

**LTGC River Restoration Project**

B Barneson [rabarneson@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:37 AM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

Two summers ago I participated in a season-long survey to get the opinion of occasional and regular visitors to LTGC on the five alternatives proposed for the state-sponsored Upper Truckee River Restoration Project (locals and one-time visitors from afar were excluded). Alternative #5 (course removed) received zero support since LTGC is the only reasonably priced regulation 18-hole golf course at the south shore. Alternative #3 (9-hole course or 18-hole executive course) received virtually no support as being of little interest to golfers (women as well as men). In addition to the loss of an important recreation activity from these two alternatives, the financial impact on the local economy would be devastating and would negatively impact the state's budget as well.

Alternatives #1 (do nothing) and #4 (leave course as is and support river banks) received some support, especially as being preferred over #3 and #5, but with recognition that they would not correct the erosion problem and its adverse impact on the clarity crisis for Lake Tahoe. Further to alternative #4, this approach has been tried for several years at hole #6 without any real success. It only slightly slows the erosion process, but doesn't prevent it. The long-term negative impact would be unchanged.

Alternative #2 (restore the river and retain the course, but move all holes impacting the river away from it) was the clear choice by an overwhelming majority of survey participants, even though they will miss interacting with the river. It was seen as a winning choice all the way around: Lake Tahoe will benefit. Golfers will benefit. Users of the Washoe Meadow area for hiking, biking, fishing, etc. will benefit. The local economy will benefit. And even the state of California will continue to benefit if alternative #2 is implemented.

Bob

I14-1

I14-1

The commenter summarizes participation in a survey of the project alternatives and his opinions of them. The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**proposed destruction of washoe meadows**

fred barry [freddyshred@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 04, 2010 10:29 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I15

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To whom it may concern;

Your proposed Alternative 2 is wrong. How can you even think of moving a golf course into the wild lands when there is a completely viable alternative that is consistent with the planning that State Parks prepared with full public involvement after they obtained the land. The fuel reduction policies that contributed to the destruction from the Angora Fire were shortsighted and ignorant and then we've watched the wholesale destruction of the remaining old growth trees that survived. Now the government wants to destroy are only remaining viable local alternative for secluded hiking and biking and ruin it for a couple months of revenue. This decision is based on greed and not with the principals set forth in good land stewardship. The government seems to be betraying us yet again.

I15-1

Sincerely,  
Fred Barry

I15-1

The commenter's opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**I Support Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee**

Andrew Bass [abassak@manatt.com]

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 4:11 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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I am an angler and I enjoy fishing the Truckee River. But I also play golf regularly. With both of these recreational pursuits in mind, I strongly urge that the Department of Parks and Recreation choose Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project.

The continued deterioration of the Upper Truckee cannot continue. Its health is vital to habitat, fish and Lake Tahoe.

By moving part of the golf course away from the river, Alternative 2 will arrest this deterioration. Its a lasting solution that will benefit the river, its fish and fishing, while preserving the 18-hole golf course for all to enjoy. This is truly a win-win-win solution.  
Thank you.

Andrew Bass

116-1

I16-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**washoe meadows/upper truckee restoration**

Jeff Bell [jeffbell60@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:39 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I17

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My name is Jeff Bell and as a life-long Californian with roots in the Lake Tahoe area, I find it disgusting that your department and the TRPA would favor Alternative #2 of the "Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project" environmental report. We appoint and elect stewards of the public domain to bring long term solutions to situations such as the one in the Upper-Truckee Basin. We expect you and your agency to make the right decisions when it comes to protecting Lake Tahoe for future generations of Californians to enjoy. If the decision that you make as public servants is based upon the needs of a special interest, know now that such a short-sighted decision will be eventually reversed and made right by the people of California that truly care about our Lake. I merely ask you to do the right thing and help restore The Upper Truckee Watershed in a way that you can say was the right thing to do for Lake Tahoe and the people of California. Sincerely, Jeff Bell

I17-1

I17-1

The commenter's opposition to Alternative 2 and support for the restoration for the Upper Truckee River watershed is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



November 1, 2010

To whom it may concern,

We have lived adjacent to Washoe Meadows State Park for over 20 years, and have been tremendously blessed by the recreation, beauty, wildlife and quiet that the park affords. The debate swirling around the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project is not a debate over river restoration. All participants support this end, as we do. However, the involved agencies are showing an undo bias toward Alternative 2, advocating golf course expansion. They appear ready to do this by ignoring preeminent laws protecting sensitive land, historical and cultural sites, diminishing animal and plant habitat, and quiet and peaceful local neighborhoods.

Aside from the obvious indifference to their own environmental standards, misleading the public about their intentions, and ignoring input from their own constituents, this is being pushed at a time of decreasing popularity in golf. The Environmental Impact Report or EIR clearly details the declining revenues of the current State Recreation Area's activities. And unless Global Warming overwhelms us sooner than expected, Tahoe's fragile golf season is not going to get any longer. The trend in Tahoe is definitely toward less expensive activities that everyone can participate in, exactly the activities this precious piece of land affords.

The land in question was purchased by the state in 1984. The 1984 California Legislative Statute appealed for the purchase using taxpayer dollars. They called it an act of urgency; "in order to acquire as state lands an environmentally sensitive parcel of approximately 777 acres of land comprising wetlands, meadows, and wildlife habitat for the purpose of protecting a unique and irreplaceable watershed". The parcel contained an existing golf course to the East, and a fragile and diverse piece of land to the West. Separating them was the main tributary of Lake Tahoe, the Upper Truckee River. The side containing the golf course was designated a State Recreational Area, and the land across the river, bordering numerous neighborhoods along North Upper Truckee, was designated as a state park, originally named Washoe Meadows Wildlife Refuge. In our opinion, nothing has changed to alter either these designations or the reasons behind them.

According to the States' own Unit Purpose Statement adopted in 2000 "the purpose of the Washoe Meadows State Park is to preserve and protect a wet meadow area associated with Angora Creek and the Upper Truckee River at the southwest side of the Tahoe Basin. The unit's associated forest sustains Jeffrey...and Lodgepole pine. The unit contains 14 Native American occupancy sites and remnants of a historic dairy, and is contiguous to other public lands important for their open space values and recreational uses." Consider that this statement came before the Angora fire. It should be apparent how much more important these forests and wetland areas become as a habitat for indigenous wildlife and plants.

How can a golf course (on which there has already been 1 diesel spill-related incident) not damage the land? How can State Parks, who claim to be essentially bankrupt (we just happened to have returned from voting, and there was a Proposition that said we need to tax all drivers \$18 in order to keep the parks afloat), afford to hire an outside PR firm to push Alternative 2? We're convinced that if the golf course was only 9 holes, or reconfigured to become an executive-type course, the golfers would still use it, regardless of what they might be saying currently.

What these agencies must remember is that the land in question is theirs to protect, not abuse. While they have been designated guardians of this sensitive and precious parcel of PUBLIC land, it is not theirs. The land belongs to all of us!

Respectfully,

Stew and Hillary Bittman  
PO Box 8956 (1721 Delaware St)  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

118-1

118-2

- I18-1            The commenters' opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. The commenters have concerns about consistency with 1984 California legislative statute and declining revenue, and impacts on wetlands, meadows, and wildlife habitat. See Master Response Section 3.2, "Land Use," for a discussion of the 1984 settlement agreement; see Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of impacts on wetlands and habitat. Appendix E, "Lake Tahoe Golf Course Economic Feasibility Analysis," to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS acknowledges that the Lake Tahoe Golf Course has experienced declining gross revenues since 1997.
- I18-2            The commenters have concerns about impacts of Alternative 2 on wetlands, meadows, and wildlife habitat. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for discussion of impacts on wetlands and wildlife habitat.

**help us play golf**

STEPHEN BLONSKI [yesblonski@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 11:14 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I19

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closing the golf course is a bad thing. it brings together the community, generates a ton of monie for the state parks. last time the golf course made major changes price changes ect. a lot of people moved from Tahoe to play more affordable golf. the inpaced on local bussniss would suffer also a lot of people come here to play, its the only regulation golf cours in south lake. the exeptin is edgwood can you afford \$300 to play a round, and would creat a monopoly!. why give Nevada all of california's revenue. let the public play its our right also. thank you stephen blonski. PS. resident since 1974. registerd voter same! this is not one change lake tahoe can afford or take

I19-1

I19-1

The commenter's support for keeping an affordable golf course open is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



jbolce@winfirst.com [jbolce@winfirst.com]

Sent: Sunday, November 07, 2010 5:18 PM

To: Project, Upper Truckee

Dear Cyndie Walck,

No surprise, I am a neighbor of Washoe Meadows State Park. In fact my husband and I purchased our home by the park after walking through the meadow and enjoying the river with our daughters. Our home in Tahoe is where we hope to retire and enjoy similar walks with our future grandchildren. We bought by a state park mistakenly believing the land would be protected for future generations. A golf course was/is not our vision of protecting park land for future generations to enjoy.

The following reasons for not pursuing Alternative 2 are serious concerns that will effect more than neighbors of the park;  
Fragmentation of the Washoe Meadows State Park  
Disruption of wildlife corridors  
Damage to unique fen/wetland area  
Alignment of the golf course along an increased segment of the river  
Disturbing and / or covering over pre-historic cultural sites  
Transformation of wildlife habitat to a heavily managed golf course with non-native greens, paved paths, pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer use.  
Potential increase in the total area and length of golf course fairways at the expense of the Park.

120-1

Why remove the golf course from proximity to spawning streams? Newly hatched baby trout are as delicate as snowflakes. Very slight amounts of chemicals in the water kill them, no matter how "environmentally sound" the promised golf maintenance practices are. Toxic herbicides, fertilizers and pesticides will find their way into streams through runoff or groundwater collection.

120-2

Questions abound about the source of the water to keep the course green. California's antiquated water laws are a problem, and the parks agency evades questions about the potential of lower stream levels and temperature increases due to the expansion of wells for the reconfigured course. These actions are illegal in Nevada.

120-3

The restoration of the stream and its banks and meadows to improve trout spawning for the lake would not require land purchase. It is already state land.

120-4

We strongly support of Alternative 3 River Ecosystem Restoration with Reduced-Play Golf Course. Alternative 3 provides the best opportunity to restore the Upper Truckee River, while simultaneously conserving valuable forested and sensitive land.

120-5

We strongly support Alternative 3 for those that live near the park now and for future generations who will one day enjoy it and South Lake Tahoe.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.  
Sincerely,  
Debbie and John Bolce

- I20-1            The commenters' opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. The commenters have concerns about impacts on cultural resources; impacts on wildlife corridors, fens, and wetlands; alignment of the golf course along an increased segment adjacent to the Upper Truckee River; use of pesticides, fertilizer, and herbicides; and invasive species. See the following master responses and response to comment:
- ▶ Master Response Section 3.4, "Hydrology, Flooding, Geomorphology, and Water Quality," for a discussion of water quality, golf course operations, and fens;
  - ▶ Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of fens, wetlands and the wildlife corridor;
  - ▶ Master Response Section 3.6, "Cultural Resources," for a discussion of protection of and access to cultural resources;
  - ▶ response to comment I6-3 for a discussion of existing and proposed golf course adjacent to the river; and
  - ▶ Chapter 5, "Corrections and Revisions to the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS for text revisions related to these topics.
- I20-2            The commenters have concerns about water quality impacts from golf course operations and implementation of Alternative 2 on trout species. In-channel construction associated with Alternative 2 would result in short-term habitat degradation, but mitigation Measures 3.5-1A through 3.5-1H were developed to limit short-term impacts on fish and other aquatic species. The long-term impact on habitat for fish and other aquatic species would be beneficial because the project would restore approximately 97 acres of floodplain and meadow, including 37 acres of SEZ. The increased area and improved ecosystem functions of SEZ, floodplain, and riparian communities would be beneficial because they would result in a long-term net increase in instream cover, shade, and recruitment of woody debris. In addition, the golf course would be removed from most areas adjacent to the Upper Truckee River channel, and adjoining riparian vegetation communities would be restored. This would provide a greater buffer between the golf course and aquatic habitats and would prevent the aquatic ecosystem from being adversely affected by golf course operation.
- I20-3            The commenters have concerns about impacts on the stream level and temperature from water use for golf course operations. See Master Response Section 3.4, "Hydrology, Flooding, Geomorphology, and Water Quality," for a discussion of water availability and effects on the Upper Truckee River. The commenters are concerned about California water laws and notes that such laws differ from those of Nevada. The project is under the jurisdiction of the State of California, and State Parks intends to comply with all relevant regulations. The State of Nevada's water laws do not apply to the project area.
- I20-4            The commenters state that stream restoration does not require land purchase. For clarification: State Parks does not propose to purchase any property as part of this project.

I20-5

The commenters' support for Alternative 3 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**Golf Course**

Laurelle Brazil [laurelle27@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2010 3:45 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

Living in Lake Tahoe for 26+ years and having visited since childhood I feel that the best alternative to the UTR Project would be the proposed alternative #2 in which the existing course be re-figured to accomodate the UTR and yet keep one of the CSP's revenue generating parks to exist and co-exist with proposals for Washoe Meadows. Not only are there direct jobs involved but indirectly this course affects quite a number of people---importantly the children of SLT. This course is the only one available to our youth and their Home Course for our local high school. As we continue to promote healthy lifestyles and support for our youth sports, this is a must to keep this course in existence. Another MAJOR factor is that millions are generated in supplementary income to our surrounding community from the visitors who play and stay locally. I come from an environmental background having worked for the Calif State Parks for several years, so my personal bent and professional one combine to make the ONLY balanced decision that would be a win/win for the public.

|21-1

Laurie Brazil

530-409-2791

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul" Nelson  
Mandella



Letter  
I21  
Response

Laurelle Brazil  
September 30, 2010

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I21-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and the need to keep the existing revenue and jobs is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Cabin Owner and I Support Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee**

Mike Brink [luv2whl@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2010 10:02 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I22

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My family has owned a cabin on the Upper Truckee in Xmas Valley for 90 years and we avidly fish the river. I am also a registered engineer and used to work as an environmental consultant so know the issues. I strongly urge that the Department of Parks and Recreation choose Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project.

The continued deterioration of the Upper Truckee cannot continue. Its health is vital to habitat, fish and Lake Tahoe.

Mike Brink  
2362 Rainbow Road  
Meyers

Mike Brink

I22-1

Letter  
I22  
Response

Mike Brink  
October 24, 2010

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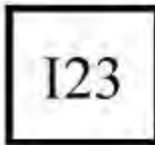
I22-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Sherie Brubaker**

Home (530) 577-6557  
Cel (916) 217-6557

PO Box 531125  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96155



Do not send mail to Home: 1843 Toppwetah St, So Lake Tahoe, CA

Email [utproject@parks.ca.gov](mailto:utproject@parks.ca.gov)

Cyndie Walck  
CA State Parks and Rec, Sierra District  
PO Box 16,  
Tahoe City, CA 96145

9-20-2010

Subject: River-Golf Course EIR/EIS/EIS

I am opposed to Alternative Two which will restore the river AND move 8-9 holes of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course into Washoe Meadows State Park, nearly doubling the number of golf fairways bordering the river.

I am in favor of restoring the river AND save the park from golf course development

Points

- 1. It is inappropriate to move a golf course onto environmentally sensitive land within a State Park. | 123-1
- 2. I love the open space of the State Park.
- 3. This will break up the park and destroy wildlife habitat. We have few animals now in our neighborhood. Please let our children and adults enjoy the wildlife.
- 4. Alternative 2 will nearly double the number of golf course fairways bordering the river. We want an open natural space near the river. | 123-2
- 5. Alt 2 will transform present habitat for diverse wildlife into a monoculture. | 123-3
- 6. The sport of Golf is declining. Most people prefer to golf near the lake, not in Meyers. | 123-4
- 7. In it's present state, Washoe Meadows State Park provides year-round, low-impact, affordable recreation. | 123-5

Thank you

*Sherie Brubaker*

- I23-1            The commenter’s opposition to Alternative 2 and support for the restoration for the Upper Truckee River watershed is noted. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for a discussion of impacts on fens and wildlife habitat.
- I23-2            The commenter states that Alternative 2 would double the number of golf course fairways bordering the river. For clarification, see response to comment AOB8-7, which discusses the location of the golf course in areas adjacent to the Upper Truckee River under current conditions and Alternative 2.
- I23-3            The commenter has concerns about habitat turning to monoculture. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for a discussion of wildlife habitat and baseline conditions.
- I23-4            The commenter states that golf is declining and that people prefer golfing near the lake and not in Meyers. The comment is noted. Appendix E, “Lake Tahoe Golf Course Economic Feasibility Analysis,” to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS acknowledges that the Lake Tahoe Golf Course has experienced declining gross revenues since 1997. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I23-5            The commenter states that Washoe Meadows SP provides year-round, low-impact, affordable recreation. The comment is noted. Washoe Meadows SP would continue to provide year-round, low-impact, affordable recreation under all alternatives. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper Truckee River Restoration Project & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project**

I24

Dave Burba [service@burba.us]

**Sent:** Friday, November 05, 2010 8:28 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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With regards to the Upper Truckee River Restoration Project & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project.

I have read the summaries of the project and walked the areas. I support Alternative 2.

The project can be a win-win for both the river and its environment, and for restoring the damaged area where Amacker Ranch used to be.

Alternative 2 moves the golf course onto damaged land where Amacker Ranch used to be, improving those areas and reducing the environmental imprint of the golf course.

I believe that modern golf courses can be a benefit to the environment and wildlife. I believe that the golf course is important to our recreation-based economy. That is why I support Alternative 2.

David Burba  
1188 Lindberg Ave  
South Lake Tahoe, CA

I24-1

I24-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental, economic, and wildlife value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper Truckee River Project**

Royal Bush [royal@royalsystemsgroup.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2010 3:23 PM  
**To:** Project, Upper Truckee  
**Cc:** kathystrain1@gmail.com

I am a golfer and a resident of Lake Tahoe and I believe the California State Parks should adopt Alternative 2 as outlined in the draft EIS/EIR/EIR document because it is good for the river, the local community and yes, golfing as well.

The reasons why Alternative 2 is the best alternative:

- 1) It restores the Upper Truckee River, enhances the surrounding wetlands and animal habitat and reduces silt flowing into Lake Tahoe.
- 2) It keeps our 18-hole golf course open by moving 9 holes to a currently available area outside the river flood plain.
- 3) This alternative would keep the only affordable, regulation size, 18-hole golf course in Lake Tahoe.
- 4) The proposed new area (outside the flood plain) for the new 9 holes is currently a blighted area anyway and putting 9 holes over there is a major visual improvement.
- 5) Reducing our golf course to 9 holes or removing the course entirely will deprive us of a major recreation opportunity currently provided by our California State Parks. This is extremely biased against the many local golfers that live in the South Tahoe area.
- 6) Visiting golfers and tournaments will not come to a golf destination vacation area for a 9-hole golf course.
- 7) The local golf course is critical to our local economy. The impact to our already fragile local economy would be negatively impacted by as much as \$6 million dollars each year if the golf course were removed.

I25-1

We need to vote for Alternative 2. It is good for our community, our golfing and the river.

