

El Dorado Avenue is a bike route in a designated "bike friendly" city. How bike friendly does this look to you? Lots of visitors ride along here in the summer, some of them pulling little shaded carts holding their young children. Bike treacherous is how it looks to me. But it could be a shady spot to park with easy access to a proposed vista location.





In the summer kids ride their bikes around these streets and parents stroll pushing baby carriages. But there is also a shady spot to be had for those headed for a designated vista platform.



For those of us who love the meadow, it is painful to walk by Conservancy property every day and see this: a scrawl of graffiti in this place. And even upside down our word smith sends us a message. Now, put some viewing platforms out in the meadow and watch his opportunities proliferate. The graffiti and broken sign have been out there for about a year with no response from Conservancy personnel.



The following three photographs show a scary situation for two reasons: fire hazard and public safety.

Some person has entered the adjoining property that may or may not belong to the Conservancy. Dense thickets of willow bushes have been cut down and remain in large dry piles. As the neighbor to this property, it is your responsibility to be aware of a hazard that involves you and to respond to it appropriately. The well worn path shows continuous use so this problem has been ongoing.

The second problem is public safety. I would not want my child to wander into this place not knowing who else might be in there. Some transients set up housekeeping in such places. Occasionally, they are weird or unbalanced people. As more dense thickets spring up all over the meadow with no Conservancy management of them, this becomes a more pervasive problem. And a fire hazard too.





Here at the end of Belview Avenue please contemplate what you see in these three photographs.





They say "All roads lead to Rome." For us this is where the roads end up.



I conclude with the following thoughts:

I have shown you nothing in these photos that you should not have already seen for yourselves. People around here certainly get the picture and that's why they express so much anger and frustration with your meadow project.

Communicate and work with other agencies and city departments so that all of the needs of an area in which you have interests will be addressed together. For example, it is insulting to ask people to "share" their streets with tourists when their own needs for regularly maintained roads have gone unmet for over 25 years.

Please do not try to shove off unwanted project features onto the Tahoe Woodlands neighborhood or anywhere else. If other people had been informed about the March 24th meeting they would have protested the same project ideas that anger Al Tahoe residents.

We all want to be neighbors in neighborhoods, not stared attractions in the Automobile Association TourBook.

Reconsider your own core values and responsibilities to taxpayers.

Minimize your own footprint and egos in the " project area": No new parking lots and at most only a small self-service interpretive center. I'm not an engineer but Alternative 3 where " river flow would be dictated by natural processes" sounds pretty good to me. No observation platforms, no boardwalks or bike paths along the lake.

Finally, there is no Conservancy project that will succeed along this side of the meadow without the support of the surrounding neighbors. And perhaps there is some rough justice to that.

Very truly yours,

Gloria Horvathian

I will be sending copies of this letter to TAPA, the City Council, and the Tahoe Water Quality Review Board.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

APR 30 2007

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

CA TAHOE CONSERVANCY



Relay Service From TDD Phone **1-800-735-2929**
from Voice Phone **1-800-735-2922**

PAUL D. THAYER, Executive Officer

(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810

Contact Phone: (916) 574-1814

Contact FAX: (916) 574-1885

April 27, 2007

Jacqui Grandfield, UC Consultant, Wildlife
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Subject: Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Grandfield:

Staff of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has received the above referenced Notice of Preparation. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Tahoe Conservancy and the CSLC are Responsible and/or Trustee Agencies for any and all projects which could directly or indirectly affect sovereign lands, their accompanying Public Trust resources or uses, and the public easement in navigable waters.

The public lands under the CSLC's jurisdiction consist of two distinct types – sovereign lands and school lands. Sovereign lands include the beds of navigable rivers, lakes and streams and the state's tide and submerged lands along the coastline, extending from the shoreline out to three geographic miles. Sovereign lands encompass approximately four million acres. Sovereign lands are impressed with the Common Law Public Trust. Sovereign lands can be used only for public purposes consistent with the provisions of the Public Trust such as waterborne commerce, navigation, fisheries, water related recreation, open space, ecological preservation, scientific study or other recognized Public Trust purposes. School lands are what remain of the nearly 5.5 million acres throughout the state originally granted to California by the Congress in 1853 to benefit public education. The state retains fee ownership of approximately 471,000 acres, and the reserved mineral interest in another 790,000 acres. There are approximately 1,200 parcels of state fee owned school lands scattered across the state.

If you have any question on comments on the environmental review, please contact Eric Gillies at (916) 574-1853, gilliee@slc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marina R. Brand".

