,200,000 of General Fund.

Overview

History

North Lake Tahoe’s paved shared-use trail network has been expanding since the first sections of trail were constructed in the 1970s. Since that time, the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) and Placer County have constructed more than 25 miles of shared-use trails spanning Meeks Bay to Olympic Valley and Tahoe City to Carnelian

Bay. The Conservancy has played a major role in supporting the development and implementation of these trails by providing grants, land, development rights, easements, and technical assistance.

In recent years, Placer County has focused on planning and implementing the North Tahoe Shared-Use Trail (Trail). The Trail, when finished, will extend from the Dollar Hill area to Kings Beach. In 2018, Placer County completed the first section of the Trail, known as the Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail, which crosses the Conservancy’s Dollar Property. In addition, Conservancy funding supported the acquisition of trail right-of-way near Dollar Hill.

Placer County is now planning and implementing three Trail segments to close the gap between the Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail and the North Tahoe Regional Park. The Project is the first segment, and will be constructed in 2025. Attachment 2 shows a map of the entire existing and planned north shore shared-use trail network.

Detailed Description of Recommended Action

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

Conservancy staff recommends the Board authorize a grant up to \$1,200,000 to Placer County for Project construction. As a condition of the grant, Placer County will be required to retain a monitor for tribal cultural resources during construction activities.

2. Overall Context and Benefits

The Project implements an additional segment of two major regional shared-use trail priorities: the Resort Triangle network connecting Truckee, Kings Beach, and Tahoe City; and the Tahoe Trail which will encircle Lake Tahoe. Completing the Resort Triangle and Tahoe Trail are longstanding regional priorities. Once complete, residents and visitors will be able to travel throughout the region without using a vehicle, resulting in fewer carbon emissions, alleviating congestion, promoting healthier lifestyles, and providing an accessible recreation and transportation amenity for people with disabilities.

The Project will provide important recreational and community benefits even before the Resort Triangle and Tahoe Trails are complete. People residing in and visiting the Flick Point, Agate Bay, and Tahoe Vista areas will use the trail to safely travel to Kings Beach, North Tahoe Regional Park, and other nearby destinations and hiking and biking trailheads. The North Tahoe Regional Park is a popular destination for residents and visitors who utilize the ballfields, playgrounds, tennis and pickleball courts, picnic areas, and hiking and biking trails within the park.

3. Anticipated Schedule for the Recommended Action

Task	Completion Date
Permit Applications	2024-2025
Public Bid Process	2024-2025
Construction	2025-2026

As a condition of the grant, Placer County will be required to monitor Project use for two years and operate and maintain the Project for twenty years after construction. Placer County will incorporate the Project into ongoing operations and maintenance of similar shared-use trails in north Lake Tahoe and Truckee.

Financing

The recommended action will authorize Placer County to expend up to \$1,200,000 of General Fund for Project construction. The table below presents Placer County’s Project financing plan, along with the total Project cost and funding deficit.

Funding Source	Amount
Placer County Transient Occupancy Tax funds	\$1,200,000
Caltrans Local Assistance Cycle 6	\$910,000
Caltrans Local Assistance Cycle 7	\$983,000
Caltrans Local Assistance Carbon Reduction Program	\$550,710
Placer County Parks Funding	\$800,000
Tahoe Conservancy (this grant, pending approval)	\$1,200,000
Total secured	\$5,643,710
Project implementation estimated total	\$6,000,000
Funding deficit	\$356,290

Placer County is targeting regional stormwater funds and private funding to close the funding deficit.

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 local public agencies for purposes consistent with its mission.

Consistency with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan

The Project supports the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan Goals 3 and 4 (provide public access for all and foster sustainable communities).

Consistency with the Conservancy’s Program Guidelines

The recommended action is consistent with the Conservancy’s Public Access and Recreation Program Guidelines (2009) because the Project will increase and enhance significant regional public access and public recreational opportunities consistent with natural resource preservation and increase non-motorized transportation and recreation opportunities.

Consistency with External Authorities

The recommended action is consistent with the Lake Tahoe EIP because it supports project #03.02.02.0003. The recommended action is consistent with the Linking Tahoe: Active Transportation Plan, which identifies priority shared-use trails throughout the region and includes the Project. The recommended action also advances several important state mandates, such as the Sustainable Communities Act, Climate Adaptation Strategy, and Outdoors for All Strategy.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

Placer County, acting as the lead agency, prepared an IS/MND and MMRP for the Project to comply with CEQA. Placer County adopted the MND and MMRP on June 14, 2022, and filed a notice of determination (NOD) on June 15, 2022. Placer County's MND is available at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2022030427>. The MMRP can be found on pages 144-153 of the MND.

As a responsible agency, the Conservancy must consider the MND prepared by Placer County and reach its own conclusions on whether to approve the Project. Staff has reviewed the MND and determined that an Addendum is necessary to address minor technical changes related to tribal cultural resources, consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15164. The Conservancy's Addendum (Attachment 4) revises an existing mitigation measure and adds a new mitigation measure for cultural monitoring. These changes are also included in the Conservancy's MMRP (Attachment 1, Exhibit 1A). With this, staff has determined that the Project, as mitigated, will not cause a significant effect on the environment.

Staff recommends the Board review and consider the MND and the Conservancy Addendum; make the findings as set forth in the attached Resolution 24-04-05; adopt the Conservancy MMRP; and authorize the grant. If the Board authorizes the grant, staff will file an NOD with the State Clearinghouse pursuant to CEQA guidelines, section 15096 (Attachment 5).

List of Attachments

- Attachment 1 – Resolution 24-04-05
 - Exhibit 1A – Conservancy MMRP
- Attachment 2 – Project Location Map
- Attachment 3 – Placer County CEQA documentation
- Attachment 4 – Conservancy Addendum
- Attachment 5 – Notice of Determination
 - Exhibit 5A – Project Location Map
 - Exhibit 5B – California Department of Fish and Wildlife Filing Fee Receipt

Conservancy Staff Contact

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