Thank you,

1738 Eire Circle

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Royal Bush  
Royal Systems Group  
www.royalsystemsgroup.com



I25-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its benefits to the river, wildlife habitat, water quality, and the economy are noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

To whom it may concern ((Public comment on Lake Tahoe Golf Course):

Having just read the article, "Public Comment on Golf Course Opens" by Adam Jensen, in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, dated August 27, 2010, I have the following comments:

1. Of the five alternatives, only alternatives 2, 3, and 4 address the goals of the project; namely "...reduce erosion that is harming Lake Tahoe's clarity.....and ...while maintaining the recreational and economic benefits of the area."
2. Alternative #1 should not be considered because it does not address the "bank erosion in the reaches adjacent to the golf course...." as noted by the National Sedimentation Laboratory report.
3. Alternative #5 should not be considered because the elimination of the golf course will obviously impact the economic benefits of the area.
4. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, will all require stabilization of the Upper Truckee River so why even consider Alternative 2 as it would require altering other environmentally sensitive areas.
5. Of the two remaining alternatives (3 and 4), I favor Alternative 4, except for the notion that there would be no change to recreation access and all bridges would remain closed to non-golf use. I think that as a part of Alternative 4 all recreation access and bridge use should be examined and on the table. For example, in the photo of Cindy Walck there is mention of an undersized bridge that has caused increased water velocity and high erosion rates.....this bridge should be redesigned and rebuilt, as should all of the bridges on the golf course. Most are narrow and dangerous on a frosty morning, but most do not contribute to erosion. Greater utilization of the trails within the golf course for bikers and hikers during the summer should also be a part of Alternative 4!

I26-1

In conclusion, as a golfer and environmentalist I strongly support the retention of the existing 18-hole golf course with minor changes; I strongly support the stabilization of the river, including redesign of bridges which may contribute to high stream flow; and I strongly recommend that, as a part of Alternative four, you consider expanding recreational access and bridge use (I don't believe it is recreation users that are causing the erosion).

Dave Carneggie  
530-577-7762  
2892 St. Nick Way  
South Lake Tahoe, CA.  
96150

I26-1

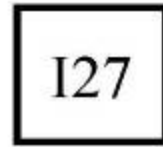
The commenter states opinions after reading an article in the *Tahoe Tribune* and shows support for Alternative 4. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. For clarification, only Alternative 4 requires stabilization, not Alternatives 2 and 3, which take a geomorphic approach. The commenter suggests allowing bridge access to trail users under Alternative 4. As described in Section 3.7, "Recreation," of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, under Alternative 4 the bridges would remain closed to recreationists other than golfers because the design of the existing golf course poses continued safety concerns should nongolf recreationists be within the line of play (e.g., if a golfer shoots a ball across the river). This does not limit the option for State Parks to install a separate trail bridge outside of the golf course as part of future planning efforts.

**TRUCKEE RIVER PROJECT**

carson@carolcarson.com [carson@carolcarson.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, September 11, 2010 12:33 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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Please eliminate the golf course which has caused erosion and pollution to the river. Golf is a waining sport and moving the course to another location is not worthy of our tax dollars.

| 127-1

Thank you,  
Carol Carson

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end...down into a desert of red rock...where something strange and more beautiful and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams waits for you ---."

~ Edward Abbey

I27-1

The commenter's support for eliminating the golf course (Alternative 5) is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

I28

**washoe meadows**

greg case [gregjcase@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 5:44 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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I strongly object to moving any of the golf course into Washoe meadows as it now is. Keep the golf course east of the river and remove any impacting bridges, fairways etc completely. In fact get rid of the golf course completely. It does not have a right to exist at the expense of the state park and the quality of the river, lake etc..

I28-1

*Be light of spirit and strong of heart.*

I28-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 3 or 5 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Washoe meadows EIR**

greg case [gregjcase@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2010 4:10 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I strongly oppose option 2. What a waste of time and money to move 9 holes, or any holes of golf into a state park. This is the most destructive and most costly, so the worst option that you propose. We can keep the golf course if we must, and even all 18 holes, by simply restoring the river within the existing course, moving fairways, etc, several feet away from the edge of the river. This will shrink them some, or narrow them some, but will not eliminate them, and this will cost the least, and be the least disruptive to both the park and the golf course. Please do not waste my money, or destroy my park for this restoration, that really does not need to be done in the first place, or at least, if you just have to spend millions of dollars, can be done in place, leaving the park and the golf course where it is. thank you Greg case

129-1

*Be light of spirit and strong of heart.*



I29-1

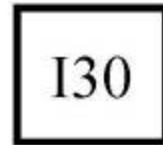
The commenter's opposition to Alternative 2 and support for restoring the Upper Truckee River watershed is noted. The commenter suggests modifying the existing footprint of the golf course and keeping 18 holes. See response to comment AOB8-1 for a discussion of alternatives considered but eliminated from further evaluation.

**Lake Tahoe Golf Course**

John Castellanos [castellanos-law@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 7:01 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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This is to advise that I am in favor of maintaining LT golf course and proposed changes to the course. The course in my opinion is a necessary and affordable venue for outdoor recreation in the area. John Castellanos, 530-544-1752

| 130-1

I30-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and maintaining an affordable golf course is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

## Comments on draft UTR EIR/EIS

Amy Cecchetti [acecchetti@tahoe.ca.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, November 01, 2010 12:11 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

**Attachments:** UTR EIREIS Alt 2 map.pdf (259 KB)

Good afternoon Cyndie,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft EIR/EIS for the Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project. I live in the area and would like to provide some comments, as a citizen. The Washoe Meadows State Park, Lake Baron, and Golf Course (in the off season) are all within an easy distance from my house. I enjoy these areas year-round via walking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

I would like to support Alternative 2 of the draft EIR/EIS for the Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project for the following reasons. Some questions are included:

1. Although I don't agree with cutting down so many trees to install a new golf course, this alternative will provide restoration for a majority of the River, while still allowing the golf course to function at full capacity in order to provide the State Park with necessary funds.
2. Is there a plan to save the unique &/or large trees in the areas of planned greens & fairways? (I could have missed this section. It is quite a large document.)
3. I believe the proposed pond, bridge, and greens will be an improvement to the remaining un-restored portion of the borrow pit. This will provide much needed soil stabilization. The silt fence around the sand pile has been ineffective for some time, not to mention the large area of surrounding disturbed soil is continually open to further erosion.
4. I am pleased to see that a restroom will be installed on this side of the golf course. A round of playing golf can take a long time & I believe this will provide a sanitary solution, especially since the river is so close-by.
5. I am pleased to see that this alternative will add nearly 2000' of length to the river, thus reducing velocity, & increasing meandering to mimic its more historic and natural river form. I often walk the Truckee River area during large storms. The river is often brown due to large sediment load, high stream velocity, and inability to overtop its banks due to incising. High flows have continued to erode the banks to the point that portions of the trail along the river (upstream from the Country Club Dr. / hole 6 bridge) have been taken out by the river itself.
6. I am glad to see that all the bridges will be removed except one, which will be made much longer in order to cross the river. This will assist in the ability to fully restore the river and allow it to naturally flood.
7. I am pleased to learn that the unnamed creek that crosses under Country Club Drive & runs through the golf course will receive some improvements. This creek's inception near Pioneer Trail is larger than its outfall to the Upper Truckee River, the reverse of which should be true. As a result, the creek has been confined to a ditch, providing little treatment in its middle section through the subdivision, upstream of the golf course.
8. Alternative 2 provides a bridge leading from the eastern portion of the golf course to the proposed western portion. I read the section pertaining to the paved ADA access for this public/golf bridge & associated trail. I did not see how a portion of the trail will deal with 2 wet areas. There are 2 seasonal springs west of the bridge that will need some form of boardwalk or bridge. These areas are often flooded in the early season. The first area is SE of the north end of #7's fairway, (just south of the trail

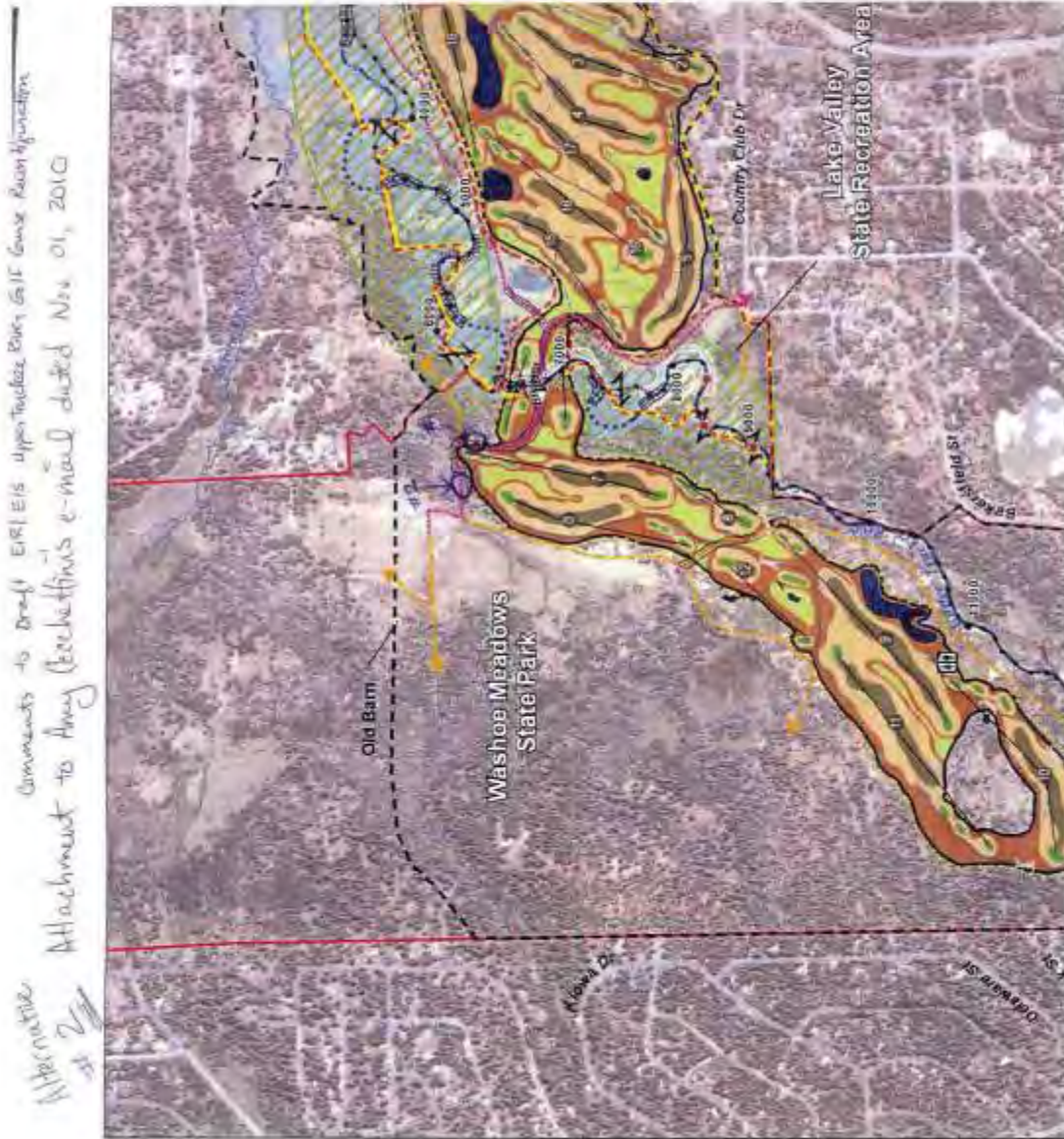
131-1

bend from an N-S to E-W orientation), near a manhole. The second area is west of the same bend @ the north end of fairway #7 in the existing forest, and east of the fallen large tree located at the intersection with the road through the open meadow leading to the barn. Please see attached map. I can show you in person if I am not describing this very well.

131.1  
cont.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Amy Cecchetti  
P. O. Box 7895  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158  
(1815 Bakersfield St.)  
(530) 577-5170 (home-msg)



I31-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. The commenter does have concerns and questions about tree removal. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of tree removal. See Impact 3.5-6 (Alt. 2) for a detailed discussion of tree removal under Alternative 2. As discussed in Impact 3.5-6 (Alt. 2):

Under Alternative 2, an estimated total of 1,640 trees greater than 10 inches dbh would be removed, including 1,395 trees for golf course relocation, 120 trees for geomorphic restoration, and 125 trees for access road construction. This estimate includes three trees greater than 30 inches dbh, with at least one tree greater than 30 inches dbh within the proposed golf course footprint and two trees greater than 30 inches dbh that would be removed for geomorphic restoration. However, trees to be removed under Alternative 2 will not affect an old growth forest.

Trees greater than 30 inches dbh have been avoided by project design except where infeasible, as described.

## Upper Truckee restoration and Lake Tahoe Golf Course

Carol [carol@ltva.org]

**Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2010 3:45 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

As a 30 year community member, I feel that the Lake Tahoe Golf course has a place in our economy and place for residents and visitors alike. Alternative 2 makes the most sense from every direction. I am quite surprised that others believe that restoring the entire piece of property to a park is best way to go. This has been a golf course for a long time and it should be improved in order as an amenity for visitors and locals who are searching for a quality golf experience. Today, the golf course is not competitive. Alternative 2 gives us the opportunity to elevate LTGC and make it better, make it more of a 2nd tier course that can compete with those courses in the valley and in Reno. And of course it gives us the significant stream restoration which is so needed.

If you were to completely remove the golf course, CA State parks would have no funds (at least not in the foreseeable future) to do much to improve the area. Public access would thus be limited, not enhanced, and this would not be serving the people. In fact, it would be a huge loss to people in terms of jobs, tourism and recreation. Additionally, removing the golf course (Alt 5) would impact much needed CA State parks revenue. The golf course currently contributes almost \$900,00 per year to CA Parks and with current funding shortfalls, CA Parks would lose a significant source of money. CA Parks' mission is to provide recreation as well as preserve the environment, and preserving the golf course in an 18 hole configuration aligns with that mission.

Finally, a last consideration for Alternative 2 is that the neighboring community will most likely see an uptick in real estate values due to the improved golf course and greater access and number of trails without encroaching on privacy.

I strongly urge you to support Alternative 2 -- for our community, economy and environment.

Carol Chaplin

I32-1

I32-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2, including golf course improvements and economic benefits, is noted. The commenter believes that Alternative 2 will improve the real estate values of the neighboring community. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



## Upper Truckee Restoration Project

Barb Childs [barbara.childs@charter.net]

**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2010 6:59 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I33

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Please consider alternative 2 or 4 as the best choices to ensure the environment and our economy.

I 133-1

Barbara Childs, Realtor, MBA  
Pinnacle Real Estate Group of Lake Tahoe  
3045 Harrison Avenue  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
530-541-0945 primary office  
530-543-6676 secondary office  
888-719-5048 toll free  
530-452-1812 efax  
[bc@barbarachilds.com](mailto:bc@barbarachilds.com)  
[www.barbarachilds.com](http://www.barbarachilds.com)  
South Tahoe Association of Realtors (STAR):  
2009 Realtor of the Year  
2010 Immediate Past President  
American Association of University Women (AAUW):  
2010-2011 President, South Lake Tahoe Branch  
CA DRE# 01306126

I33-1

The commenter's support for Alternatives 2 and 4 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Restore Tahoe Fishery**

J.P. Christensen [ccnjcnv7@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 04, 2010 11:51 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I34

My son is an avid golfer...however, even he agrees that restoration of a magnificent eco-system is more important! Please, lets help bring back a fisheries recovery program that has been lost.

Enough already with more golf courses. Let's get Calif. on board with this....please!

Thank You,

A Concerned Nevada resident.

I34-1

I34-1

The commenter's belief that restoring the area is more important than maintaining the golf course is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**restore upper truckee river project**

PHYLLIS CLIFTON [p-clifton@att.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 06, 2010 12:32 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I35

I am Phyllis Clifton, I am a retired certified Medical Assistant. I have lived at South Lake Tahoe for 43 years. My husband deceased was a firefighter for City SLT for 20 years. We both enjoyed golf and I still do. This keeps the only

affordable 18 hole golf course at Lake Tahoe. The area where the nine holes would be moved are not pristine and the land swap will give Washoe Meadows State Park a better piece of land along the upper truckee river. The local golf course is critical to our economy. It provides jobs, needed revenue for

the California State Parks and adds \$6 million dollars to our economy each YEAR!

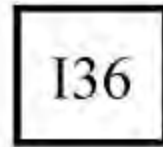
So I am voting for Alternative 2

Phyllis Clifton  
1890 Bakersfield St  
South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 96150

I35-1

I35-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its economic and environmental value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



## Upper Truckee River Restoration

David Cloutier [dcloutier1@clearwire.net] on behalf of David Cloutier  
[david@davidcloutier.net]

**Sent:** Saturday, October 30, 2010 12:01 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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I wish to submit my support for Alternative #2 to respond to the environmental needs while still maintaining a viable economic resource | 136-1

David Cloutier  
NV Broker-Salesman  
CA Broker # 01105564  
Coldwell Banker Select Real Estate  
Lake Tahoe, NV & CA  
[david@davidcloutier.net](mailto:david@davidcloutier.net)  
800-LkTahoe (558-2463)

I36-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its economic and environmental value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



I37

**FW: CALL TO ACTION - LAKE TAHOE GOLF COURSE IS AT RISK!**

Sharon Kerrigan [sharon@STAOR.org]

**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2010 11:24 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

**Cc:** Jill Stanton-Bricker [jill@tahoeremax.com]

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To whom it may concern:

Please accept the following public comment from Doug Clymer, REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member of the South Tahoe Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> and real estate agent with Chase International South Tahoe Realty,

Thank you,

Sincerely,

*Sharon Kerrigan*, ePro

Executive Vice President

South Tahoe Association of REALTORS

Phone: 530.541.7007 / Email: <mailto:sharon@staor.org>

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**From:** Doug Clymer [mailto:doug@dougclymer.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2010 11:07 AM

**To:** sharon@staor.org

**Subject:** Re: CALL TO ACTION - LAKE TAHOE GOLF COURSE IS AT RISK!

I concur with Carl Fair's assessment last week in the Tahoe Tribune " Letter to the Editor." I feel the golf course design could be improved and the negative environmental impact on the Truckee River could be lowered with the addition of 9 new holes. The existing nine holes, to be eliminated, would close the day the new nine holes open. No temporary nine hole course until the completion of the new nine.

Sincerely,

Doug Clymer

I37-1

I37-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. State Parks would attempt to have new holes available for play before restoring existing holes. See Chapter 2, "Project Description," of this final EIR/EIS/EIS for an updated construction schedule.

November 14, 2010

I38

To: CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project Manager

From: Theresa Cody  
2505 Blitzen Road  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

I am a 10 year resident of South Lake Tahoe, and a professional in the community. I'm very familiar with the project area, from working in the field at this and many State Parks when I worked for the DPR, and from recreating in the Washoe Meadows State Park regularly since I've lived here.