Marina R. Brand, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
and Management

cc: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Eric Gillies, CSLC
Scott McFarlin, CSLC

City of South Lake Tahoe

"making a positive difference now"

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APR 26 2007

CA TAHOE CONSERVANCY



Our Mission is:

Working

together to

create the

best future

for our

community

April 24, 2007

Jacqui Grandfield
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Ms. Grandfield,

As you know, the South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Commission has requested that the EIR/EIS for the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project include an elevated boardwalk for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Trout Creek at the northern portion of the site. This boardwalk would link the bicycle trails at Lake View or Lily Avenues on the east with the trail at Cove East on the west and provide pedestrian views of the beach and lake.

The current draft includes a linking bicycle trail "in the southern portion of the site" (Alternative 1), which is not what was agreed. Please see that the EIR/EIS statement is amended to conform with our earlier agreement, which is recorded in commission minutes.

We assume that this boardwalk will be similar to that being considered for the Greenway Project where it crosses the Upper Truckee.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerome Evans".

Jerome Evans
Chair

"Recreation...a positive choice!"

Parks & Recreation Department • 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd. • South Lake Tahoe, California 96150-8202 • (530) 542-6056 • (530) 542-2981 FAX

Email: recreation@ci.south-lake-tahoe.ca.us • www.recreationintahoe.com

JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



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ANDREW K. CLINGER
Director

APR 27 2007

CA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

209 E. Musser Street, Room 200
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4298
(775) 684-0222
Fax (775) 684-0260
<http://www.budget.state.nv.us/>

April 24, 2007

Jacqui Grandfield
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: SAI NV # **E2007-267**

Reference:

Project: **Continuance of Scoping for Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration**

Dear Jacqui Grandfield:

The State Clearinghouse has processed the proposal and has no comment. Your proposal is not in conflict with state plans, goals or objectives.

This constitutes the State Clearinghouse review of this proposal as per Executive Order 12372. If you have questions, please contact me at (775) 684-0209.

Sincerely,


for Gosia Sylwestrzak
Nevada State Clearinghouse

Enclosure

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APR 9 - 2007

CA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

Glen Smith
Chairman, Buildings and Grounds
Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church
775 588 1550
glentsmith@juno.com

April 5, 2007

Jacqui Grandfield
State of California
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Re: Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project

The Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church, 2733 Lake Tahoe Blvd. is located adjacent to this project area. A portion of our property extends into the meadow. At a time unknown to present members of the church, several feet of fill material was placed in the meadow (SEZ). The fill covers an estimated ¼ acre.

In the interest of restoring the meadow to its full extent, the church would be willing to allow the Conservancy, or other public entity, to remove the fill and restore the underlying meadow to its original state. The church does not have the resources to do this restoration on its own.

If it is possible, the church would be willing to trade this portion of its property for adjoining or nearby land area that could be improved for our additional need for parking space.

Please consider this offer and request in your plans for the project. We would be pleased to meet with you to examine the property and the opportunity it offers.

Sincerely,



Glen Smith,
Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church



League to Save Lake Tahoe

April 30, 2007

Ms. Jacquie Grandfield, UC Consultant
Wildlife Program
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Ms. Grandfield:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS/EIS to be prepared for the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project. The following comments are submitted on behalf of the League to Save Lake Tahoe ("League"), a 4500 member non-profit organization dedicated to "Keeping Tahoe Blue."

The League fully supports comprehensive restoration of the Upper Truckee River and surrounding wetland and meadow areas. Given that the California Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, estimates that more than half of fine sediment delivered to Lake Tahoe from surface water sources flow out of the Upper Truckee River, the maximum possible restoration needs to be concentrated in the Upper Truckee River watershed to achieve Lake Tahoe clarity goals

Full restoration is particularly important in the absence of existing land use constraints such as airports and golf courses. This is the case within the Upper Truckee River and Marsh project area. Therefore, the League encourages the Conservancy to pursue the alternative that provides the greatest ecological restoration potential and best meets the project purpose and need – "to restore natural geomorphic processes and ecological functions....to improve ecological values of the study area and to help reduce the river's discharge of nutrients and sediment that diminish Lake Tahoe's clarity."

The Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should clearly describe the relative water quality and overall watershed benefits of a range of alternatives, and then identify and environmentally-preferred alternative. Project alternatives should be ranked as to which best meet project objectives, using evaluation criteria such as:

1. Length of sinuous channel through the project area
2. Length of channel receiving overbank flow
3. Area of floodplain receiving deposited sediment during overbank events
4. Expected floodplain retention time during overbank events
5. Extent of reduced streambank erosion
6. Greatest capacity for riparian vegetation to be re-established

Alternative 3 appears to be the alternative that would best satisfy these criteria, and would require the least amount of excavation and minimize engineering components. Whichever alternative is selected

as the environmentally-preferred alternative, we request that the following restoration components be included:

- ◆ Remove fill behind Hartoonian Beach to recreate lagoon and wet meadow conditions
- ◆ Restore sand ridges (“dunes”) at Cove East
- ◆ Construct a bulkhead at the sailing lagoon to cutoff its open connection with the marina and Lake Tahoe and reconfigure the relationship between the sailing lagoon and the Upper Truckee River so that the river controls the hydrology of the lagoon. The EIR/EIS/EIS should describe the level of disturbance anticipated from this proposed activity.

