

# MEMORANDUM

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: November 6, 2007

FROM: KEN GREHM/PETER KRAATZ

SUBJECT: SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUND  
APPLICATION FOR DONNER PASS ROAD SHOULDER EROSION  
CONTROL RESTORATION IMPROVEMENTS

---

### ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving preparation of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Competitive Site Improvements grant application and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute the SNC grant application document in accordance with grant requirements. The purpose of the grant funding will be to rehabilitate eroding cut slopes adjacent to Donner Pass Road just west of Donner Summit that are a source of ongoing erosion and sediment-laden runoff that impacts the water quality of the South Yuba River Watershed.

### BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006. This included \$54 million for the SNC to distribute to eligible organizations for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes, streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources within the 25 million acres of land identified by the SNC for potential grant coverage. The allocation from Proposition 84 comprises the first major source of project funding for distribution by the SNC. Public Works has identified a high priority watershed restoration project that warrants this type of funding, located in the Central Sierra Sub Region of the SNC jurisdiction. A section of Donner Pass Road (US Hwy 40) approximately 1 mile west of Donner Summit was built over 70 years ago in very loose soils where roadway cuts are steep, in excess of 35 degrees (70 percent), up to 65 feet in height, and exceed 300 feet in length. These barren roadway cuts have been an ongoing source of erosion and sediment runoff onto the highway as well as potential impacts to water quality on downgradient properties, surface waters, and other natural resources.

The project site is situated near the headwaters of the South Yuba River near Sugar Bowl Ski Resort and Lake Van Norden which is the receiving water for the sediment-laden runoff. Grant funding would be utilized to rehabilitate the cut slopes adjacent to the roadway with mechanical and/or vegetation treatments to both improve water quality and the aesthetics of this scenic roadway. The land targeted for restoration appears to be entirely situated within the County of Placer road right-of-way so land acquisitions are not expected to be required for this project.

The SNC requires a Resolution of approval by the governing body as part of the site improvement grant application package.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

The efforts to apply for grant funding for this project are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15306, Class 6., Information Collection. Proposed project actions are considered categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15301 Class 1.(c) & (h), Existing Facilities for repair of topographical features affiliated with the roadway infrastructure as well as Section 15333 Class 33.(d)(1), Small Habitat Restoration Projects for revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Placer County is requesting up to \$1,000,000 of site improvement grant funding to cover design and construction costs of the project. If received, funding will be incorporated into the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Fiscal Budgets.

Attachments: Resolution  
Location Map  
Exemption Verification Form

**Before the Board of Supervisors  
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY (SNC) COMPETITIVE SITE IMPROVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COAST PROTECTION BOND ACT OF NOVEMBER 7, 2006.

Resol. No: .....

Ord. No: .....

First Reading: .....

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held November 6, 2007, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:  
Clerk of said Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Public Works Department's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