First, I am very supportive of this project. The Upper Truckee River needs restoration, particularly in this degraded reach. When I first became familiar with this reach of the river nearly 10 years ago, it already showed signs of degradation. Several areas had failing banks and the golf course bridges were causing even more bank erosion and river deepening. Since then, I've witnessed the banks of the Upper Truckee River through this area recede further, with active slumping present along this entire reach after large river flows. I support any project alternative that restores the river completely, including restoring the aquatic habitat and floodplain function, which Alternatives 1 and 4 do not accomplish.

That being said, I believe that Alternative 2 is the clear choice for this project, in that it would restore the river and habitat while maintaining the Golf Course and associated community benefits. This project is necessary for the Lake Tahoe Basin as it has the potential to reduce sediment delivery to the lake, improve aquatic habitat in a river that is being considered for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout reintroduction, improve the Golf Course, improve the natural outdoor recreation opportunities in the project area, and connect a highly desirable recreational area to local trails. Alternative 2 is the only option that would accomplish all of these outcomes.

Under Alternative 2 there is an opportunity to return many acres of disturbed land currently being occupied by the golf course to restored floodplain meadow. This is a rare habitat in the Tahoe Basin, and has much greater value than the previously disturbed upland areas where the new golf course holes would be relocated. The riparian corridor along the river would provide habitat to native wildlife species, provide fishing habitat where none currently exists (no access allowed within the golf course), and improve other river recreation opportunities.

One of the understated benefits of Alternative 2 is the access that it would provide across and along the river that is not available now. This alternative also would connect several neighborhoods by maintained trails, rather than the unmaintained trails that require entering a closed golf course which are present now. The new trail segments also connect

I38-1

I38-2

to regional trails, which should be emphasized more in this document, since regionally connected trails are lacking in this community, particularly in this area.

| 138-2  
cont.

Finally, the rafting and kayaking effects of the project are potentially a huge benefit. I live in Christmas Valley, and love to raft the Upper Truckee River. Currently, we drive to Elk's Club to get on the river because of the shallow waters, wood and other obstructions, and the risk of golf balls from the golf course if we raft or kayak through the State Parks reach. This project has the potential to provide a better rafting and kayaking experience through this area. The potential benefits of this project if any of the full channel restoration alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3 or 5) are selected should be addressed further in the EIS to completely disclose the project effects.

| 138-3

I appreciate your consideration of my opinion about this project, and the time and effort that was invested into this detailed study for a very necessary project. I hope that the thorough analysis that was completed and the overwhelming evidence that Alternative 2 is the superior choice for this project area will urge you to approve that option.

| 138-4

Sincerely,

Theresa Cody

- I38-1            The commenter’s support for Alternative 2 and its environmental and community value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I38-2            The commenter states that the trail improvement benefits were understated in the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. See Master Response Section 3.5, “Recreation,” for additional discussion of trail improvements.
- I38-3            The commenter states that the beneficial effects of kayaking and boating need to be discussed further. See Master Response Section 3.5, “Recreation,” for a discussion of recreation access to boaters.
- I38-4            The commenter’s support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**upper truckee river**

USERRAMP [userramp@aol.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2010 6:39 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I39

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I am looking forward to the work going to be done on the river. It will make it a something for all of our kids to enjoy for years to come. I can not wait to see the new golf course design. I think it will bring more golfers to South Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area will benefit from this. I have talked to golfers on the golf course and they say the same thing, that it will bring more golfers to the area, and have an impact as far as jobs and business go. Also I look forward to walking in the park where the old holes were and not worry about the ground where you are stepping where it is uneven. It should be a great place to picnic and watch the river and people.

I39-1

Larry C.

Letter  
I39  
Response

Larry Coffman  
September 16, 2010

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I39-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**uninformed**

USERRAMP@aol.com [USERRAMP@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 5:58 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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The people that opposed to changing the golf course are not fully aware of what is happening. They seem to be coming in with miss information. I don't know where they are getting it from, but they need to dig a little deeper to find out more. Washoe Meadows Community say that a majority of golfers are opposed to Alternative 2, not the ones I have talked to. Again I think they need more information.

I read an article in the Sac.Bee, and a person wrote in saying it would cost 10s of millions of dollars for this to happen. When I was at the meetings held three years ago, there were around 90 people there and we were split into 10 discussion tables with maps and the purposed changes that might happen. We discussed what we would like to see happen, some wanted to save the area in question to ride there horses there and bikes and hike on the trails. What would happen if the golf course was 9 holes instead of 18. We thought that closing it down would be a real disaster from losing income to Tahoe and losing jobs and a money making recreation area for here.

During the summer there is about 35,000 rounds of golf played at the golf course, price ranging from \$25.00 to \$84.00 depending on the day of the week and the time of day. As far as moving the nine holes to save the river I am for that. And the land where the old holes were located they can ride there horses, bikes and make new trails to hike on. I wonder how many people use the old quarry and sand pit. Do the people who are opposed to the change have some sort of count of these people? I would like to see Alternative 2 go through and the river restored.

Larry J. Coffman  
1655 Bakersfield St  
South Lake Tahoe, Ca 96150  
userramp@aol.com

I40-1



I40-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

To whom it may concern,

My Husband and I bought our Cabin on Chilicothe St. in 1987. We have had many years of enjoyment there. We are now in the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of Family enjoying the peace and quiet of So. Lake Tahoe, especially the State Park and Meadow behind our Cabin.

As we are on the same side of the Street where the Golf Course will be, and our property will be very near the Greens, we are especially concerned about our time at our Cabin not being as peaceful and quiet as it is now.

One of our concerns is the Wildlife. We see many Bears, Coyote and many small animals now. Where will they all go when their Habitat is torn up, moved, interrupted? Part of the Beauty of Tahoe is watching them enjoy their territory that also belongs to them as well as us.

We have enjoyed many walks along the River and in to the Meadow with our Family and Friends and taken pictures, watched the Birds and Squirrels scamper and run and just be themselves. What will happen to all of this?

I realize the Golfers enjoy their time on the course, my Husband is a Golfer, but please keep the Golf Course away from the Families that are trying to get some relaxation and quiet time.

Thank You,

Barbara and Roger Copeland  
2074 Via Rancho  
San Lorenzo, CA. 94580  
[Tex4ark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Tex4ark@sbcglobal.net)

843 Chilicothe St.  
So. Lake Tahoe, CA. 96150

I41-1

I41-1

The commenters have concern about the proposed golf course being adjacent to their cabin and the effects on common species habitat from reconfiguring the golf course. See response to comment I6-3 for a discussion of the buffer and screening of the reconfigured golf course under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of wildlife habitat.

I42

**Upper Truckee River**

William G. Copren [wgcopren@gotsky.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2010 2:42 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

**Cc:** John Williamson [FlyFisher@JohnWilliamson.com]; Paul & Sheri Roen [sproen@aol.com]

Dear Sirs:

I have reviewed the information about the proposed project along the upper Truckee River in South Lake Tahoe. Please consider adopting Alternative 3 for the proposed project. I am concerned about the degradation of the Truckee River which could occur if Alternative 2 should be chosen. I, as a share holder in the Sierra Valley Water Company which has water rights on the Truckee River system have additional concerns. Any water taken from the river or from the ground water in the Tahoe basin reduces the amount of water entering the lake and the opportunity for water to exit the lake into the Truckee River. Ground water in the Tahoe basin moves, eventually, into the lake and new wells projected in Alt. 2 will reduce the water in Lake Tahoe. Such a removal could be in direct violation to the signed Truckee River Operating Agreement and may be illegal. If such taking reduces the flows below the amount needed to meet the Floriston rates on the Truckee River it will automatically impact the Sierra Valley Water Company's water rights. We are concerned with any such taking. Sincerely, Bill Copren My email address is [wgcopren@gotsky.com](mailto:wgcopren@gotsky.com) My address is P.O. Box 95 Sattley, CA 96124

I42-1

I42-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 3 and concerns about Alternative 2 are noted. The commenter has concerns about water rights and water use. For clarification, no additional wells are proposed under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.4, "Hydrology, Flooding, Geomorphology, and Water Quality," for a discussion of water use and water rights.

k

**Washoe Meadows State Park**

Aaron Culp [ajculp@att.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 05, 2010 3:31 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



This is in request that you consider keeping Washoe Meadows State Park in its current state of low impact, affordable recreation. A decision to expand the Lake Tahoe Golf course into the parks interior will endanger its diverse habitat, and fragment its make-up which is loved by many local residents and visitors. Please, let us not compromise additional environmentally sensitive land for the pleasure of a select group.

I43-1

Jennifer Culp, local resident and  
concerned citizen

I43-1

The commenter's opposition to Alternative 2 and support for maintaining low-impact, affordable recreation at Washoe Meadows SP is noted. The commenter has concerns about wildlife habitat. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of habitat.

**From:** Curtis John [mailto:curtis@hsrei.biz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 7:31 AM  
**To:** Walck, Cyndi  
**Subject:** RE: Lake Tahoe Golf Course

**Regarding the changes to the Lake Tahoe Golf Course:**

I believe the California State Parks should **adopt Alternative 2.**

This would restore the Upper Truckee River, enhance the surrounding wetlands/animal habitat and reduce silt flowing into Lake Tahoe while **keeping our 18 hole golf course** by moving 9 holes to a currently available area outside the river flood plain.

|44-1



I44-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**From:** Curtis John [mailto:curtis@hsrei.biz]  
**Sent:** Wed 9/22/2010 12:28 PM  
**To:** Project, Upper Truckee  
**Subject:** Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project EIS Comment

To: Cyndie Walck, Sierra State Parks

I am a resident of Lake Tahoe and I believe the California State Parks should adopt Alternative 2 as outlined in the draft EIS/EIR/EIR document because it is good for the lake and the local economy/community.

From my perspective, a few of the reasons to adopt Alternative 2 are:

- 1) It restores the Upper Truckee River, enhances the surrounding wetlands and animal habitat and reduces silt flowing into Lake Tahoe.
- 2) It keeps the 18-hole golf course open by moving 9 holes to a currently available area outside the river flood plain.
- 3) This alternative would keep the only affordable, regulation size, 18-hole golf course in Lake Tahoe.
- 4) The proposed new area (outside the flood plain) for the new 9 holes is currently a blighted area that would be positively affected by development of the new 9 hole tract.
- 5) Reducing this golf course to 9 holes or removing the course entirely will deprive the area of a major recreation opportunity currently provided by our California State Parks (speak nothing of reducing State Park revenue – removal of LTGC is likely to result in reductions in other areas, even elimination of other State Parks). Removal of the golf course, or reducing it to 9 holes will most certainly deter golfers from other regions from visiting South Lake Tahoe, and thus reduce number of hotel room-nights, number of restaurant visits, and other tourist activities, which will result in job loss and reduced revenue to the community.
- 6) In addition to the beautiful surroundings, South Lake Tahoe is attractive golf destination because it has an affordable 18 hole championship course. (Edgewood IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE AS IT COSTS MORE THAN \$200.00 PER PLAYER PER ROUND.) Without Lake Tahoe Golf Course, people will choose alternate golf destinations.
- 7) The local golf course is critical to our local economy. The impact to our already fragile local economy would be negatively impacted by as much as \$6 million dollars each year if the golf course were removed.

We need to vote for Alternative 2. **It is a good compromise for our community AND the lake.**

Thank you,  
Curtis R. John  
1392 June Way  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

I45-1

I45-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental and economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. The commenter's statement that Edgewood is not affordable is also noted.

**Comment on Upper Truckee River Restoration Project**

Tim Dallas [timdallas48@earthlink.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 04, 2010 11:22 AM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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Cyndie Walck / Project Managers,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project. My wife and I bought a house last year very near the Washoe Meadows State Park and we enjoy the area very much. We also understand the need to properly manage the developed lands around Lake Tahoe to limit pollution and excessive sediments from entering the Lake, and that's why we believe that protecting riparian habitat in the Tahoe basin is vital to the long-term health of the Lake Tahoe ecosystem. In terms of the project options, having a large golf course in this area at all was probably not the best idea in the first place; however, it is a long established recreation site and we understand the economic value of retaining a golf course. I believe the the healthiest option would be #5, to remove the golf course entirely and plan the whole area for low impact recreation. However, recognizing the economic and recreational value of a golf course, I believe option #3 would be the next best option with the golf course being limited to one side of the river with a sufficient riparian buffer zone on the golf course side to protect the natural drainage, as well as the plant and wildlife resources.

I46-1

Again, thanks for your consideration.

Tim Dallas

local address: 473 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA  
mailing address: 868 Brittany Lane, Concord, CA 94518  
phone: 925-686-1386

I46-1

The commenter's primary support for Alternative 3 followed by support for Alternative 5 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Alternative2**

Greg Daum [design-scapes@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 9:59 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

Hi,

I have attended 2 meetings on the Upper Truckee Restoration project and I vote for Alternative 2. It is a win win. It is the most thought out improvement for our lake and our economy I have ever seen in this community, and I am a lifetime resident! Kudos for helping us to understand the science behind it, the foresight for the grants, and considering the economy and the effect on the other parks that need funding. Whoever got this ball rolling is a true leader without a short sighted vision for any certain agenda. As you may already know please be aware of the new federal ADA Title II and III taking effect in March 2011 regarding golf courses, so it doesn't jeopardize your planning. Thank you,

(47-1)

Carol

I47-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Lake Tahoe Golf Course project**

Greg Daum [design-scapes@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 6:03 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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As a local business owner I support Alternative #2 which was presented at a Meyers community meeting, to keep 18 holes at the golf course which helps our economy and and the CA parks system and our precious Lake Tahoe. It is a win win for California state parks and our local economy.  
Thank you,

| 148-1

Greg



I48-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**Alternate #2 golf course**

J Daum [hemi.cuda@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 5:55 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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As a 4th generation Tahoe local and a Meyers resident attending a Meyers Roundtable meeting I support Alternative #2 moving 9 holes of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course to a new location. It is in the best interest of the Lake, the environment, business and recreation.

149-1

Jake Daum

I49-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental, economic, and recreational value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**From:** ddsitca@aol.com [mailto:ddsitca@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 5:31 AM  
**To:** Utproject@parks.ca.gov  
**Subject:** River Golf Course EIR/EIS/EIS

When I first heard there was talk of developing Washoe Meadows State park into a golf course (alternative 2) I had to laugh. It seemed unlikely that with the with the TRPA governing Lake Tahoe development no golf course would ever be relocated onto a California State Park. Washoe Meadows consists of meadows and woodlands. It would be highly inappropriate to move a golf course onto this environmentally sensitive land, destroying a wildlife corridor to the greater Tahoe basin. The park land serves the California's State park mission statement; "to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources." Alternative 2 would fragment the park and destroy the wildlife habitat. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is supposed to lead the effort to preserve, restore and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe region now and in the future. So how possibly, have the TRPA and California Department of Parks and Recreation, teamed up to develop a golf course on the state park land? Washoe Meadows State Park was created in order to save "an environmentally sensitive parcel for the purpose of protecting a unique and irreplaceable watershed." This golf course reconfiguration project is being sold to the general public under the guise of restoring the Upper Truckee River, when in fact, it will double the number of golf course fairways bordering the river. While much can be written about the devastating impacts of prior land use policies, alternatives to the proposed golf course redevelopment do exist, and with far less environmental impact. Washoe Meadows state park in its current state, serves the entire community, as a low impact, affordable recreation alternative. Today, as I entered the park and read the sign proclaiming all plant and wildlife protected, I had to ponder; protected from whom?

150-1

Sincerely,  
Dave Davis  
1321 Mountain Meadow Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, Ca 96150

I50-1

The commenter has concerns about impacts on wildlife habitat and consistency of the project with State Parks' mission statement. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of wildlife habitat; see Master Response Section 3.2, "Land Use," for a discussion of consistency with State Parks' policies and mission statement.



**American Golf**

john dayberry [jdayberry@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2010 7:45 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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Can you explain to me why American Golf Corp. is the only "player". The USFS puts properties like this out for prospectus allowing businesses to bid on the concession. Why only AGC if the 20 year lease is up?

| 151-1

Thanks for clearing this up.

John Dayberry

I51-1

The commenter's concern about American Golf is noted. The concessionaire contract will go out to bid to any concessionaire interested in the contract after a decision has been made about which alternative is selected. State Parks will evaluate all proposals before selecting a concessionaire. Because it has not been determined which alternative will be selected for implementation, it is premature to renew the current contract; therefore, American Golf is proceeding under the existing contract. American Golf has been involved with the planning process, because of its long history and knowledge of the golf course.

**Comment on UT Project**

John Dayberry [john@nativeelementsoftahoe.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 3:55 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

Thank you for allowing our input on the Upper Truckee River Project. The river restoration piece of Upper Truckee Project will clearly be able to show an improvement towards the goals we are all trying to reach in respect to TDI, habitat improvement, hydrological function and many others to the most important reach in the Da'ow (Tahoe) Basin. I would also like to give praise to the restoration project done in the old quarry area collaboratively relocating soil from the Keys Wetland restoration project resulting in a substantial saving with improvement to the "Wildlife Enhancement Area" of Washoe Meadows State Park and the Tahoe Keys.

Recognizing the triple bottom line, the golf course has generated huge revenues over the years but as a person that recreates there weekly, I see very little reinvestment in the park. This clearly demonstrates the lack of sustainable and community building practices. South Lake Tahoe is plagued with large property owners taking profits out of our town and letting buildings and lands degrade to blight and then ask for tax breaks and handout to upgrade these properties. Also I see no "alternatives" in the alternatives except golf.

Relocating the golf course into the Wildlife Enhancement Area will not improve and most likely degrade water quality, existing recreation opportunities, wildlife corridors, public access and has no redeeming environmental assets. Please consider creating positive change and true alternatives to the park embracing low impact sustainable recreation.

The river relocation and restoration is desperately needed and the project should not be tied to the construction of the golf course that caters to two groups (battery propelled golfers & gasoline powered snowmobilers). Please consider who is being excluded or effected by moving the golf course: Runners, X-C skiers, bikers, kayakers, hikers, walkers, equestrians, dog walkers, fishermen & women, bird and wildlife viewers and children like my daughter (11) who loves to jog two miles past the old milk barn to her Grandparents house on the other side of Washoe Meadow State Park.

Thank you.

John Dayberry  
2142 Oakaco St  
S.L.T. CA 96150

152-1



I52-1

The commenter disagrees with combining golf course construction with river restoration. See the following master responses and response to comment:

- ▶ Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” and response to comment AOB8-6 for discussions of quarry areas and soil piles;
- ▶ Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for a discussion of wildlife habitat; and
- ▶ Master Response Section 3.5, “Recreation,” for a discussion of the effects of reconfiguring the golf course under Alternative 2.

**Comments on Upper Truckee River Project Draft EIR/EIS/EIS**

Tom Deeble [tdeeble@aol.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2010 10:57 PM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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November 14, 2010Comments on the Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course  
Reconfiguration Project Draft EIR/EIS/EIS

Sent via e-mail to utproject@parks.ca.gov

Based on the Project Alternatives presented, we support Alternative 2, which includes relocation of some of the golf course to the west side of the Upper Truckee River. However, there appears to be many valid concerns presented by the Washoe Community Organization that still need to be addressed.

