

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
Submitted by: Jennifer Merchant, Principal Management Analyst

DATE: October 6, 2009

SUBJECT: North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's proposed expenditure of budgeted infrastructure funds for Tahoe Vista Recreation Area project (\$500,000)

Action Requested

Approve the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's proposed expenditure of \$500,000 in budgeted infrastructure funds for Tahoe Vista Recreation Area project.

Background

Placer County has entered into an annual agreement with the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association to provide transportation and infrastructure project development and tourism marketing and visitor information services. The agreement is funded with general fund Transient Occupancy Tax dollars and requires Board of Supervisors approval prior to expenditure from the infrastructure portion of the agreement budget.

The Resort Association's Infrastructure Committee and Board of Directors have voted to recommend that the County Executive Office carry forward the following project for approval by your Board. In doing so, they affirm that the project is consistent with the Resort Association's Tourism and Community Development Master Plan, which was approved by your Board in July 2004. Therefore, the following NLTRA infrastructure expenditure is being recommended by the County Executive Office for approval.

Brief Project Description / Funding Request:

Tahoe Vista Recreation Area Project- \$500,000

The recommended Infrastructure Fund expenditure will fund a share of final planning and construction of recreational amenities and support facilities to include vehicle and boat trailer parking, bike trail staging, bus shelter, site preparation for a concession/warming facility and restrooms. The project is part of a two phase multi-area facility that includes boat launching, picnic tables, sidewalks and interpretive displays on the lakeside, and the proposed Phase II on the north side of SR 89/National Ave. in Tahoe Vista.

Placer County committed \$500,000 to the \$10 million lakeside Phase I project, which was completed in 2007. In addition to lead agency North Tahoe Public Utility District, other funding for Phase II includes sources such as the California Tahoe Conservancy and Department of Boating & Waterways. The current Phase II project estimate is \$3.2 million. The land is currently owned and managed by the North Tahoe Public Utility District and the environmental analysis is underway.

Fiscal Impact: The funding described above would come from Transient Occupancy Tax funds currently held for the purpose of Tahoe area capital project implementation in the County Treasury. There are sufficient funds available within this fund to cover the amount of the requested expenditure approval.

Environmental Analysis: The Board of Supervisor's approval of the NLTRA's expenditure funding contribution to these infrastructure projects is categorically exempt from CEQA per Section 15061, which provides a general rule that if an activity does not have the potential to cause a significant environmental effect, it is exempt from CEQA. The specific projects were and continue to be evaluated under CEQA by the corresponding lead agencies.

Recommendation: Approve the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's proposed expenditure of \$500,000 in budgeted infrastructure funds for Tahoe Vista Recreation Area project.

The recommended projects represent the cooperation of multiple agencies and funding partners and the expenditure has the potential to lead to significant improvements to the tourism infrastructure at North Lake Tahoe. The total commitment to this project of \$1,000,000 by Placer County leverages the funding of other project partners for a total project investment of approximately \$13 million in land acquisitions and improvements. The projects recommended for funding are consistent with goals in the Resort Association's Tourism & Community Investment Master Plan.