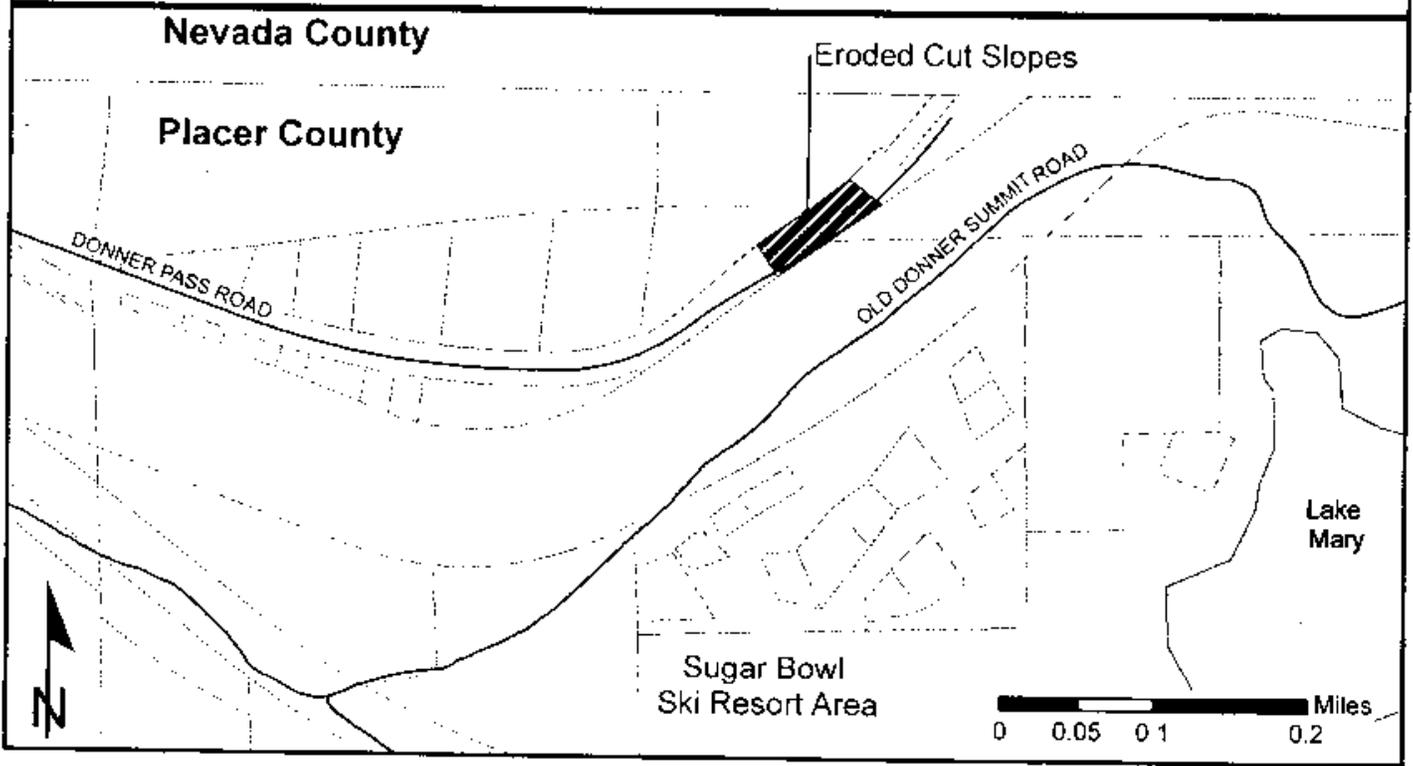
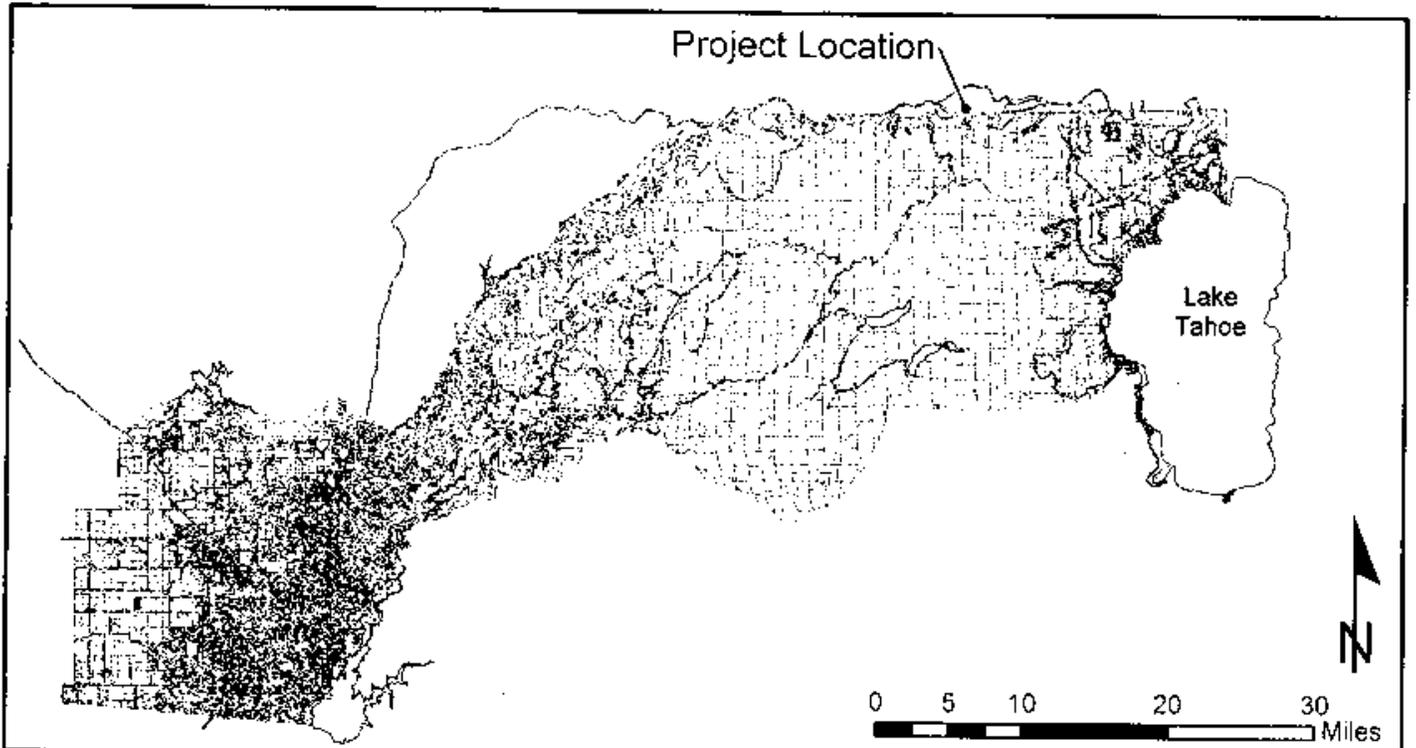
WHEREAS, the County has identified the Donner Pass Road Shoulder Restoration Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