With the poor financial condition of the State of California, and the recent rejection of California State Proposition 21 that would have provided the state parks with a stable support base, it seems imperative to maintain a full 18-hole golf course. This will continue to provide income to support other areas of the state park system. We feel golfing is one of many valid recreational uses of public land.

If Alternative 2 is the approved alternative, then the needs of other recreational users of the state park must be supported. These recreational activities include hiking, mountain biking, river access, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, etc. For example, the proposed new bridge that includes access for pedestrians, should not impede their flow. If a gate is needed to prevent use by snowmobiles, then the gate should be designed to allow snowshoeing and cross country skiing without requiring users to crawl under or over a gate. Also, the new restroom to be built on the west side should include access by non-golfers during normal golf course operating hours.

We look forward to more river access via the new bike/hike trails - especially the connection to the new bike trail starting at Saw Mill Road. We also look forward to improved access to the west side of the river without feeling like trespassers of the golf course. With the "pedestrian safe zones" on the west side it looks like we should still be able to explore a large part of the Washoe Meadows State Park.

While it would still be great if the golf course could stay strictly on the east side of the Upper Truckee River, it seems like Alternative 2 is the best at this time.

Sincerely,  
Tom & Debbie Deeble

1220 Country Club Drive  
South Lake Tahoe

TDeeble@aol.com

153-1

I53-1

The commenters' support for Alternative 2 is noted. These commenters have concerns about recreation access for and use of the proposed restroom by nongolfers. The restroom facility would be available to nongolfers. See Master Response Section 3.5, "Recreation," for additional information about recreation access.

Hillary Dembroff  
PO Box 9484  
1283 Dixie Mountain Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158  
(530) 573-0500

October 23, 2010

Dear Cyndie Walck,  
This letter is to state my opposition to Alternative 2, regarding the Restoration of the Upper Truckee River/Golf Course Reconfiguration project in Washoe Meadows State Park.

My concerns are numerous, and are summarized below:

- I have read the initial TRPA draft EIR proposal, and other documentation. As far as I can interpret, all studies and reports precede the devastating Angora Fire. What new EIR's and studies of wildlife and recreational uses have been done since the fire? Where are those reports? As a frequent user of the park, I have noticed a significant increase in both wildlife and human presence. 154-1
- There appears to be UNDO BIAS in having Alternative 2 pushed forward as the preferred alternative. I have attended several community meetings where I naively thought that community input was actually going to be considered. As early as the 2006 TRPA draft proposal, Alternative 2 was the preferred alternative. Please explain! 154-2
- Re-configuration does NOT mean expansion. Alternative 2 expands the footprint of the golf course. Logging done in the area also shows the UNDO BIAS and intention to push forth Alternative 2. 154-3
- Washoe Meadows State Park received its designation in 1984 in a matter of High Priority, because of its sensitivity and other special features. How can it possibly be the best practice to put 9 hole of a golf course into an area with Fens (natural springs), Native American artifacts, wildlife habitat, and so on. 154-4
- I am concerned by the lack of details of exactly how Alternative 2 will be paid for...with MY TAX dollars??? I do not see how the golf course will generate enough money to pay for the expenses of this alternative. 154-5
- I am highly concerned about the lack of regard for public opinion. I appreciate the meetings, but am not sure if they were more for "public relations" than for actual gathering of our opinions. 154-6
- I am disturbed by the slick door hanger pushing Alternative 2 and asking for public comments to support it. More evidence of UNDO BIAS.

I am very disturbed by the process with which Alternative 2 has been pushed forth as the preferred alternative. I formally voice my opposition. I would like to see more options discussed. I do not feel that all creative and sound alternatives have been put forth "on the table".

Sincerely,  
Hillary Dembroff

- I54-1            The commenter asks what new EIRs and studies of wildlife and recreational uses have been done since the Angora Fire. Impacts of the Angora Fire on common wildlife and recreational users are largely unknown and unstudied. Alterations to use patterns would be difficult to study without pre–Angora Fire population and use data, which is outside of the scope of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. In general for wildlife, the postfire ecosystem will follow an ecological succession that will lead to increases in species diversity and abundance (over preburn conditions) within the burn area. Wildlife displaced by the fire could be using portions of the study area in greater numbers than before the fire; however, because of the increase in forage and structural diversity that accompanies ecological succession within the burn area, wildlife will likely return to the burn area to take advantage of the increased habitat quality in that location. For recreationists, almost the same pattern could be expected: increased use would accompany increased habitat diversity where wildlife and scenic views improve.
- Speculative information on changes to use patterns based on the Angora Fire was not included in the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, and the baseline information provided remains accurate. Under CEQA, the baseline has been defined as existing conditions at the start of the environmental review process (i.e., around the date of issuance of the NOP) (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.2). Therefore, the baseline used for evaluating impacts of the project was the date the NOP was issued (approximately August 2006), with additional information obtained during the environmental review process to update the understanding of current conditions.
- The study area provides potential habitat for a variety of wildlife species, as described in Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources.”
- I54-2            The commenter believes that there was undue bias toward selecting Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. See response to comment AOB8-1 for discussions of the selection of a proposed Preferred Alternative and of the public participation process.
- I54-3            The commenter believes that ongoing logging activities also show undue bias toward selecting Alternative 2. See response to comment AOB4-5, which describes considerations for reconfiguring the golf course. As described in Section 3.14, “Human Health and Risk of Upset,” of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, tree removal is part of State Parks’ current fire and vegetation enhancement management practices and is addressed as part of the Riparian Hardwood Restoration Project. State Parks has been doing forestry management throughout the study area since 1995. As mandated by the fire prevention and suppression policy in the *Lake Valley State Recreation Area General Plan*, a wildfire management plan has been implemented for Lake Valley SRA and Washoe Meadows SP. The plan identifies modified fire suppression methods that preserve sensitive resources in each unit while protecting human lives and property specific to these areas. The *Lake Sector Wildfire Management Plan* provides resource information and fire suppression tactics for both Washoe Meadows SP and Lake Valley SRA.

- I54-4 The commenter has concerns about impacts on wildlife, fens, cultural resources, and consistency with the 1984 litigation settlement agreement and statute. See the following master responses and response to comment:
- ▶ Master Response Section 3.2, “Land Use,” for a discussion of the settlement agreement from the 1984 litigation;
  - ▶ Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for discussions on wildlife habitat and fen location;
  - ▶ Master Response Section 3.6, “Cultural Resources,” for a discussion of protection and access to cultural resources; and
  - ▶ response to comment AOB4-5 for a discussion of considerations for selecting the location of the reconfigured golf course.
- I54-5 The commenter requests information about funding. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics.”
- I54-6 The commenter’s concern of undue bias toward Alternative 2 is noted. See response to comment AOB8-1 for discussions of the selection of a proposed Preferred Alternative and of public involvement.

Hillary Dembroff  
PO Box 9484  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158  
(530)573-0500

November 3, 2010

California State Parks  
Cyndie Walck

Dear Ms. Walck,

Regarding the Upper Truckee River Restoration /Golf Course Reconfiguration Project, I will hereby describe my opposition to Alternative 2. Please stand in the middle of the meadow, which is the site of the proposed 9 holes of the expanded golf course. Slowly circle around, in order to take in the 360 degree view. Now, please close your eyes and stand in silence for 3 minutes. You may be astonished by the profundity of what you just experienced. The variation of wildlife sounds, the magnificence of this special spot.

Washoe Meadows was deemed a State Park in 1984, in a matter of "highest priority". The properties and reasons for that designation have not diminished. In fact, since the Angora Fire, it is even more precious to wildlife and human visitor alike.

There are alternatives for restoring the Upper Truckee River, without expanding the footprint of the golf course, and moving 9 holes into this unique and sensitive area.

I strongly and humbly ask that the State Parks and coordinating agencies take these factors into consideration and change the preferred Alternative. Perhaps a new alternative needs to be created.

Please think with your intelligent mind, as a steward of our precious environment, and with a respect for community input.

Sincerely,  
Hillary Dembroff

I55-1

I55-1

The commenter's opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. See the following master responses and responses to comments:

- ▶ Master Response Section 3.2, "Land Use," for a discussion of the settlement agreement from the 1984 litigation;
- ▶ Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of wildlife habitat;
- ▶ response to comment I54-1 for a discussion of the Angora Fire;
- ▶ response to comment AOB4-5 for a discussion of considerations in selecting the location of the reconfigured golf course; and
- ▶ Master Response Section 3.2, "Land Use," for a discussion of land trade.



**Upper Truckee Restoration comment**

Dave DeStefano [allrollsin21@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2010 3:27 PM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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To Whom this may concern,

I am a resident of the Meyers area of South Lake Tahoe, where my family and I reside off of North Upper Truckee rd. We live within walking distance to the Washoe Meadows State Park.

We believe that any proposal involving moving the golf course onto the western edge of the river will adversely effect those living in the surrounding neighborhoods, many of whom use this area of the park on a daily basis. Some activities that the DeStefano family participate in within the park are as follows;

- \* Hiking
- \* Mountain Biking
- \* Swimming
- \* Snowshoing
- \* Wildlife Viewing
- \* Meditating
- \* Photography

We participate in these activities on a daily basis and see many others using this park as much as us. Although golf may generate more money for the State Park system, it seems to be that the priority of this project is river restoration as well as maintaining the parks integrity for the many activities that this park is used for, other than just golf. Given the options listed, alternative three is judged by myself as being the least intrusive to the local neighborhood population, and best for the river as well. Thanks for your consideration on this important topic which will have far reaching effect on many generations to come.

Sincerely,

David DeStefano  
1892 Ulmea St.  
South lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
530-957-5176

156-1

I56-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 3 and preference for maintaining the existing boundaries for Washoe Meadows SP is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper truckee restoration**

Richard DeVries [rickdevries@att.net]

**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2010 10:04 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I57

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I probably prefer alternative 2. 18 holes should remain for public use and revenue for Ca. Parks system.

| 157-1

Please do not add my address to any mailing list. Thanks

I57-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its economic and recreation value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

I58

**In support of Alternative 5, or Alternative 3.**

J.Gladden and N.Dion [chezcrik@digitalpath.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2010 1:35 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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To whom it may concern:

This email is in support of Alternative 5 of the Upper Truckee River restoration project: Lake Tahoe needs the best conservation efforts available in order to keep its waters pristine. Alternative 3 is the next best alternative that I support since it goes a long way in addressing my concerns about reducing the amount of sediment and pollutants/nutrients entering the lake.

I58-1

Sincerely,

Neil G. Dion  
Clio, California

I58-1

The commenter's primary support for Alternative 5 followed by support for Alternative 3 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**LAKE TAHOE GOLF COURSE**

Brad Dorton [BradDorton@Century21.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, October 30, 2010 11:24 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Lake Tahoe since 1976, I am a strong advocate of keeping Tahoe clean and blue. As a swimmer and scuba diver, I have seen the deterioration first hand of the Lake with algae growth on the shoreline rocks, as well as, the silt on the bottom rocks down to 130 feet.

The reason I am writing is to ask to be put on the E-mail list for all future information regarding the changing of Lake Tahoe Golf Course. I have played LTGC for years. I understand that it may contribute to the deterioration of the Lake. However, I have also kayaked and canoed that section of the Upper Truckee River from the golf course and I know there are several miles from the golf course to the lake.

The reason I say this is because I find it hard to believe that by altering the golf course, it is going to change the silt which the golf course is allegedly putting into Tahoe. There must some better way of controlling that silt by straining the water flowing into Tahoe or having some sort of settling ponds.

159-1

I ask that more research is done to find an alternative method that is more effective and cost effective than altering Lake Tahoe Golf Course. Again, I cannot see how altering the golf course will affect any benefit to the lake.

Please put me on the E-mail list and add this letter to the pile of people who are advocating no change to Lake Tahoe Golf Course.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brad Dorton  
775-790-4325  
brad.dorton@century21.com

I59-1

The commenter's support for finding an alternative that would maintain the golf course and request to be put on the project's e-mail list is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. See response to comment AOB8-1 for a discussion of alternatives considered but eliminated from further evaluation.





**comments on golf course relocation**

John Drum [johndrum@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2010 3:26 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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The following are my comments regarding the state parks plan for Upper Truckee River restoration and Lake Tahoe Golf Course relocation. If the environmental analysis shows an overall net gain to water quality that overrides the potential negative short term disturbances incurred during the project then I am in favor of Alternative 2. During these difficult economic times and yet another ballot initiative seeking voter approval of increased taxes for our deteriorating state parks the revenues from the golf course are critically needed. Especially if they can help to offset the overall costs of the project. In addition, I would like to see this project contribute to overall restoration of the entire area with the continuation of fuel reduction efforts and trail enhancements throughout the northern portion of the project area. Both of which seem to fluctuate year by year with no overall cohesion. And finally, I would also like to see water quality monies used to expedite construction of the chronically delayed Sawmill bike path. Thanks for the opportunity to submit these comments.  
Sincerely,  
John Drum

I60-1

I60-1

The commenter supports Alternative 2 if there would be an overall net gain in water quality. The commenter requests continuation of fuels management and trail enhancement. The commenter requests that water quality funds are used to expedite construction of the Sawmill bike path which is outside of the scope of this project. As discussed in Chapter 2, "Project Alternatives," of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, fuels management and trail improvements occur throughout Washoe Meadows SP and Lake Valley SRA under current conditions (Alternative 1) and would continue under all alternatives. See response to comment I54-3 for additional information about fuels management practices. See Master Response Section 3.5, "Recreation," for a discussion of trail connectivity proposed under Alternative 2 and 3 to the Sawmill bike path.

KATHLEEN EAGAN

I61

October 29, 2010

Cyndie Walck, Project Manager  
Upper Truckee Project  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Email: [utproject@parks.ca.gov](mailto:utproject@parks.ca.gov)

Dear Cyndie,

I write to urge you to go forward with the restoration of the Upper Truckee River as proposed. Our Lake Tahoe communities depend on a healthy environment to support tourism...the engine of our economy. And it is a healthy environment that will assure that the appeal we enjoy today will continue into the future.

I fully understand that any change from the status quo will cause concern among various parties. I also fully understand that some degree of compromise from all interests is a part of how we come to workable solutions in our democratic society. As an elected official (Truckee's first mayor and current Board member of the Truckee Tahoe Airport District) and a past president of the Truckee River Watershed Council, I have faced these kinds of compromises on a day-to-day basis. The key is to listen to all concerns, separate fact from fiction and fashion a solution that works for as many interests as possible.

A properly functioning environment is one of those interests. To sustain a healthy community, we must protect those parts of the natural environment that function properly. And we must work to restore past damage that has resulted in compromised natural function. To fail to do both of these things threatens our environment, the clarity of Lake Tahoe and, as a result, the economic well-being of our community. Without a high quality environment, we risk becoming just "any other place".

I believe the proposed project appropriately balances all interests. Again, I urge you to support the proposed project.

Sincerely,

s/Kathleen Eagan

cc: Joanne Marchetta, Executive Director  
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

P.O. Box 8820 ~ Truckee, CA ~ 96162-8820  
Ph: (530) 587-2730 Fax: (530) 587-5003 E-mail: [kbeagan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kbeagan@sbcglobal.net)

I61-1

I61-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental and economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**upper truckee restore thought**

derek edridge [a1draft@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:28 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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Can't we have a fifth option or plan? Couldn't we do alternative number four and restore the original coarse of the river? Looking at the map and plans it looks very plausible and beneficial to all!

I62-1

Thanks for attention and time. :)

I62-1

The commenter suggests modifying Alternative 4. The suggestion is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. See response to comment AOB8-1 for a discussion of alternatives considered but eliminated from further evaluation.

**Washoe Meadows State Park; attention Cydie Walck**

Don & Kay Edwards [kedwards4565@charter.net]

**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2010 10:03 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I63

Dear Cyndie,

Lake Tahoe made the cover of the National Geographic about 3 or 4 years ago with a huge title that said, 'IT'S THE LAKE, STUPID!!' The article went on to say that Lake Tahoe is a National Treasure because of its clear blue water. All the fancy development, vacation rental houses, and thrill seeking and fun oriented events will only make the basin look more and more like every other overdeveloped place. If we don't stop the nonsense and put the purity of the water first and foremost, and offer reverent recreation and save the history of the area, then Lake Tahoe becomes nothing more than every other overbuilt vacation spot with a lake, some casinos and all the toys and the clear blue water vanishes in the midst of milfoil, clams, & other invasive species.

To do the right thing to keep Lake Tahoe Blue forever, we MUST do the right thing now. The Upper Truckee River is one of the most important filters we have bringing pure snow & spring run off to the meadows and the lake. It is a wildlife corridor. It was the Washoe Indian summer homeland. It has purity, history and a life of its own. Will the golf course disrupt this life? Nobody could deny that fact.

Golf is a fun game that requires a lot of attention to the ball, and balls go out of bounds always requiring trekking out to find them. It is not a compatible game in a mountain habitat, however.

That is why all people and agencies that love nature want to preserve it & become very cautious about the the human footprint causing permanent ruination.

Many people are asking why the State Parks & other agencies are not the protectors of the wilderness that they used to be. We know part of it is MONEY. You need the proceeds from the golf course to pay your overhead.

I hear you all stating that you will protect the SEZ from harm. But I have watched other SEZ projects that were supposed to improve things, that cost millions to complete, but have fatal flaws. The dream of what you want to do so often does not meet reality.

Consequently, those who watch SEZs from natures point of view,

I63-1

strongly oppose tramping through it or over it or under it.

We, the public, who pay the salaries of all your guardian agencies, hold you responsible to protect nature's interest - not abuse it. This SEZ is ALL OF OURS to protect from harm.

Alternative 3 is the only choice that speaks for nature's interest.

We look to you to make the right decision for our Earth Mother.

Thank you for sharing this with those who are decision makers.

Thank you, Cyndie.

Katherine, Donald, Stephen, Lisa, Kristen, Fred, LeeAnne, Tony, Brian, Ashna and Mayel Edwards

163-1  
cont.



I63-1

The commenters' support for Alternative 3 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

To: Ms. Cyndie Walck  
California State Parks and Recreation, Sierra District  
PO Box 16 Tahoe City, CA 96154

COMMENTS ON THE UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER RETORATION AND GOLF  
COURSE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. We recognize the great effort required to create a document of this size and complexity and appreciate the work you have done. However, we cannot help but think that the task would have been easier had the process leading up to it been conducted a bit differently. Therefore, I preface my comments on the document with the following:

The process of getting to the EIR/EIS/EIR has been a long and difficult one. Beginning with the NOP which was circulated narrowly to residents who live within 500 feet of Washoe Meadows State Park to Public Recreation Planning Workshops held in 2007 to the interval of time when interested parties began their attempts to obtain supporting material needed to make informed comments to the public meetings held in recent months and, finally, to the release of the current document, it has been difficult to have a thorough, open and honest discussion of the alternatives, the environmental pros and cons, the economics, land use with regard to the 1984 Litigation Settlement which established the park and its purpose, water quality, recreation and other aspects of the document that would lead anyone to the conclusion that any Alternative but Alternative 2 might be feasible. When the plan to restore the Upper Truckee River was first announced, there was great excitement and anticipation on the part of the Washoe Meadows Community, other environmental groups and park users who welcomed environmental restoration. People vitally interested in the process include biologists, botanists, planners, golfers, geologists, hydrologists, low-impact recreational park users and others from the community. We envisioned an open, collaborative, dynamic and creative process that would find the best outcome for the river, the park and wildlife while preserving the opportunity for golf. What we found though was a situation where public records requests were time-consuming and difficult, where we had little success in scheduling meetings to discuss ideas and concerns. Our extensive work to find alternative locations for golf holes on the east side of the river were brushed aside as infeasible. At the Recreation Planning Workshops, instead of brainstorming a broad variety of ideas for the park, we were broken into groups and directed to set aside any of our ideas that did not involve moving golf holes into the park. Some participants felt cheated by this approach as they had come there to provide their best thoughts on restoration. Some of them rebelled against the instructions to mark the maps of the park for golf holes and wrote as much on the planning map. It became clear that unless we wanted to enhance plans for Alternative 2 that our ideas were unwelcome. Park staff had decided that Alternative 2 was their preferred alternative. They later changed this to "no preferred alternative" but their public presentations and handouts clearly promoted

164-1

Alternative 2 with reasons given why other alternatives might be infeasible. Indeed, it has been inferred that unless Alternative 2 is chosen that there will be no river restoration.