In addition, the League requests that removal and restoration of the Tahoe Keys Corporation Yard be analyzed in the EIR/EIS/EIS, for potential inclusion in the environmentally-preferred alternative. The EIR/EIS/EIS should evaluate the environmental benefits of removing the Corporation Yard. The EIR/EIS/EIS should address questions such as: “Could restoring the Tahoe Keys Corporation Yard help alleviate flooding that occurs in its vicinity, and reduce pollutant loads delivered in stormwater runoff?”

The Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should describe the nature of the proposed hydraulic structure in Alternative 3, and the extent of disturbance anticipated with its placement and use.

It would be helpful to understand how restoration projects under consideration upstream from the Marsh will affect the likely success of the Marsh restoration project. For example, the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should provide analysis of the expected benefits from alternative project designs in the Lake Tahoe Golf Course and Lake Tahoe Airport stretches of the river. How would full restoration vs. narrowly prescribed or no restoration in these project reaches affect the ability of the UTR and Marsh Restoration project to effectively filter nutrients and sediments from the Upper Truckee River before they empty into Lake Tahoe?

Public Access/Recreation/Education

The League supports low-impact measures to enhance outdoor public recreation. Therefore, the League would support inclusion of public recreation and education components in the project, so long as they do not create negative impacts on the sensitive wetland/meadow restoration areas or deprive the project of funds needed to implement the maximum restoration alternative. Trails should be minimal, and located on the highest capability land, with access to the project area carefully managed and controlled.

The following proposal, contained in Draft Alternatives 1, 3 and 4, strikes a good balance between protection of the most sensitive portions of the site and realities of how people access the site: “Constructing trails and boardwalks along the eastern perimeter of the site to help direct and control existing pedestrian access to Barton Meadow, and in particular the interior of the site. Wet swales and low mounds would be used to discourage visitor access to the sensitive areas in the center of the marsh. The function of the boardwalks would be to raise people out of the wetter portions of the site where they currently walk and damage wetland vegetation.”

In addition to wet swales and low mounds, the EIR/EIS/EIS should propose protecting with fencing sensitive and recovering SEZ, with signage explaining the sensitivity of the restricted portions of the site. Re-routing the trail providing access to Cove East to west of the sailing lagoon on a new levee parallel to the marina channel is a prudent idea.

To help determine the appropriate scale and placement of recreational and educational infrastructure, the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should better describe the purpose and need of the recreation and access component of the project. For example, is the intent to better manage current users of the area, or to encourage destination visitors to gain awareness of the importance of ecological restoration in the Basin?

If public access is managed appropriately, the League sees great potential for the project to raise awareness about the vital importance of ecological restoration and its significance to the health of Lake Tahoe, particularly of major tributaries such as the Upper Truckee River. The preferred project alternative should incorporate abundant educational signage about the project, especially along Highway 50. A visitor center is an excellent idea, as well as development of an interpretive program and interpretive signage in appropriate locations throughout the site. All of these measures would greatly enhance public education efforts.

The EIR/EIS/EIS should state a clear preference for low-impact, education-based visitation. The project should not attempt to be all things to all people. The EIS should clearly describe the proposed management and enforcement plan for the area, including regulation of snowmobiling and other high-impact uses of the area. How will snowmobiles be kept off the restored project area?

The Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should explore other low-impact recreation opportunities, such as provision of an access point for kayaks in the project area. The EIR/EIS/EIS should consider whether the project area could be formally designated as a wildlife protection zone to provide a greater level of protection against disruptive uses of the area.

The Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should explain how public recreation access will, or could, connect with existing or planned hiking and bicycle trails upstream from the project area. For example, could a connection with the proposed Greenway bicycle trail be established on high capability land? Could the informal and degraded trail south of Highway 50, on the east side of the Upper Truckee River in the Moser reach, be restored and relocated to serve as a connector between the project reach, the existing Class I bicycle trail paralleling Highway 50, and the airport project reach/Greenway bicycle trail?

The Draft EIR/EIS/EIS should describe how the restoration and recreation/access components of the Marsh restoration project relate to and connect with other Upper Truckee River restoration projects under development (Airport reach, Sunset Stables, Golf Course reach, Greenway bicycle trail),

Thank you very much for consideration of these comments. We look forward to working with the Tahoe Conservancy, other agencies and all interested persons to build support for maximum Upper Truckee River watershed restoration.

Sincerely,



Carl Young
Program Coordinator
League to Save Lake Tahoe