299

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the Project; and
2. Certifies that the Public Works Department understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that the Public Works Department will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that the Public Works Department will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoints the Director of Public Works, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

# Donner Pass Road Shoulder Restoration Project Site Plan



- Roads
- ▭ Lakes
- ▨ Project Location
- ▭ Parcels

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Competitive Site Improvement Grant Program

301



**PLACER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220, Auburn, CA 95603  
 (530) 745-7500 FAX (530) 745-7544

**EXEMPTION VERIFICATION**

--TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT--

Assessors Parcel Number(s): 069-ROW

Property Owner: County of Placer Phone: (530) 745-7563

Mailing Address: 3091 County Center Dr, Suite 220 City Auburn State CA

E-mail address: MHolveck@placer.ca.gov

Project Location: Donner Pass Road (Old Highway 40) - north shoulder area of road near Sugar Bowl Ski Resort approx. 1 mile west of Donner Summit.

Description of Proposed Project: The proposed project will rehabilitate the roadway slopes with mechanical and/or vegetation treatments to both improve water quality and the aesthetics of the roadway.

Applicable Statutory or Categorical Exemption Class and Number: Class 1 - 15301 (c) & (h) and Class 33 - 15333 (d)(1)

	YES	NO
1. Are any trees located on the property within 50' of any proposed grading (if 'yes' show all tree locations and their driplines within 50' of any grading activity)?		
2. Is the project within a floodplain?	___	___X
3. Are any archaeological, cultural, or historical sites present?	___	___X
4. Are any wetlands, riparian areas, or vernal pools present onsite?	___	___X
5. Are any rare, threatened, or endangered species present onsite?	___	___X
6. Is the project within an overflight zone of any airport?	___	___X
7. Can the project impact, or be impacted by either landfill operations, or sewage disposal facilities?	___	___X
8. Is the project within the Tahoe Basin?	___	___X
9. Is there any grading associated with this project?	___X	___
The grading will be associated with stabilizing existing eroding cut slopes and the effects of proposed grading are not considered significant. No mitigation measures will be required beyond deploying standard best management practices (BMPs) during construction such as fiber rolls and mulching to minimize storm water runoff.		
10. Is there a significant (10,000 sq. ft. or more) amount of impervious surface (paving, roof, sidewalk, etc.) proposed?	___	___X
11. Is there a potential for increased traffic?	___	___X

Comments:

Field Verification Date: September 10, 2007

Field Staff: Peter Kraatz

Signature of individual completing this form

Peter Kraatz (530) 581-6230

Printed Name and Telephone Number