So, what we had hoped would be a dynamic process that found the very best plan for the park (wildlife, recreation, water quality, fish, economics and the stated purpose at the creation of the park) has become a dreary standoff between proponents and opponents of Alternative 2. The planning process is supposed to include a realistic array of alternatives, a fair and balanced assessment of each alternative and open and honest discussions with stakeholders. Instead we have had a process where few people were notified of the plan, participants were pushed into planning for Alternative 2 regardless of their true preference, a document that now has five alternatives but, in the view of CSP, only one feasible one. The document before is us deeply flawed not only because of numerous inaccuracies, leaps in logic and assumptions but because it, like the public "planning" process has an ulterior motive of herding one and all to acceptance of Alternative 2. We believe that CSP has shown undue bias in favor of Alternative 2.

164-1  
cont.

Of the alternatives we have been given, either 3 or 5 should be chosen over 2.

164-2

\*While fish habitat would be improved by 2, 3 and 5, alternative 2 would line more of the river than ever with golf course and result in harm to newly hatched trout and mature populations from increased exposure to pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides. The experience of fishing would be degraded as anglers do not wish to fish within 100 feet of fairways, greens and tees. The fishing experience would be degraded to one little better than a trout farm. Either 3 or 5 would therefore be better for both fish and anglers.

164-3

\*Alternative 2 would destroy a forest which is home to a great diversity of wildlife, reduce home values for neighbors who sought to live in the woods and eliminate the noise reduction and planet cooling effects offered by forests. Alternatives 3 and 5 would eliminate this adverse effect.

164-4

\*Alternative 2 would threaten and surely damage the unique system of spring complexes, wetlands and fens that exist in the park. Indeed these are cited as one of the compelling reasons for park creation. There is a population of Eastern Brook Trout which live in the streams and deep holes of the bogs and wetlands. Scientists have yet to fully investigate the bog plant communities and trout population which is thought to be truly unique in the Sierra. Either alternative 3 or 5 would avoid this damage. Though the fens and wetlands would be separated from the actual golf course, anyone who plays golf knows that golfers walk far and wide to find a lost ball. This would surely increase damage to fragile areas.

164-5

\*Alternative 2 would threaten habitat for the Sand Lily which finds its only home at Tahoe in the WMSP wetlands. This is thought to be the highest elevation occurrence of the *Leucocrium montanum*.

164-6

\*Alternative 2 would reduce and in some cases, eliminate habitat for common and threatened species. Inadequate surveys for the northern goshawk are a serious flaw in the document. These woods are used by bears, bobcats, pine marten, cougar, long-eared

164-7

owls, golden eagles, pygmy owls, red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, sharp shinned hawks, red-shouldered hawks. The document has an adequate inventory of park species and alternative 2 treats them as insignificant. 3 and 5 do not threaten wildlife in this fashion.	I64-7 cont.
*Alternative 3 would allow for adequate income from golf. Surveys show that there is renewed interest in executive length and nine hole courses--particularly by women and younger golfers. A challenging and beautiful executive length or nine hole course (which were inadequately explored in the document) would generate adequate income especially if paired with a robust wedding business, river rafting opportunities and so forth. Weddings at Edgewood contribute greatly to their bottom line and the river and Tallac view at the golf course are in many ways competitive with what Edgewood offers.	I64-8
*Alternative 2 would put more golf course parallel to the river than now exists. The 100 foot buffer zone is inadequate to protect fisheries, the river, wildlife and recreational users from poisons used on the course and indeed, the dangers from golf balls.	I64-9
*Alternative 2 would severely restrict river access to park users who have been able, historically, to freely access the river for swimming, picnicking, wildlife observation and relaxation. The many children who frequent these areas in the summer would be subjected to both the pollution and dangers of being adjacent to a golf course.	I64-10
*Alternative 2 violates the 1984 Litigation settlement agreement.	I64-11
*Alternative 2 fractures functioning wildlife corridors--a concept that is dismissed in the document.	I64-12
*In the winter of 2010, a Sierra Nevada Red Fox walked from the park into my back yard. I did not photograph it but F&G set up cameras in an attempt to verify the sighting. While this yielded no SN Red Fox photos, it did capture a pine marten and a porcupine. Not long after the incident at my house, F&G cameras did photograph the SN Red Fox near Sonora Pass. This shows that there is a population of this rare animal in this part of CA and lends credence to my sighting. I believe this should at least be considered during this planning process.	I64-13
When the park property was saved from development in the 1980s, many statements were made about the fragile, irreplaceable, unique and varied habitat therein. The dedication sign at the old barn states that the park is dedicated to wildlife habitat and a kiosk held educational materials showing habitats and the wildlife that occupied it. Now the property is described in park presentations as degraded, in need of restoration and of no use to wildlife or people. Interested parties are led to believe that a golf course would be a vast improvement but nothing could be further from the truth. Part of the old quarry was restored with taxpayer money a few years ago and looks good. The other part of the quarry has restored itself and looks good too. The piles of sand and wood chips highlighted on park tours were placed there by park staff? What needs restoration can be restored without the assistance of a golf course. A couple of small restoration projects	I64-14

would repair the "blighted" areas and avoid the monoculture destruction nine holes of golf would bring to an otherwise beautiful area. Indeed, when we have taken people (including officials) on tours of the proposed golf course they have, without exception, exclaimed that the area is beautiful and very different from what was presented in selective slides at public meetings.

164-14  
cont.

Public trust is an issue here. Taxpayers were told in the 1980s that this land was fragile and exceptional and that it must be protected. Now they are being told that it is so degraded that a golf course would be an improvement. I doubt the public would have rallied behind the concept of buying the land only to convert it to a golf course. CSP should value and seek to retain the public trust by truly finding the most environmentally responsible way to use land rather than reversing their stance to favor a golf course.

164-15

River restoration should be separated from golf course reconfiguration. River restoration can be accomplished without moving nine holes of golf into a state park. LVSRA has a general plan that calls for reducing the golf course and restoring the river. This should be done and is a legal course of action CSP should pursue. It is illegal to commit park resources permanently to a course of action in the absence of a general plan. Alternative 2 would do this in violation of the law. Alternative 3 would avoid this difficulty.

164-16

An important issue that has seen little or no discussion is project access from Chilcothe Street. It is stated in the document that construction activities would take place over an undeveloped sewer maintenance easement. In order to support this type of use, the road would have to be upgraded by placing fill and perhaps harder surface coverage in the wetland and SEZ. This presents a legal problem because this portion of the easement is on National Forest lands and was purchased with Burton-Santini funds. This Act prohibits road construction. Further, the proposed restroom is adjacent to this undeveloped road easement and it would be reasonable to conclude that maintenance access to the restroom would occur here which would, in turn, necessitate a new road from the facility to the park boundary, across FS lands and into the neighborhood. A commercial haul permit would be needed for these activities. The document also fails to address the impact this would have on the neighbors who reside on Chilcothe and nearby streets.

164-17

The maps prepared for the EIR present an unclear representation of hard surface coverage. The map shows the above referenced access road as a walking path when it may very well be a hardened road used for construction and maintenance. As a matter of scale, the map seems to show pedestrian paths as being several times wider than the paved cart paths. This is unlikely and confusing and may lead to a misinterpretation of how much hard coverage will be placed in a wetland area. From park presentations, we understood that the bridge would be large enough to accommodate everything from trucks to golf carts to pedestrians but on the map the bridge looks like a cart/pedestrian path only. This should be clarified.

164-18

More confusion is created on the maps by the misrepresentation of dry/wet meadows. On recent park walks when we attempted to take interested parties through the proposed golf

164-19

course area opposite the old barn, it was too wet to walk through the area. This error could have dire financial/maintenance/environmental consequences. Not only is this type of meadow unsuitable/illegal for golf course development but having holes in such a location would dramatically reduce the number of months the holes could be played thus reducing revenue.

164-19  
cont.

When we walked the proposed new golf holes with people familiar with golf course construction, costs and maintenance we learned that the steep, hilly areas proposed significantly increase both construction and maintenance costs of a course. The document fails to address this reality.

164-20

The EIR fails to give adequate analysis to the unique hydrology of the spring complexes, fens and wetlands. These areas have not been studied in depth either prior to this proposal nor after the proposal became public knowledge. The downhill slope of the project would convey pollutants from the golf course to the river and aquifers. Because fens receive their water from below rather than from above, the grading and draining from golf course construction and placement would almost certainly change the hydrology of the fens. This could, in turn affect the unique plant communities and threaten the population of Eastern Brook Trout found in these streams and water holes. The document fails to address these issues in any meaningful fashion.

164-21

The EIR does not factor in habitat loss from the Angora fire. Hundreds of acres of forest and other habitat were lost in the fire making WMSP more important than before. To swap a functioning mixed conifer habitat for degraded golf course land near Hwy 50 and Sawmill Road is illegal and indefensible.

164-22

While this project should be all about the environment, lake clarity, habitat for both common and threatened plant, animal and fish species, it has turned out to be (at least at the public hearings) much about money. At all the meetings we have attended, one speaker after the other has talked about the \$800,000 or more that the golf course sends to the State each year and praise is given for the modest fees charged to play the course. However, this discourse is disingenuous and the economic analysis is flawed and misleading.

164-23

\*While citizens have been told that taxpayers would not pay for the new nine holes in WMSP, this is not exactly the truth. The concessionaire would initially provide funding to construct the new holes but they would then raise golf fees along with reducing revenue contributions to the State. This change in the economics would go on for at least ten years or until the public "debt" to the concessionaire was repaid. The analysis does not discuss this loss of income.

164-24

\*Projections for the overall decline of golf, the greater cost for building a course on hilly, steep land, greater maintenance costs, a declining economy are not factored into the financial analysis. We are not told how much revenue would be reduced for those ten or more years nor how much golf fees would be increased. Once (if) costs are recovered, it

164-25

is unknown if golf revenue would ever again attain its high point of \$800,000+ to the State.	164-25 cont.
*Shutting down golf operations for a year or two is treated casually in the document yet, this would reduce money flowing into our economy and would throw current golf course employees into unemployment. This would then cause a demand for unemployment compensation and other social services. If the costs mentioned here were to be projected into overall profits and losses for the LVSRA, it might be found that a nine hole or executive eighteen would come out competitively money-wise.	164-26
*Income for Alternative 3 rather than 2 has not been studied adequately. An increase in play by women and children could occur under Alternative 3 and other sources of income such as weddings could supplement any loss of income. A robust wedding and/ or river rafting business could fan throughout the Meyers economy providing income for lodging, restaurants, caterers, wedding planners, river guides and so forth. Economic benefits of Alternative 3 must be realistically studied.	164-27
*The document does not project the financial effects of the decline of golf in general and does not account for the fact that our largest population growth is in the Hispanic and African American demographics which participate less in golf than the white population.	164-28
*Three times as many golf courses closed last year than opened. With payments for this strung out over ten or more years, we could have worst case scenarios of a half-finished project akin to the hold at Stateline or a completed course that could become an economic burden for the State and taxpayers.	164-29
Lake Tahoe Golf course is not the fifth highest revenue producer in the State Parks system. It is number 46 in field revenue, contributing 1/2 of one percent of field revenues. A poor rationale for destroying a park for golf.	164-30
*The numbers promoted in brochures are unsubstantiated. Projections of tourists who come here for the sole purpose of playing golf on this course were obtained by unreliable methods and are very probably incorrect. The \$6 million supposedly flowing into the local economy from the course is also conjecture. Many people counted as tourists are, in fact, second homeowners and time share residents who play golf here as part of their many recreational endeavors.	164-31
*As we are all painfully aware, chemical and diesel spills do happen as they have at this golf course. These tragic accidents are difficult and expensive to treat. Alternative 2 would increase the potential for such an accident as it places much more golf course parallel to the UTR.	164-32
Washoe Meadows State Park was named in honor of the Washoe Tribe that once lived on the land there. At TRPA hearings on this matter, the representative of the Washoe spoke about the area proposed for the golf course. She explained that the area is rich in artifacts and history and that the golf course would forever prevent her generation and future	164-33

generations from visiting the springs, fens and grinding rocks. It is unconscionable that this result, in this day and age, could be allowed. As the tribal spokesperson said, " This cannot be mitigated."

| 164-33  
cont.

The various components of the document, coupled with park presentations, work to dismiss the feasibility of alternatives other than Alternative 2. If the golf course were removed entirely under Alternative 5, there would be a decline in revenue but the extent of that is unknown. People would golf elsewhere in our area but they would still come to Tahoe. Revenue to the CSP might decline but weddings, river rafting, a groomed cross country ski course and other lower impact activities would generate income for parks. It might slip to lower than #46 in field revenue but would generate income. Alternative 3 represents a compromise. It should be constructively considered.

| 164-34

It is not too late to shift gears and look at Alternative 3 as a solution with great promise, one that could honor the mission of CSP, the will of the people and the terms of the 1984 Litigation Settlement Agreement. Let's all go back to the drawing board with renewed vigor and a cooperative spirit and develop an alternative that is in keeping with the above. This can be done in a timely fashion, the river can be restored and the park can be preserved.

| 164-35

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments.

David and Carla Ennis  
PO Box 10985  
South Lake Tahoe, CA  
96158





## Golf Course

Judith Hanson [judithmh@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2010 10:35 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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The golf course should remain. Either reconfigure to retain the 18 holes or shore up the river to protect the environment. Do not remove the golf course entirely. This is a revenue source and a part of the community.

| 180-1

Regards,

Judith Hanson ,MBA  
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I80-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 or Alternative 4 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

- I64-1 The commenters question the adequacy of the public involvement process, selection of a preferred alternative, and consistency with the settlement agreement from the 1984 litigation. See the following responses to comments and master response:
- ▶ response to comment AOB31-13 for a discussion of the public involvement process;
  - ▶ response to comment AOB8-1 for a discussion of the selection of a proposed Preferred Alternative; and
  - ▶ Master Response Section 3.2, “Land Use,” for a discussion of consistency with the settlement agreement from the 1984 litigation.
- I64-2 The commenters’ support for Alternative 3 or Alternative 5 over Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I64-3 The commenters’ support for Alternative 3 or Alternative 5 over Alternative 2 as related to fishing is noted. See response to comment AOB8-7 for a discussion of the golf course/river buffer; see response to comment I20-2 for a discussion of trout.
- I64-4 The commenters have concerns about tree removal and wildlife habitat under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources.”
- I64-5 The commenters have concerns about impacts on the fens, wetlands, and brook trout under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for a discussion of sensitive resources, including impacts on fens and wetlands. The commenters are concerned that eastern brook trout found in or near the fen would be affected by implementation of Alternative 2. As described in Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” the fen and surrounding area would not be affected by implementation of Alternative 2 because the fen is located outside and upslope of any proposed habitat alterations, as is the “underground stream” with the brook trout. In addition, brook trout (sometimes referred to as eastern brook trout), *Salvelinus fontinalis*, is an introduced nonnative species that is not specifically protected under CEQA or NEPA, or by TRPA. Impacts on common wildlife species and fisheries are found in Section 3.5, “Biological Resources,” of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I64-6 The commenters have concerns about impacts on sand lilies under Alternative 2. See response to comment I7-4.
- I64-7 The commenters have concerns about impacts on wildlife habitat and effects on common species under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources.”
- I64-8 The commenters state that income under Alternative 3 would be sufficient. The comment is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

- I64-9 The commenters state the opinion that the 100-foot buffer proposed under Alternative 2 for the golf course reconfiguration area is insufficient. See response to comment AOB8-7 and Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources”
- I64-10 The commenters have concerns about river access under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.5, “Recreation,” for a discussion of recreation access.
- I64-11 The commenters question the consistency with the settlement agreement from the 1984 litigation. See Master Response Section 3.2, “Land Use,” for a discussion of consistency with the 1984 litigation settlement agreement and statute.
- I64-12 The commenters have concerns about the adequacy of the impact analysis on wildlife corridors. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources.”
- I64-13 The commenters have concerns about the adequacy of the impact analysis on wildlife. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources.”
- I64-14 The commenters believe that the area described for golf course reconfiguration is inaccurately described and refers to the barn area and the quarry area. For clarification, Alternative 2 does not propose project modifications in the barn area. For a discussion of the quarry area, see response to comment AOB8-6.
- I64-15 The commenters have concerns about the public trust. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I64-16 The commenters have concerns about moving forward with Alternative 2 without a general plan and consistency with Lake Valley SRA General Plan. Golf course reconfiguration cannot be separated from river restoration, as a separate project because the need to remove or relocate golf course holes is only due to the need to allow room for river restoration. Segmentation of the project is not allowable (PRC section 15378 – “whole of the action”). See Master Response Section 3.2, “Land Use,” for a discussion of general plan requirements.
- I64-17 The commenters have concerns about project access from Chilicothe Street through National Forest System lands purchased with Santini-Burton Sensitive Land Acquisition Act funds. See response to comment I7-2.
- I64-18 The commenters have concerns about permanent needs for access from Chilicothe Street for golf course maintenance. See response to comment I7-3. For clarification, the bridge would be wide enough for a two-lane cart path. Commenter has concerns with the maps in the EIR. The map line widths are not necessarily to scale, but are used for demonstration and approximation. However, all coverage calculations were made using actual existing or proposed areas to assess impacts. The bridge will accommodate golf carts, pedestrians, and service/ maintenance vehicles.
- I64-19 The commenters believe that areas identified as dry meadow are really wet meadow. The area near the old barn is outside the project area. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for additional details about vegetation. Also see Chapter 5, “Corrections and Revisions to the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS,” for text changes related to vegetation.
- I64-20 The commenters believe that the draft EIR/EIS/EIS fails to address construction and operating costs. As discussed in Appendix E, “Lake Tahoe Golf Course Economic

Feasibility Analysis,” to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, operating expenses decrease slightly under Scenario 1B (Alternative 2) compared to existing expenses primarily because of the decreased acreage of maintained landscape and power costs for irrigation. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics,” for a discussion of CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA requirements for analysis and a discussion of project funding.

- I64-21 The commenters have concerns about impacts on fens and brook trout. The fen and the “underground stream” with brook trout are outside the project area. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” and response to comment I64-5 above.
- I64-22 The commenters believe that the EIR/EIS/EIS should evaluate habitat loss related to the Angora Fire. See response to comment I54-1 for a discussion of the Angora Fire. In addition, the commenters question the legality of land trade. See Master Response Section 3.2, “Land Use,” for a discussion of land trade.
- I64-23 The commenters question the adequacy of the economic analysis. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics.”
- I64-24 The commenters question project funding. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics.”
- I64-25 The commenters state that projections for the overall decline of golf; the greater cost for building a course on hilly, steep land; greater maintenance costs; and a declining economy are not factored into the financial analysis. See responses to comments I64-20, I64-23, and I64-24.
- I64-26 The commenters state that shutting down golf operations for 1 or 2 years would reduce money flowing into the economy and cause current golf course employees to be unemployed. The commenters believe that if the costs were projected into overall profits and losses for Lake Valley SRA, a 9-hole or executive 18-hole golf course would be competitive from a financial standpoint. As described in Chapter 2, “Project Alternatives,” in the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, and Chapter 2, “Project Description,” of this final EIR/EIS/EIS, the construction period for Alternative 2 would be extended by 1 year in an attempt to keep at least 9 golf course holes at the Lake Tahoe Golf Course open during all construction years. If this is not possible, the golf course would be closed for 1 year and would be reduced to a 9-hole golf course for 2 years. Under Alternative 3, the golf course would be completely closed for 1 year and would be reduced to 9 holes for 1 year. Therefore, short-term economic impacts of both alternatives would be the similar. A short-term loss in golf course-related jobs would occur under either of these alternatives; however, construction-related jobs would increase during this period, resulting in a beneficial effect on the economy. Therefore, construction of a 9-hole or 18-hole executive golf course would have similar short-term economic effects as a reconfigured 18-hole course, but would have greater long-term economic effects.
- I64-27 The commenters question the adequacy of the economic analysis. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics.”
- I64-28 The commenters question whether the economic analysis takes into account the decline in golfing and demographic changes of the area when considering revenue. The demographics of South Lake Tahoe are discussed in Section 3.15, “Population and Housing, Socioeconomics, and Environmental Justice,” of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. Appendix E, “Lake Tahoe Golf Course Economic Feasibility Analysis,” to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS acknowledges that the Lake Tahoe Golf Course has experienced declining

gross revenues since 1997. Although the decline is not directly attributed to demographic changes, Appendix E states that the population and growth potential (demographic trends) of market areas are major factors considered in feasibility studies for golf courses. Therefore, general demographic trends were considered in the economic analysis. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics,” for a discussion of the assumptions used in the economic analysis for the project.

- I64-29 The commenters note that golf course closures have increased in the last year. The commenters express concern that the cost of the project could become a burden to the State and taxpayers. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics.”
- I64-30 The commenters correctly state that the Lake Tahoe Golf Course is not the fifth highest revenue producer for State Parks. As noted in Appendix E, “Lake Tahoe Golf Course Economic Feasibility Analysis,” to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, the revenue from operations of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course is the fifth largest source of *concession* revenue in the State Parks system.
- I64-31 The commenters state that the numbers in brochures are unsubstantiated. Brochures prepared for the project are unrelated to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS and therefore are out of the scope for the response to comments; however the numbers used in the brochure were derived from the economic report, appenXXXX. The commenters also question the revenue estimated to be contributed to the local economy. See Master Response Section 3.7, “Economics,” for a discussion of the adequacy of the economic analysis.
- I64-32 The commenters have concerns about the cost of chemical and diesel spills. As discussed in Impact 3.14-1, “Use of Hazardous Materials,” in Section 3.14, “Human Health and Risk of Upset,” of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS, “hazardous materials at the site would [continue to] be in compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations, including existing orders.” If necessary, State Parks and its concessionaire would work with the Lahontan RWQCB to update the golf course’s chemical application and management plan as needed to update permit requirements for golf course operations. For clarification, the diesel spill was related to snowmobile use at the driving range, which would not change from existing conditions. Furthermore, under the recommended Preferred Alternative there would be less golf course directly adjacent to the Upper Truckee River, not more (see response to comment AOB8-7)
- I64-33 The commenters have concerns about impacts on cultural resources. See Master Response Section 3.6, “Cultural Resources.”
- I64-34 The commenters state an opinion about the feasibility of other alternatives besides Alternative 2. See response to comment AOB8-1 for a discussion of the alternatives evaluation.
- I64-35 The commenters’ support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration EIS Co**

165

CarlFair@aol.com [CarlFair@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:06 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

**Cc:** seana@streamlineimpact.com; kkuntz@tahoevalleytribune.com; strain@ftec.edu; bgorman@tahoechambers.org

I have reviewed the draft of the Environmental Impact Study as well other information put out by the project staff over the past few years on the proposed California State Parks project on the Upper Truckee River, near Lake Tahoe Golf Course. I am writing to urge you listen to the quiet majority, of which I am one. Many of us support the project alternative that is going to be best for the river, the lake and preserving local jobs, which I believe is #2. You may not hear from many of the supporters but I imagine you will hear from many of those against it.

Not only am I a Tahoe Paradise resident and business owner, I am also an avid golfer. I think that Alternative 2 is the best way to improve Lake Tahoe Golf Course---and I mean improve, not expand it. I realize that lots of time and resources went into hearing what the community had to say and into the hiring of experts to provide the best alternatives for the project. I really like what we have come up with today for Alternative 2: moving 9 holes across the river. It is a great solution. Although we lose 9 flat river holes, we will have the opportunity to enjoy 9 new interesting links style holes with elevation in the pines. We get to keep 18 holes of golf, the river gets the opportunity to return to its natural state and this means trout and wildlife will have a healthier place to live. What is not to like about that?

In closing, we must take into consideration that we are in economically challenging times and I don't think we can make a decision on this project without acknowledging such an important fact. Lake Tahoe Golf Course provides over 200 jobs directly and indirectly through other related services. We need to make sure that our decision does not jeopardize these local employment opportunities. As I drive past Lake Tahoe Golf Course several times a day, I am always excited to see a packed parking lot with happy golfers knowing they might stop to eat in Meyers or continue onto the restaurants at the "Y" or beyond.

Clearly Alternative 2 is a way for us to fix the erosion going into the river and the lake, improve the golf course and keep jobs, a pretty logical decision to me.

Carl Fair  
Meyers Station  
3141 Highway 50 Ste D  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
530-573-4621  
carlfair@aol.com

I65-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental and economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



November 15, 2010

Cyndie Walck  
 CA State Parks and Recreation, Sierra District  
 PO Box 16  
 Tahoe City, CA 96145

Dear Cyndie Walck,

I'm writing to oppose the project of a golf course development in the Washoe Meadows State Park. In particular, **I strongly oppose Alternative 2 and urge the State Parks System, TRPA, and the Bureau of Reclamation to choose Alternative 3, which would allow Washoe Meadows State Park to remain an intact viable ecosystem, wildlife habitat, and recreational resource for the community and visitors to Lake Tahoe.** Of course, I would also urge the State Parks System, TRPA, and the Bureau of Reclamation to choose Alternative 5, which would decommission the Golf Course altogether.

I66-1

The reasons for opposing Alternative 2 are based on solid arguments. One such argument appeals to the water use. The golf course requires water sources for irrigation and facilities. The golf course is already using water diverted from the Upper Truckee River. A new well has already been drilled and could harm the river and meadow ecosystems in the Park including fish habitat and its unusual fens. Alternative 3 will restore the Upper Truckee River without impacting large areas of current park land, whereas Alternative 2 will have a large impact on a significant amount of raw land and will increase the golf course footprint. Increasing the size of the golf course from 133 acres to 156 acres will increase the water usage, which is really concerning in drought times.

I66-2

Similarly, Alternative 3 will help the Upper Truckee River. This river supplies approximately 40% of the water flowing into Lake Tahoe. Alternative 2 will facilitate the restoration to reduce erosion, fine sediment and nutrients into the Upper Truckee River and Lake Tahoe. Alternative 2, in contrast, will have a detrimental environmental impact by turning raw undeveloped forested land into a developed golf course and by increasing the size of the golf course from 133 acres to 156 acres. These impacts include effects on water quality, soils, vegetation, recreation, wildlife and cultural resources.

I66-3

I've been enjoying the Tahoe area for many years now and my children (10 and 8 years old, respectively) are growing up enjoying the area and learning about the need to protect nature. When I mentioned the golf course project to them they thought it was not possible. There was no way that the California Department of State Parks and Recreation could move some of the holes of the golf course to the Washoe Meadows State Park. They thought the job of the California Department of State Parks was to protect nature.

Thank you very much for considering my letter and the future of the Washoe Meadows State Park and Lake Tahoe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emilio Ferrer".

Emilio Ferrer, Ph.D.  
835 N. Campus Way  
Davis, CA 95616

- I66-1                    The commenter’s support for Alternative 5 and opposition to Alternative 2 is noted.
- I66-2                    The commenter has concerns about the golf course’s water use under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.4, “Hydrology, Flooding, Geomorphology, and Water Quality.”
- I66-3                    The commenter has concerns about relocating the golf course into undeveloped land. See response to comment AOB4-5 for a discussion of the considerations in selecting the location of the reconfigured golf course. See response to comment AOB8-6 for a discussion of the quarries.

## Lake Tahoe Golf Course

Chick Fraunfelter [tahoerealtorchick@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2010 6:20 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I67

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### Genesis of the Lake...

Years ago our Legislators created the TRPA...and this was Good. The TRPA created the "Code" that was written to contain a hidden message: "You don't need a Costco, Walmart, Home Depot, Target, Best Buy, or any large Retail store in the Basin"...and the People listened and decided to drive their cars and trucks over the mountains and spend their money out of the communities. Jobs were lost, People sold their homes, and so much tax revenue left the communities that infrastructure declined and local governments were on the verge of insolvency.

The TRPA then created the BMP program to save the clarity of the lake... and this was Good. The People were given a timeline in which to comply with paved driveways and water runoff or face the wrath. Some did, many didn't. There was no wrath, just lack of enforcement. Thousands of vehicles continued to spread dirt and dust on the highways and byways as the People drove back and forth from the Basin to the "Shopping Zone" in NV. An article on the Clarity of the Lake proclaimed this road dust as a probable "major" culprit of the declining lake clarity. And the TRPA did nothing...and this was disappointing.

The CA Parks Department stepped forward to save the clarity of the lake with a proposal to tear up the local golf course and spend millions of dollars on a project that is hypothetical to say the least in its anticipated results. Why not just tell the People "You don't need a golf course." People can drive out of the Basin to play golf, then jobs will leave the area, and the revenue will follow the People.

Who is playing God in all of this? Is there anyone making decisions based on economics and some common sense? How have we allowed a handful of non-elected agencies and their small-numbered staff treat the People of the Basin like children? A time is coming when the Majority of the People will rise up and be heard...and it will be Good.

Chick Fraunfelter (530) 363-0065

One of the People

I67-1

I67-1

The commenter discusses information unrelated to the project or the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. The commenter requests consideration of economics in decision making. See Master Response Section 3.7, "Economics," for a discussion of the considerations of the project related to economics. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

John Garofalos [summerjohn@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 1:23 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

Yes I'd like to comment on the proposed State Park Plan. I feel as if of all 5 plans only one option helps the most people with their recreational wishes. That option is # 2. Now personally option 2 works well for me due to the fact it includes a bridge over the river that does not confine the river. It also address the legal issues around the public access to the trails and bridge. For the rest of the community and visiting public option 2 allows for the continuation of the long established and profitable golf course. It keeps the jobs of those who work there and it brings in business to the area. The bridge allows for year round reaction which is not currently available due to the gates the golf company places on the bridges it has now every winter.

I'm an avid mountain bike rider and with the bridge I can access trails that pass through the park to even more trails. If you were to decide on a plan that does not include a bridge I would be quit disappointed. No one on one side of the river would ever be able to get to the other without going through the river or to a distant bridge to get over it. All the bridges in the area are car bridges.

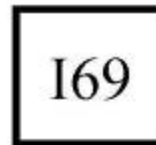
So for the vast majority of locals and visitors alike I implore you to vote for option 2!

John Garofalos  
1129 Apache Ave.  
South Lake Tahoe  
Ca 96150

I68-1

I68-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its recreation value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**Comment**

Marcia Gaudet [m\_gaudet@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 02, 2010 10:27 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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Regarding the river restoration presentation, I support alt. # 2 . The restoration project was well presented and fact based and the reconfigured 18 hole golf course is a fair and reasonable solution. I realize this will be expensive. When this project is completed will locals of modest means like me still be able to play this golf course or will it be for wealthy visitors only?

169-1

Sincerely,

Jerry and Marcia Gaudet  
1928 Bakersfield St.  
So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

530-577-1857



I69-1

The commenters' support for Alternative 2 and its economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

## Washoe Meadows golf course development

Glass, Jeff [glass@visa.com]

**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2010 3:09 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I70

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As a resident who lives nearby Washoe meadows, I beg you not to extend the golf course into the meadow. Destroying this habitat for the sake of golf is unacceptable. Although I have enjoyed walking in the meadows for many years, since the fire it's the only nearby option. Not only that it's an important wildlife corridor and water shed.

I70-1

Please do not destroy this park for the sake of money.

I70-1

The commenter has concerns about impacts of reconfiguring the golf course on wildlife habitat. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources,” for a discussion of wildlife habitat and corridors.

I71

In a message dated 9/11/2010 2:58:56 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, zankiegooding@aol.com writes:

Hi Ron, Thanks for all of your E-Mails to keep us all aware of whats happening with the tournaments and most importantly with the possible future of the Golf Course itself. I have been unsuccessful with using the computer to give my thoughts on the matter to the powers of the future of the Golf Course. So I will share them with You. I do not believe the Golf Course in relationship to the River has any impact to the ultimate Clarity and pollution via sediment. Whether They take the course out all together it won't make any difference to the future of Lake Tahoe. It will be a Tremendous Loss of a Beautiful Golf Course and to All those that would have enjoyed it's presence and experience. NO PROJECT AND DO NOTHING would be a fantastic choice. But of course this isn't the way of Modern Man these days. Alas I will be saddened by the loss or reconfiguration of My Beloved Lake Tahoe Golf Course  
Sincerely, Your Fellow Golfer, John Gooding

71-1

Letter  
I71  
Response

John Gooding  
September 11, 2010

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I71-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 1 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course  
Reconfiguration Project**

zankiegooding@aol.com [zankiegooding@aol.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2010 2:59 PM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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California State Parks, My name is John Gooding, I have been a resident of Lake Tahoe for 36 Years and have played golf at Lake Tahoe Golf Course for the first time in 1971 and hundreds of times since then. It is a wonderful venue. My comment on this project is #1, NO PROJECT/DO NOTHING. Everyone is happy and enjoying the area as it is, except Hydrologist Cyndie Walck and others who would have us believe that previous man made disturbances are the cause of sediment erosion and the loss of 30% clarity to Lake Tahoe. RIVERS are Dynamic and it is their Nature to erode and transport materials downstream with them. If Alternatives #2, #3 or #5 are chosen that would initiate more Man Made Disturbances to the River Channel and Floodplain Causing More Erosion in the Hope of Restoring the area to a Natural Condition. Can Man really control Mother Nature in an attempt to keep Things the Way they Are or the Way they Were? The River will naturally cause erosion for as long as it flows. Choose Alternative #1 and allow Mother Nature to take her own course. The Economic and Recreational Activities will not be Negatively Impacted. The other Alternatives are Speculative and no Guarantee to Restoring a Time and Place so many Years Ago. Sincerely, John Gooding, p.o. box 1461, Zephyr Cove, Nevada 89448 ph.# 775-450-6242 E-mail, zankiegooding@aol.com

172-1

I72-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 1 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Fwd: Get Involved--Submit a comment on draft EIS document for Upper Truckee River Restoration + Golf Course Reconfiguration Project**

zankiegooding@aol.com [zankiegooding@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, November 05, 2010 1:42 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

-----Original Message-----

From: zankiegooding <zankiegooding@aol.com>

To: seana <seana@streamlineimpact.com>

Sent: Fri, Nov 5, 2010 1:34 pm

Subject: Re: Get Involved--Submit a comment on draft EIS document for Upper Truckee River Restoration + Golf Course Reconfiguration Project

Dear Seana, Here are my comments. Alternative 1 NO PROJECT/NO ACTION, This is the best choice at this time. Win-Win for everyone. The Parks Department continues to receive Revenue. The Golf Course continues to operate and thousands of golfers continue to enjoy playing one of the most Beautiful Courses in the country at reasonable rates. Other River and surrounding Park Visitors enjoy the area as it is, Beautiful Mother Nature and the River

will survive and thrive fine without Mans Interference. Alternative 2 RIVER RESTORATION & RECONFIGURATION OF GOLF COURSE. This choice appears to (FIX) everything. But in reality it is a GAMBLE. You will close the Golf Course for an indeterminable time to construct 9 new holes at somebodys great expense while losing Revenue. After it reopens you expect it to regain its revenue, when we have already seen what this has done to a local golf course (formally known as Sierra Nevada Golf Course, now Geroa Lakes Resort Course) It has lost almost all play and is in trouble financially due to Golfers not liking the New Course with changes. And you want to manually change the course of the River which means further disturbance of materials and potential massive new Erosion in hopes that the River will Overflow? and redeposit silt before entering the Lake. Perhaps The River is not Environment Enemy No. 1 and the development of the Tahoe Keys is the biggest problem for the Clarity of Lake Tahoe. All visitors to this area of the River are already Happy with the way things are, no need for further development of Bridges and/or Trails. Alternative 3 Worse alternative choice of all. You will lose anybody to operate a 9-hole course and will lose all Revenue generated by Golf. Alternative 4 If you feel compelled and Forced to have to do SOMETHING. This choice will satisfy all concerned with minimal costs and increased presevation of the Environment. Alternative 5 This choice is great if you are willing to give up all Golf generated revenue directly to the Parks Department and negatively impact the economy of South Lake Tahoe via Job losses and potential Millions Of Dollars tpr Local Businesses. Sincerely, John Gooding, p.o box 1461 zephyr cove nevada 89448. E-mail- zankiegooding@aol.com Ph.#775-782-0068 Cell#775-450-6242

173-1

-----Original Message-----

From: Seana Doherty <seana@streamlineimpact.com>

To: Seana Doherty <seana@streamlineimpact.com>

Sent: Wed, Oct 6, 2010 2:03 pm

Subject: Get Involved--Submit a comment on draft EIS document for Upper Truckee River Restoration + Golf Course Reconfiguration Project

Thank you to those who have already submitted comments! For those who have not yet, please do so by following the simple steps below (and thanks for forward this along to others):



**Be Part of the Process**

**Submit an EIS comment Today on the Upper Truckee River Restoration + Golf Course Reconfiguration Project**

**Easy Ways to Submit a Comment**

**By Email (preferred):** [utproject@parks.ca.gov](mailto:utproject@parks.ca.gov)

(include your contact info in body of email and include in subject line: Comment on Draft EIS for Upper Truckee River Project)

**By Mail:**

Cyndie Walck  
CA State Parks and Rec, Sierra District  
PO Box 16,  
Tahoe City, CA 96145

**Deadline: November 8**

To review a copy of the draft EIS document including the Executive Summary, visit the project website: [www.restoreuppertruckee.net](http://www.restoreuppertruckee.net)

**Suggestions for Writing EIS Comments:**

- 1) **Keep it short (1 page)**
- 2) **Make it personal—explain what you specifically like or do not like per the outlined Project Alternatives listed in the draft EIS document Executive Summary**
- 3) **Refer as specifically as possible to the Draft EIS document if possible (page #)**

I73-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 1 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper Truckee project comments**

Kim Gorman [kimgorman@rocketmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2010 1:35 PM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

Hi my name is Kim Gorman and I have been a resident of South Lake Tahoe for over 16 years. I have worked as an environmental scientist here for over ten years doing stream monitoring, stormwater monitoring and groundwater monitoring projects. I have also - more recently begun to work in the environmental education field with Explore Tahoe and the Lake Tahoe Community College. I am writing to you today to express my complete support for Alternative 2, for the Upper Truckee River Golf Course project. And would like to discuss why... After reading about the project in the environmental documents and discussing it further with many local residents my understanding of the project is that it will:

- o Restore the river to a functional state
- o Restore the streamside and meadow habitat
- o Reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering Lake Tahoe
- o Create a continuous wildlife corridor along the river
- o Preserve all sensitive plant and archaeological sites
- o Maintain quality golf recreation opportunities

Because of these reasons, it is both my professional and personal opinion that Alternative Two provides the greatest amount of good for our community. After working for many environmental agencies and witnessing our current economic state, the planned work is truly an excellent example of how we can evolve toward developing projects that serve multiple ends; the environment, the economy, and the recreational community.

In addition, Alternative 2 will:

- o Provide complete restoration of the river and surrounding meadow habitat
- o Improve lake clarity by reducing nutrients and sediment flowing into Lake Tahoe
- o Keep the only affordable, regulation size, 18-hole golf course in Lake Tahoe open by moving 9 holes to a currently available area outside the river flood plain
- o Contribute to the economy during a critical economic time; providing close to 200 jobs and needed revenue for California State Parks (\$880,000 per year). As well as adding \$6 million dollars to our local economy each year
- o Continue to provide many locals and tourists alike with high quality recreational opportunities

I urge you to please vote for Alternative Two – it is the only choice that makes sense for our community, the environment and our local economy!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gorman -Environmental Scientist and Water Quality Specialist.

I74-1

I74-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental and economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**FW: UT restoration - trails**

Walck, Cyndi

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2010 8:53 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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**From:** Kim Gorman [mailto:kingorman@rocketmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 9:22 PM  
**To:** Walck, Cyndi  
**Subject:** UT restoration - trails

Dear Ms. Walck...

Because I feel the State Parks Upper Truckee River Project is an excellent benefit to the community, private business and the environment I wanted to provide a few comments on the trails section of the project.

With regards to Alternative 2 - which I think is by the far the best alternative for our entire community - I was wondering if it is at all possible to provide a larger buffer for public access around proposed holes 8 and 12. I think pleasing both the homeowners and non-golf recreational user can come fairly easy here. (There must be a give and take)

175-1

In addition, I would really like to see the upper Truckee bridge both open and safe for public access. This will be an important area for crossing the creek, and would help to alleviate user created crossing in the creek.

Under alternatives 2 and 3, there is a section of trail along the south side of the river that connects to HWY 50. Would it be possible to move this trail closer to the river while still protecting the integrity of the river bank? I think the reality is that users will walk off trail closer to the river bank - so if you could provide a creative solution to allowing for protected/stabilized river access, ie a boardwalk or something like that, then people will likely stay on trail better.

175-2

Besides that I think that this project has a lot of potential for helping the community reach multiple goals of water quality improvement, recreational benefit, and economic stability. We can't afford not to think of all three of these conditions. They are all vital to the well being of Lake Tahoe and its residents.

Thank you for your time,  
Kim

- I75-1            The commenter’s support for Alternative 2 and its environmental, recreation, and economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. See Master Response Section 3.5, “Recreation,” for a discussion of recreation trail access, the additional buffer that would be added, and trail safety.
- I75-2            The commenter suggests moving the recreation trails proposed under Alternatives 2 and 3 closer to the river. The suggestion is noted. See Master Response Section 3.5, “Recreation.”

**Tahoe Fishery**

Vern Griffith [griffs94571@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 03, 2010 3:41 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee; ebaker@rri.org

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I realize I'm almost too late, expressing my opinion on the above subject, but.....are  
 golf courses and more housing and 'enrichment' of Tahoe beauty and aesthetics?  
 I may be late, and even in the minority when shoved up against the politicians and land  
 developers of the Tahoe region, but..... I'm thinking of US progeny, being 'explained' to, that  
 "this was once".....and probably wearing breathing apparatus?  
 Give the fish and our offspring a chance. Destroying the natural beauty and function of our  
 living space isn't praiseworthy. CV Griffith

176-1

I76-1

The commenter's support for maintaining the beauty and function of the area is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**Comments on Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project**

Greta Hambsch [tahoegreta@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 14, 2010 5:08 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project. After reviewing and discussing together the five proposed alternatives, we are agreed that Alternative 2 is the best solution. We have based our decision on the following:

- 1.) Restoring the Upper Truckee River ecosystem will correct damage done by development to the meadow and river and most importantly reduce sediment flowing into Lake Tahoe.
- 2.) Failure to use available funds to make these needed improvements would be folly.
- 3.) Relocating golf course holes that border the river to higher capability land is cost effective and desirable.
- 4.) Reinvesting in the quality 18 hole golf course assures the continuation of a revenue source for California State Parks;
- 5.) Continuing the operation of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course benefits the local community by providing jobs and affordable golf for residents.

I77-1

As 30 year residents at Lake Tahoe, we understand the importance of all efforts to maintain the water quality and clarity of Lake Tahoe. This project would reduce sediment flowing into the Lake and restore the riverbed and meadow ecosystems. We also recognize and appreciate the benefits of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course to our community. Through the years, we have participated in golf tournaments benefiting community organizations and we have enjoyed special events in the club house. On a personal note, we have appreciated the incredible beauty of our mountains as we have enjoyed many rounds of golf with friends or our children.

**For these reasons, we hope you will approve and implement Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project.**

Greta and Michael Hambsch  
116 Meadow Drive  
Stateline Nevada 89449  
(775)588-7143  
mph@tahoelawyers.com and tahoegreta@gmail.com

I77-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its environmental and economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

I78

**River-Golf Course EIR/EIS/EIS**

Diana Hamilton [diadorslt@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 4:41 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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Cyndie Walck  
Sierra District  
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Dear Ms. Walck,

Having walked and snow shoe/skied, as well as golfed, in the Washoe Park area, we feel strongly that the golf course should stay on its current side of the river. 178-1

Yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Dory Smith

Diana Hamilton-Smith  
1171 O'Malley Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

I78-1

The commenter's support for keeping the golf course at its current location is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

I110-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 5 and opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of habitat and tree removal under Alternative 2.

**Washoe Meadows State Park Relocation**

Patti Handal [Beakface@att.net]

**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2010 9:13 AM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee**Cc:** Washoe Meadows Community [HealeyJohnski=comcast.net@mcsv43.net]

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To Whom it May Concern:

As a 23-year resident of the south shore of Lake Tahoe, I felt very lucky and blessed when I purchased my house 20 years ago, which borders the Washoe Meadows State Park. But this is not only my home, but the home for many types of wildlife species. At present, we live in harmony.

To my delight, this summer on almost a daily basis, my yard is visited by a variety of birds, squirrels, occasionally a chipmunk, raccoons, coyotes and bears. Their path is always in and out of the state park property. Often when I walk through the park, I can see evidence of their presence.

There are no words to describe the great sadness I feel for what will be my loss as well as the wildlife's, all in the name of greed.

There is no valid reason to move the golf course to the other side of the river. In the meetings I attended and the emails that I have received, there have been alternatives suggested such as making an 18-hole course with the same footprint. A golf course architect verified this could be done with 2 proposed layouts. Moving the entire project to the old Sunset Ranch property adjacent to the airport was another viable suggestion.

While it is understood that currently the revenue from this project is what is desired, it is very short-sighted. Golf is on the decline along with the Baby Boomer Generation. This is not a parroted statement; even AARP has addressed this issue in regard to there not being a need to build more golf courses, which has precipitously declined over the past 15 years. The question then should be "what uses for the future will be viable for the present golf courses?"

But you are the ones in power. You choose not to listen or hear what the people have to say whose lives it impacts. Despite a near unanimous opposition from the homeowners bordering the State Park, you continue down the wrong path, your path. In the name of progress you are the destroyers of nature and wildlife, from which there will be no recovery in our lifetimes.

What labels shall be affixed to you?

I urge you to reconsider and do what is right for the wildlife and the people of the community, so please, just step out of the way.

The following pictures were taken on May 22, 2010. This bear has visited my house many times over the summer. There are 7 bears in total that I can identify; a mom and 2 cubs (yearlings), a single male ~2-years old, an adult cinnamon male, an adult chocolate male, and a black adult male. I have some photos and video clips of some of these aforementioned bears.

179-1

This is their home. I respect that. This is also my home. Can you respect us?



Sincerely,

Patricia M. Handal, D.V.M.

I79-1

The commenter's opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. The commenter has concerns about impacts on wildlife habitat and suggests other alternatives. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources," for a discussion of impacts on wildlife habitat; see response to comment AOB8-1 for a discussion of alternatives considered but eliminated from further consideration.



180

**Golf Course**

Judith Hanson [judithmh@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2010 10:35 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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The golf course should remain. Either reconfigure to retain the 18 holes or shore up the river to protect the environment. Do not remove the golf course entirely. This is a revenue source and a part of the community.

| 180-1

Regards,

Judith Hanson ,MBA  
Director, South Tahoe Board of Realtors  
e-PRO Certified, RSPS, SRES  
California Broker # 01475866  
Nevada Broker/Salesperson  
Chase International  
989 Tahoe Keys Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
Direct: (530) 318-2710  
Office : (530) 544-2121  
Fax: (530) 548-7499  
[Judith@JudithHanson.com](mailto:Judith@JudithHanson.com)  
[www.JudithHanson.com](http://www.JudithHanson.com)

I80-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 or Alternative 4 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**Public Comment on Upper Truckee Golf Course Project**

Paul Hardy [phardy@frit.org]

**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 5:10 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

**Importance:** High

Dear CA State Parks,

- It's wrong to move a golf course onto environmentally sensitive land within a state park.
- Alternative 2 will fragment the park and ruin wildlife habitat.
- Alternative 2 will nearly double the number of golf course fairways bordering the river.
- Alternative 2 will transform present habitat for diverse wildlife into a mono-culture.
- Golfing is in decline.
- In its present state, Washoe Meadows State Park provides year-round, low-impact, affordable recreation.
- Restore the river AND save the park from golf course development

181-1

My family and I have long enjoyed Washoe Meadows State Park and encourage **you to select Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative in the EIS/EIR.** We feel that Alternative 3 represents the best compromise between meaningful environmental restoration and economic vitality along the Upper Truckee.

Thank you,  
Paul Hardy

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Paul Hardy  
 P.O. Box 4276  
 Quincy, CA 95971  
 Phone: 530.283.5758  
 Fax: 530.283.5745  
[phardy@frit.org](mailto:phardy@frit.org)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

I81-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 3 and opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. Appendix E, "Lake Tahoe Golf Course Economic Feasibility Analysis," to the draft EIR/EIS/EIS acknowledges that the Lake Tahoe Golf Course has experienced declining gross revenues since 1997. The commenter summarizes opinions addressed in the responses to comment letter AOB31.

**Washoe Meadows**

goldseal@mcn.org [goldseal@mcn.org]

**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 6:32 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

To whom it may concern;

My name is Angela Harney and I recreate in Tahoe several times a year, hiking, showshoeing are my preferred activities. One of my favorite spots is the Washoe Meadows area. It's extreme pristine beauty is a small jewel in the encroaching golf course.

I urge the decision makers to keep the area protected!

1. The draft EIR is inadequate because it states that the impact of Alternative 2 will have a "less than significant impact" on recreation. For park users, removing 60 acres on natural habitat to create a golf course will have a very significant and negative impact on recreation. The park will be fragmented, many trails to the river will be lost, the park will be surrounded by golf holes, and park users will actually have to cross the golf course or take trails around it to access the river.

182-1

2. The draft EIR states that Alternative 2 will have a "less than significant impact" on wildlife habitat.

182-2

Restoration of the river is desirable. However, Alternative 2 includes increasing the size of the golf course footprint and moves 9 fairways across the river into sensitive state park land. I support river restoration as outlined in alternative.3

I strongly oppose Alternative 2 and urge the State Parks System, TRPA, and the Bureau of Reclamation to choose Alternative 3, which would allow Washoe Meadows State Park to remain an intact viable ecosystem, wildlife habitat, and recreational resource for the community and visitors to Lake Tahoe

182-3

The removal of 60 acres of Lodgepole pine, Jeffrey Pine and the removal of 1,640 native trees larger than 10 inches in diameter will have a very significant and negative impact on wildlife habitats. Many upland animals will lose their habitat and be displaced. Remember the Angora fire and how wildlife activity increased in our neighborhoods? Once again, many of these animals will be displaced, wander into our neighborhoods, eventually cause property damage and be euthanized. Restore the river and protect Washoe Meadows State Park!

182-4

I urge the decision makers to keep the area protected!

Sincerely,  
Angela Harney  
PO Box 2833  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
707-964-6340  
goldseal@mcn.org

- I82-1            The commenter has concerns about recreation access. See Master Response Section 3.5, "Recreation."
- I82-2            The commenter has concern about impacts on wildlife habitat under Alternative 2. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources."
- I82-3            The commenter's support for Alternative 3 and opposition to Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.
- I82-4            The commenter has concerns about the impacts of Alternative 2 on wildlife habitat and seeks consideration of the effects of the Angora Fire. See Master Response Section 3.3, "Biological Resources." See response to comment I54-1 for a discussion of the Angora Fire.



**Protect Washoe State Park**

Teri Harrigan [teriharrigan@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2010 3:08 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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To Whom it May Concern:

Please DO NOT move any part of the golf course into Washoe Meadow State Park, S. Lake Tahoe, CA. Not only would this be very irresponsible management by the park department (give away our tax dollars to big money), but is also a crime to the incredible environment and unique ecosystem supported by Washoe Meadows.

During our last walk through the meadows, my niece took incredible photos of different colored grasshoppers, tiny frogs, polliwogs, dragonflies, and various beautiful flowers. I will forward these on to you when she uploads them, in case you've not had the opportunity to observe this habitat first hand.

I find it difficult to comprehend how someone thinks they have the right to give away our (the tax-paying citizens of the state) park land.

Please find some other way to spend your time and energy.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Teresa Harrigan  
733 Zuni  
S. Lake Tahoe, CA  
510-390-0244

183-1

I83-1                      The commenter has concerns about impacts of Alternative 2 on wildlife habitat. See Master Response Section 3.3, “Biological Resources.”



**Comment on Upper Truckee / Golf Course**

Don Harriman [donh@netfeed.com]

**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2010 11:42 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



Greetings,

My humble opinion favors project alternatives 3 or 5. The first 4 stated project goals essentially conflict with the 5th (maintain recreational and economic benefits), and in the context of the Lake Tahoe basin, I believe are the most important. I am puzzled as to why a golf course would exist in the State Park system at all. There are many places one can go to play golf, but not so many alpine lake environments.

184-1

Thank you,

Donald C. Harriman  
2535 Cold Creek Trail  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

I84-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 3 or Alternative 5 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Upper Truckee River Restoration Project**

rx@surewest.net [rx@surewest.net]

**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2010 4:57 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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On the Upper Truckee River Restoration project

consider making it a 9 hole Golf Course with reduced play along with the River Ecosystem Restoration

there are plenty of other Golf Courses in the Tahoe area and numerous other recreation alternatives.

185-1

Roxene Harrison  
Roseville, Calif.

I85-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 3 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Keep Washoe park as it is**

John Hartzell [tahoehartzell@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, September 04, 2010 9:22 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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Please leave Washoe Park as it is. I use it 3-4 times a week, hiking, running, snowshoeing and biking through it. The natural beauty of the park is stunning and it would be a shame to change it in any way. It is a place that I always take visitors to Tahoe to show them how pretty Tahoe is. Please do not change the park in any manner.

Sincerely,  
John Hartzell  
tahoehartzell@yahoo.com

| 186-1

I86-1

The commenter's support for maintaining Washoe Meadows SP in its current state is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Leave the park as is for the public.**

John Hartzell [tahoehartzell@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2010 11:00 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



---

Please do not take away our park land as it exists today. We, the public, love to use the park and don't want a golf course where the park land currently is. The park is so beautiful right in our backyards and I take all my visitors to Tahoe to see it.

187-1

Please don't change our park!

John Hartzell

I87-1

The commenter's support for maintaining Washoe Meadows SP in its current state is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**FW: LTGC - Please Be Heard - State Park Alternatives for our Golf Course**

McMillan-Hanly, Elizabeth

188

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**From:** Walck, Cyndi  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 11:10 AM  
**To:** 'Seana Doherty'; 'Tracy Owen Chapman'; kathy strain; McMillan-Hanly, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** FW: LTGC - Please Be Heard - State Park Alternatives for our Golf Course

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**From:** Doug Hazlett [mailto:hazlettdoug@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2010 12:29 PM  
**To:** Walck, Cyndi  
**Subject:** Fwd: LTGC - Please Be Heard - State Park Alternatives for our Golf Course

Hi:

We strongly believe in the attached message. We need to save our golf course. It is the only reasonably priced full length golf course in the area. We have friends that say they will move out South Lake Tahoe if the golf course is taken away from us. Mr. Rettus has stated our position very well. We strongly urge you to select alternative #2. It is the only alternative that will satisfy all parties.

188-1

Respectfully,

Douglas & Joan Hazlett

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** <RonCRettus@aol.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Aug 24, 2010 at 7:12 PM  
**Subject:** LTGC - Please Be Heard - State Park Alternatives for our Golf Course  
**To:** [RonCRettus@aol.com](mailto:RonCRettus@aol.com)

Lets be heard !!!!!!!!

I would ask each of you that receive this e-mail to take one of two actions:

If you agree with it - Forward it to [CWalck@parks.ca.gov](mailto:CWalck@parks.ca.gov) with an "I agree" comment.

If you have different opinions or/and can take the time to express your individual thoughts on **what** you would like to see happen and **why**, then send your own individual e-mail to Ms. Walk

**But we do have to be counted** - there are groups other than golfers that are actively lobbying the State Parks organization to take action that will do away with our course or reduce it to 9 holes.

I believe the California State Parks should adopt Alternative 2.

This would restore the Upper Truckee River, enhance the surrounding wetlands/animal habitat and reduce silt flowing into Lake Tahoe while keeping our 18 hole golf course by moving 9 holes to a currently available area outside the river flood plain.

1. This alternative would keep an affordable, tournament level, 18 hole golf course. Affordable because it would not be the \$200- \$250 fees charged by Edgewood, and Tournament level vs the playable but "reduced level" of Tahoe Paradise executive type course.

2. The proposed new area (outside the flood plain) for the new 9 holes looks like a blight area today and our Lake Tahoe environment and ambience would be enhanced and improved with the movement of the new holes to this area.

3. Reducing our golf course to 9 holes or removing the course entirely will deprive us of a major recreation opportunity currently provided by our California State Parks. This is extremely biased against the many local golfers that live in the South Tahoe area.

4. Visiting golfers and Tournaments will not come to a golf destination vacation area for a 9 hole golf course.

The impact to our already fragile local economy would be negatively impacted by as much as \$6 - \$9 million dollars each year.

25,000 rounds a year - Between late April and early October

60% of these rounds from visitors at 1 round per visitor

15,000 visitors at 2 nights motel stay (\$150) = 2.25 million dollars

15,000 visitors at 5 meals (\$40) = 3.0 million dollars

Add 25 % for those who bring their families: 1.2 million dollars

Revenues Potentially Lost to our local economy: 6.5 million

This does not include revenues to the golf course or California State Parks and Income to the 50-75 local people employed by the course

5. Remember, our opinion (vote) is very important - The thousands of our visitors are removed from the issues and in most cases don't know what the current plans for the course could be.

6. If you are aware of visiting golfers, please forward this email to them.

**Please take the time to be heard - If not Us then who?**

I88-1

The commenters' support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**river restoration & golf course project**

Doug Hazlett [hazlettdoug@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:43 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

189

As I see it, the State wants to spend a lot of money to improve the clarity of the water flowing into the Lake, from the Upper Truckee River. I, personally, feel that the proposal to put rocks along the banks of the River in the areas where the improvement is needed most, is the best solution. That would leave money, left over for other necessary projects and spare our beautiful golf course.

There are many others that share this belief that are afraid to speak out. They know that I am a affiliate of the golf course and ask me regularly, what's going on. Most will tell you that they support porposal #2, because they think that 's the solution that the State wants and that it is better than a 9 hole course or no course.

That's my opinion.

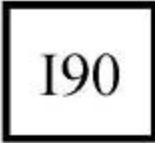
Respectfully,

Douglas L. Hazlett

189-1

I89-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 4 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.



**Lake Tahoe Golf Course**

Doug Hazlett [hazlettdoug@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 10:11 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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Hi:

My first support is for 'rip rapping' the river. The added money that would be used, on resolution #2, would be better used in other locations in the State Park system. The golf course is a real money maker for the State Park system. Everyone wins with this solution including the opposition who doesn;t want the new holes in thier neighborhood.

190-1

Respectfully,

Douglas L. Hazlett,  
Joan M. Hazlett,  
Norman & Lulu Green,  
Brent Richard, Jami lockhart,  
Joseph A. Lukacs

I90-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 4 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**From:** Ann Marie Henriouille [mailto:ahenriouille@mailstation.com]  
**Sent:** Sat 9/11/2010 4:41 AM  
**To:** Project, Upper Truckee; torourke@cityofslt.us  
**Subject:** Upper Truckee Project-Planes, Trains, Keys & flood liability

Ms. C. Waick; forward copy to Cynthia Coleman, Lester Snow, please:

This UT discussion is akin to giving pedicure to stomach cancer patient. Biggest insult to Lake Tahoe is the infamous Keys development, situated atop what we old ones used to call the "Truckee River Marsh" (wetlands) ... So now we patch?

Millions spent on Upper truckee would be better used to leverage railway access to Lake Tahoe Basin. Initial step, rebuild Tahoe City Rail link, moving Transit center to 64 acre tract and include sobust waterborne transit linking North to South Shore Stateline. Snow season would include added schedules to Ski Run; in Summer, Camp Rich schedules are added. Toll road section Camp Rich/Meeks Bay is appropriate cash contibutor for Tahoe Transport and Water Quality jobs! Maybe SLT Airport-Camp Rich Light Rail for year-round ferry schedules? Strategic realities demand airport in Tahoe through this century...

As the ferry service (Sec vessel "Peralta" on the Alameda/SF Ferry run on the Bay) grows numbers, proceed with the 50 Corridor Rail element as scoped in the 1995 CalTran I-80/US50 Reno/Tahoe Rail Stucy (Unabridged). CalTrans drops 50 corridor rail component in recent access studies, even as Middle East convulses. -Cognitive dissonance-

Hopefully your project managers are doing responsible modeling on flood damage potential with the meander features proposed. Slow water runs deep... Above said, let us bring in an overarching fact: As cheap & plentiful oil slips into memory, the railway component once again becomes crucial for maintaining commercial viability at Lake Tahoe. As you will undoubtedly have these inputs in mind as the process moves along, duly noted in the record, it is time to broaden the discussion. To Wit:

Situational Awareness demands all hands get savvy on the oil depletion phenomenon ASAP. Leadership at Tahoe has the opportunity even at this late hour to do transport engineering of National Policy level significance. Intense familiarization with energy emergency details includes look at Richard Heinberg's "Museletter 220", see at Heinberg's home page. Print Chris Skrebowski's updated Peaking Oil paper, download from (peakoilconsultants.com).

ALL Tahoe officials (and by extension the public they serve) benefit by earliest familiarity with the threat to transport & commerce presented by motor fuel limits. Tahoe clarity was purported to be Job #1 by the League To Save lake Tahoe, but they failed to reinstate Tahoe rail access even as they stopped the Emerald Bay bridge project. Laurel Ames was a League rail proponent, but Rochelle Nason lacked nerve & skill to keep on with rail advocacy. ("Politics" sez she during one of the winter road closures) Authorities such as Dr. Lewis Goldman (Secchi Dish) mentioned need for electric railway access as early as 1972. Meanwhile, travelers continue to play "Rock Roulette" on Echo Pass, adventures in Happy Motoring.....

What's past is done. Now, before Iran action or other initiator of Federal Executive Emergency Orders for motor fuel rationing, all hands responsible for Tahoe planning MUST get up to speed on the energy component in setting project priorities at Lake Tahoe.

Parties seeing this are requested to share contents as appropriate in their respective purviews. \*There is wisdom in the counsel of many\*.

Thank You.

Gunnar Henriouille (530-346-6060)  
 Lake Tahoe constituent since 1971

191-1



I91-1

The commenter's opposition to all Truckee River projects is noted. The commenter suggests spending money on transportation projects. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**From:** Ann Marie Henriouille [mailto:ahenriouille@mailstation.com]  
**Sent:** Fri 10/22/2010 9:45 PM  
**To:** seana@streamlineimpact.com; Walck, Cyndi; jregan@trpa.org  
**Subject:** Please Attend Upper Truckee River Project on TRPA Agenda

October 23, 2010

Dear Project Partners- (please route)

Lake Tahoe EIP Program  
 TRPA  
 U.S. Dept of the Interior  
 Bureau of Reclamation  
 California Tahoe  
 Conservancy

On TRPA Governing Board Agenda

-Your Input Needed-

Hello all:

Is anyone asking effects on airport operation in flood period? Murphy's law says water on runway during regional disaster (Reno airport closed, 50 closed account avalanche, etc,) is to be avoided.

The various agencies on this case have a larger problem coming; several responsible government bureaus (USDOE; USDOT; CIA and various private think tanks) are warning of motor fuel limits mid-decade or sooner with Middle East (Iran/Israel) meltdown.

By all means, proceed with projects to preserve Lake Tahoe water quality... Unfortunately, economy not government is the ultimate funding agent, and gas rationing will hit environmental repair a death blow. Is there any way to say it more clearly? The TRPA and agencies in their loop must collectively assume due diligence investigation of the oilwell depletion element and Peaking Oil ramifications.

Federal Executive Emergency Orders for motor fuel rationing will come as worldwide demand, devalued dollar, or oil lane war (singly or combination) restrict US oil import flow. That's the way it is, and authoritative sources say it is just a matter of time.

Lake Tahoe visitor access is THE key element to maintain political and actual in-basin spending. Rationing without alternative means of travel to-around-from Lake Tahoe closes the doors of the government agencies listed above. See Richard Heinberg's papers on the Energy Emergency, see Heinberg's "Museletter" series. Beginning with Spring 2008 see the run-up to the Summer 2008 oil price surge, a supply/demand crisis not only speculation.

Worldwide recession and oil is again on the upward march? Anyone reading this smell a repeat of summer 2008? Hope the agencies reading this have intellectual capacity to multitask; the Tahoe City Rail branch is the single best early guarantor of the Lake Tahoe economy and the multitude of good works hinging on visitor access. See 1995 Reno/Tahoe rail/waterborne service scopings...

192-1

I92-1

The commenter raises a concern about potential flooding effects on the South Lake Tahoe Airport. The airport is approximately 0.6 mile (~3,000 feet) down valley from the portion of the Upper Truckee River adjacent to the golf course. (This distance is a straight line along the river corridor, not total river distance; however, valley distance would be relevant for flooding.) Section 3.3, "Hydrology and Flooding," of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS presents a thorough analysis of the existing and potential flooding effects of all alternatives. The impact analysis for flooding (Impacts 3.3-3 and 3.3-4) is based on hydraulic modeling that accurately depicts the capacity for flood flow conveyance of the downstream U.S. 50 bridge. The bridge limits the maximum flow rate released downstream during flood events of about 10-year or greater magnitude. The flow constriction by the U.S. 50 bridge would not be modified by any project alternative, and no adverse changes to the worst-case flooding scenario would occur downstream of the U.S. 50 crossing.

November 3, 2010

To: utproject@parks.ca.gov  
River-Golf Course EIR/EIS/EIS

From: Alan Heyvaert, Ph.D.  
PO Box 1815  
Crystal Bay, NV 89402

**RE: Public Comment on Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project**

Restoration of the Upper Truckee River should be one of the highest priorities for environmental improvement in the Tahoe Basin to help restore the clarity and water quality of Lake Tahoe. It has been documented from scientific studies for the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load Technical Report (June, 2009) that the Upper Truckee River is the single largest contributor of nutrients and fine sediments into Lake Tahoe. Much of this results from channel erosion and diminished ecological functions due to long-term effects from historic land disturbance and contemporary urbanization.

Most natural, undisturbed, streams and rivers exist in states of dynamic equilibrium that exhibit relatively high channel stability and low bank erosion rates, compared to disturbed conditions. The Upper Truckee River delivers about 25% of the total stream discharge into Lake Tahoe. It has experienced numerous and significant perturbations since the mid 1800s, including logging, urbanization, rechannelization, loss of natural wetlands, and bank revetments. All of these factors have conspired against the natural processes of stream channel evolution that would normally lead toward a new dynamic equilibrium through a progression of adjustments in sinuosity, profile, and cross-section.

The Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project represents one of the few existing opportunities to substantially restore natural dynamic processes that should help reduce nutrient and fine sediment loadings into Lake Tahoe. Several options are presented. Of these, the main objective should be to reintroduce meanders consistent with historic profiles and with the current hydrodynamic energy regime of this river, such that overbanking will occur at high flows within the riparian corridor and adjacent stream environment zones (SEZ). Considering this objective, the alternatives 2, 3 and 5 presented in the draft EIR/EIS would implement these functions, while alternatives 1 and 4 would not. Any use or restoration of degraded landscapes (as with the old borrow pits in alternative 2) is to be commended, as well as efforts to remove or reduce human land use activities in the riparian corridor, to the extent practical.

I hope that all stakeholders can come to an agreement that will allow this restoration and reconfiguration project to proceed.

I93-1

I93-1

The commenter's support for Alternatives 2, 3, and 5 and opposition to Alternatives 1 and 4 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Alternative 2**

Larry Hobson [l\_ghobson@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 10:02 AM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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October 15, 2010

Larry and Gail Hobson  
2668 Divot Court  
South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 96150

Dear Upper Truckee River Restoration,

We totally support "Alternative 2". After listening to Cindy explaining that 4 may not do the job.

I buy a Season Pass and play about 40 times a year. I take my grand kids and great grand kids out to play. They also take golf lessons each year.

I play with tourists about half of my rounds each year and they all say they come to Tahoe to play golf.

I just don't believe they will come for NINE holes of golf. I know I would not and I live on hole Five.

During the winter many of us use the golf course for Cross Country Skiing and Snow Shoeing.

In my seven years of playing golf here I have never seen a Horse or a Hiker come of the woods.

I hope the State goes for Alternative 2. I would also like to see Management that was a little more into wanting a growing men's and women's club.

Thanks for listening.

Larry and Gail Hobson

194-1

I94-1

The commenters' support for Alternative 2 and suggestion for additional support of the men's and women's club are noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

## Comments on Upper Truckee Restoration Project

JTAHOEFER@aol.com [JTAHOEFER@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2010 9:18 AM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

I95

I believe preference must be given to Alternative 5, which restores most of the State Park area for its ecological functions, especially that of the Truckee River water course. Retention of the Building and Parking for public use is acceptable, if the building can be operated without it being an economic liability to the State. Though this alternative unfortunately would remove the golf course, which is indicated as a monetary contributor to the total operation of the State Parks System, this should not be a deciding factor. What must prevail is the goal of restoring Lake Tahoe clarity and other environmental thresholds established by the TRPA for the Lake Tahoe region. This goal seems best served by restoring most of the State land area to a natural ecosystem of forest, meadow and river.

Alternative 3 may be a reasonable Alternative to pursue as well. Although it does not achieve the extensive ecological benefits of Alternative 5, it does retain a valuable recreation resource for golfers. Though not as desirable as a full 18 hole course, at least this segment of the recreation public would not be deprived of a readily available area in which to enjoy golfing. However, if an Executive course, or a 9 hole course would not provide sufficient financial return to a concessionaire so as to fully support the operation, then this alternative cannot be considered. With the State Park system currently in a deplorable condition and not adequately funded by State tax revenues, then the added burden of partially subsidizing the golf course operation and maintenance is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Jon Hoefler

1060 Lamor Court  
South Lake Tahoe, CA96150  
(530) 577-5922

I95-1



I95-1

The commenter's primary support for Alternative 5 followed by support for Alternative 3 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**I Support Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee**

Kirk Hopkin [kkh195@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 4:31 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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I strongly urge that the Department of Parks and Recreation choose Alternative 2 for the Upper Truckee River Restoration & Golf Course Reconfiguration Project.

The continued deterioration of the Upper Truckee cannot continue. Its health is vital to habitat, fish and Lake Tahoe.

By moving part of the golf course away from the river, Alternative 2 will arrest this deterioration. Its a lasting solution that will benefit the river, its fish and fishing, while preserving the 18-hole golf course for all to enjoy.

Kirk Hopkin

196-1

I96-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**River-Golf Course EIR/EIS/EIS**

Rick Hordin [ptmanyoda@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 03, 2010 10:36 PM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

It is outrageous that most folks in the Tahoe Basin - a large percentage of which has little to no impact on the local watershed - cannot put up a garage on their own property due to 'coverage restrictions'. Meanwhile a fertilizer-ridden algae-creating, lake 'eutrophicating' golf course is proposed to be expanded on the same watershed's main tributary!

Putting up a garage = '0' effect on lake clarity. Golf course = off the scale.

Let's not forget the Upper Truckee flows straight out the the Lake now. The Tahoe Keys have eliminated the pollution-filtering effect the marsh (that naturally existed there) performed (that helped maintain Lake Tahoe's once-lauded clarity). And the Keys already dump an ocean-liner-sized boatload of fertilizer into the watershed as it is. Has anyone thought about using rocks instead of grass? No lawns, no fertilizer, no wasted water, no geese... But I digress...

That such a project is even being considered demonstrates complete disregard for the natural environment for the sake of money (once again). On that note, I wonder how much money the golf course is prepared to pay for the Permit for this destruction. And who gets the money from it, the animals for a new house?

The area in question is beautiful as it is. Why convert it to more human blight? We don't need more area covered with manicured lawns. Haven't we done enough damage already?

Sincerely (disappointed),  
Rick Hordin  
Lake Tahoe

197-1

I97-1

The commenter's belief that the project should not be considered at all is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**LT golf course**

ROB H [robtahoe@aol.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 04, 2010 3:53 PM**To:** Project, Upper Truckee**Cc:** tahoeKolb@yahoo.com

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Bring in professional Golf course design management team... Jack Nicholas, Arnold Palmer Ben Crenshaw( designer of Clearcreek in Carson City.. They have the KNOW How... redesign per there professional requirements...

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE GOLF COURSE... THE PROBLEM IS THE TAHOE KEYES... WE ALL KNOW IT... THE CRITICAL WATERSHED AREA IS THE TAHOE KEYES MEADOW...

Bears, deer, other natural animals along with a river taking it's natural course contribute to the erosion and pollution upstream...

The Keyes needs to focused on... Bring back the superfund, remove the homes and restore the REAL natural filter system of the Truckee

Finally...

Please use professionals outside of the government, the army corp of engineers specifically... Private business Knows what to do...

**ROB Hordzwick**  
**775 815 0899**  
**OFF 588 1300**  
**McCall Realty**

198-1

I98-1

The commenter's view that the Tahoe Keys is the problem is noted and is outside of State Parks' jurisdiction. The commenter suggests bringing in a professional golf course design management team. The approaches to reconfiguring the golf course that are proposed under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 were developed in collaboration with John Harbottle Design, a leading golf course design firm, and additional golf course designers will be consulted during the design process.



**lake tahoe golf course**

Peter Illing [peterilling@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010 2:16 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee

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to whom it may concern,  
it's difficult for me to comprehend why the lake tahoe golf course should be closed. i've lived in south lake tahoe for over ten years and visited the course at least four days a week, through out the season. the monies generated and jobs created by having this recreational facility open has to be quite substantial. the course isn't causing any harm to the local residents but i guess they would prefer to have the open space so there property values might go up. that's debatable. i also believe that it's sad that the local golfers will have to spend there money over the hill in nevada if they want to play golf. the executive course, Paradise, doesn't meet the needs of serious golfers. in any event i would think that with the state of california, cash strapped as it is, and the unemployment rate as high as it is, closing the course would be a very bad idea. maybe with the loss of income and the ensuing layoffs it might require the county to layoff a few police officers teachers or fireman. we'll see.  
thank you  
peter illing  
1451 glen eagles road  
south lake tahoe, ca 96150  
530-523-3397

199-1



I99-1

The commenter's support for maintaining the golf course and its economic value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

**Alternative 2**

njane@umich.edu [njane@umich.edu]

**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2010 1:52 PM

**To:** Project, Upper Truckee



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To whom this may concern:

I am writing to let you know that I think alternative 2 is the best solution to the restoration of the upper Truckee river. This is the best alternative because it allows the river to be restored without upsetting the economic benefits to the tourists/golfers in Lake Tahoe, while enhancing the environment and usefulness to the local patrons like myself. No other alternatives even come close!

1100-1

Thank you.  
Nicole M Jane, DDS, MS

I100-1

The commenter's support for Alternative 2 and its economic and environmental value is noted. This comment does not raise issues regarding the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of the draft EIR/EIS/EIS.