

**MEMORANDUM**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DATE: September 7, 2010

FROM: KEN GREHM / PETER KRAATZ

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF FILING SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE RUBICON TRAIL AND THE DONNER PASS ROAD STABILIZATION (PHASE 2) PROJECTS**

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**ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant application in the amount of up to \$1,000,000 for the Rubicon Trail project and up to \$1,000,000 for the Donner Pass Road Stabilization (Phase 2) project; and authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute all documents related to the grant.

**BACKGROUND / SUMMARY**

California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 (the Act) on November 7, 2006. Proposition 84 added Section 75050 to the Public Resources Code (PRC), authorizing the State to issue bonds, and the Legislature to appropriate the proceeds, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. Section 75050 (j) allocates \$54 million of these funds for the SNC. In Fiscal Year 2010-11, approximately \$10 million will be available for grant awards. As part of applying for this funding, the SNC requires the applicant to have authorization to apply for the funding through a project specific resolution approved by the applicable governing agency.

The Department of Public Works is applying for two projects that would both be considered eligible under the SNC Category One Site Improvement/Restoration grant allocation as summarized below.

Rubicon Trail Project

The Rubicon Trail is a regionally, if not state and national, recognized trail used primarily for recreational purposes by four-wheel drive (4WD) and off-road vehicles. It is considered one of the most popular 4WD trails in the United States. Although not owned by the County, the County does recognize the Rubicon Trail as a public trail. Organized recreational user groups have a long history of collaboratively working with Placer County to help maintain the trail and educate the public on protective trail use. The SNC grant funding would support design and installation of best management practices (BMPs) such as boulders to enhance and protect various trail segments.

The trail is located near the Placer-El Dorado County line on the west side of Lake Tahoe and travels west over the crest of the Sierra to the Placer-El Dorado County line. The project would directly benefit the Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) by increasing opportunities for tourism and recreation as well as protecting water quality. The project scope only includes trail segments within the SNR and outside the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Donner Pass Road Stabilization (Phase 2) Project

The Donner Pass Road Stabilization (Phase 2) is located off Historic Highway 40 just west of Donner Summit and approximately five miles west of Truckee, California. This project initially received SNC funding in 2008 for rehabilitating eroding slope cuts along the roadway (Phase 1 project). A Phase 2 effort is proposed to extend rehabilitation efforts west and east of the Phase 1 project on additional eroding cut slopes.

The Phase 2 Donner Pass project would directly benefit the Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) by further protecting water quality near the headwaters of the South Yuba River.

Both of these projects are consistent with the goals of the SNC and the Proposition 84 goal of protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

This action is the filing of a grant application and is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact to the County when applying for funds. Additional funding to cover total projected costs for these projects is not anticipated. The maximum total cost of the Rubicon Trail project is estimated at \$1,000,000; the total cost of the Donner Pass Road Stabilization (Phase 2) project is \$1,000,000. If awarded, the project funding would be incorporated into the Department's fiscal year budget(s) as appropriate.

Attachments:

- Resolution
- Location Maps

**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 AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE GRANT

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 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;

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 Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

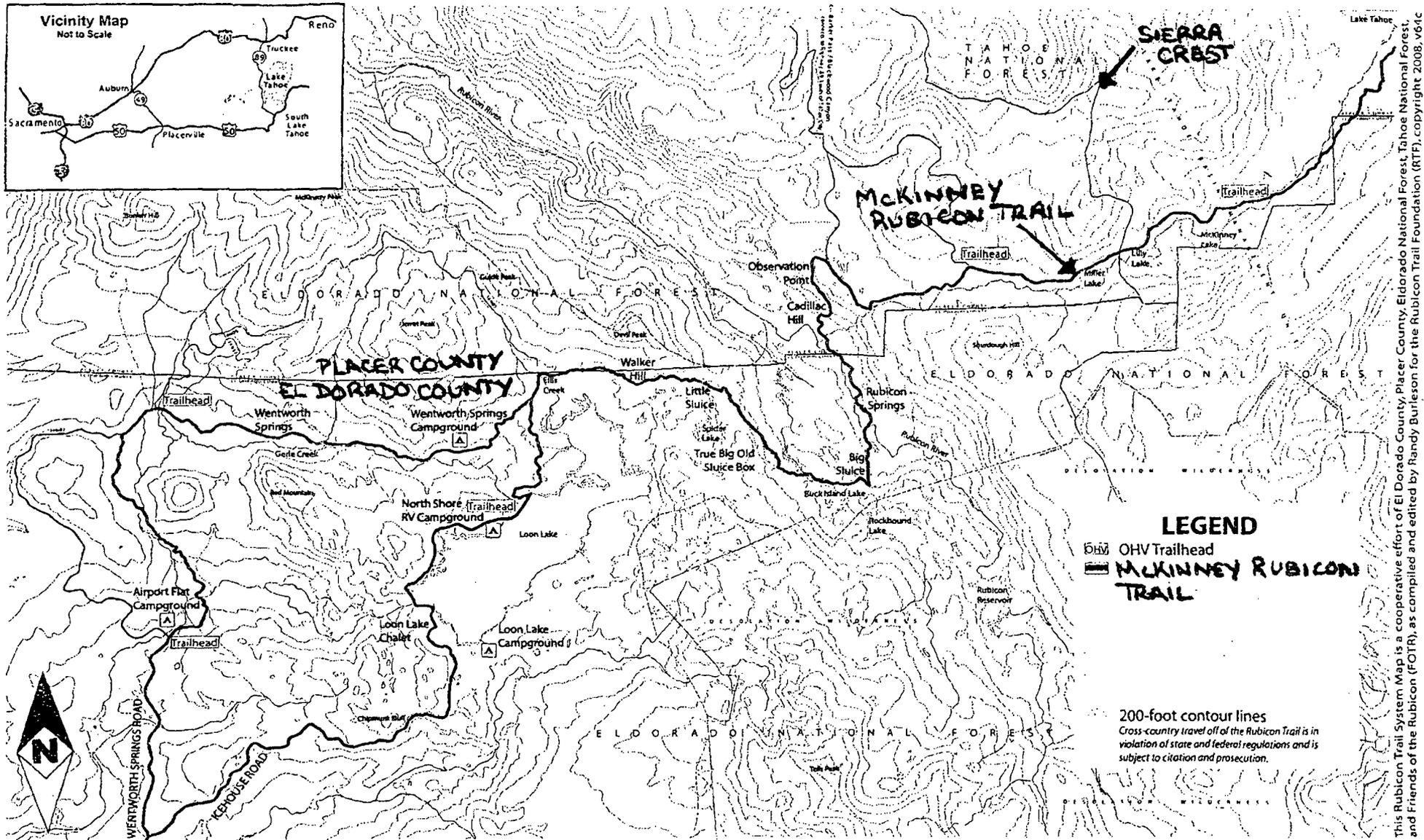
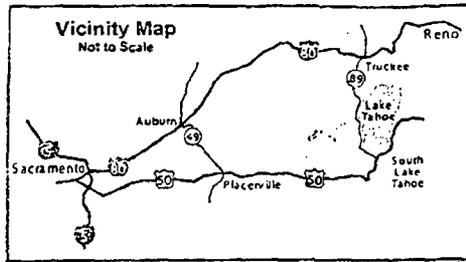
WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, the County has identified the Rubicon Trail Project and the Donner Pass Road Stabilization (Phase 2) Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals, and

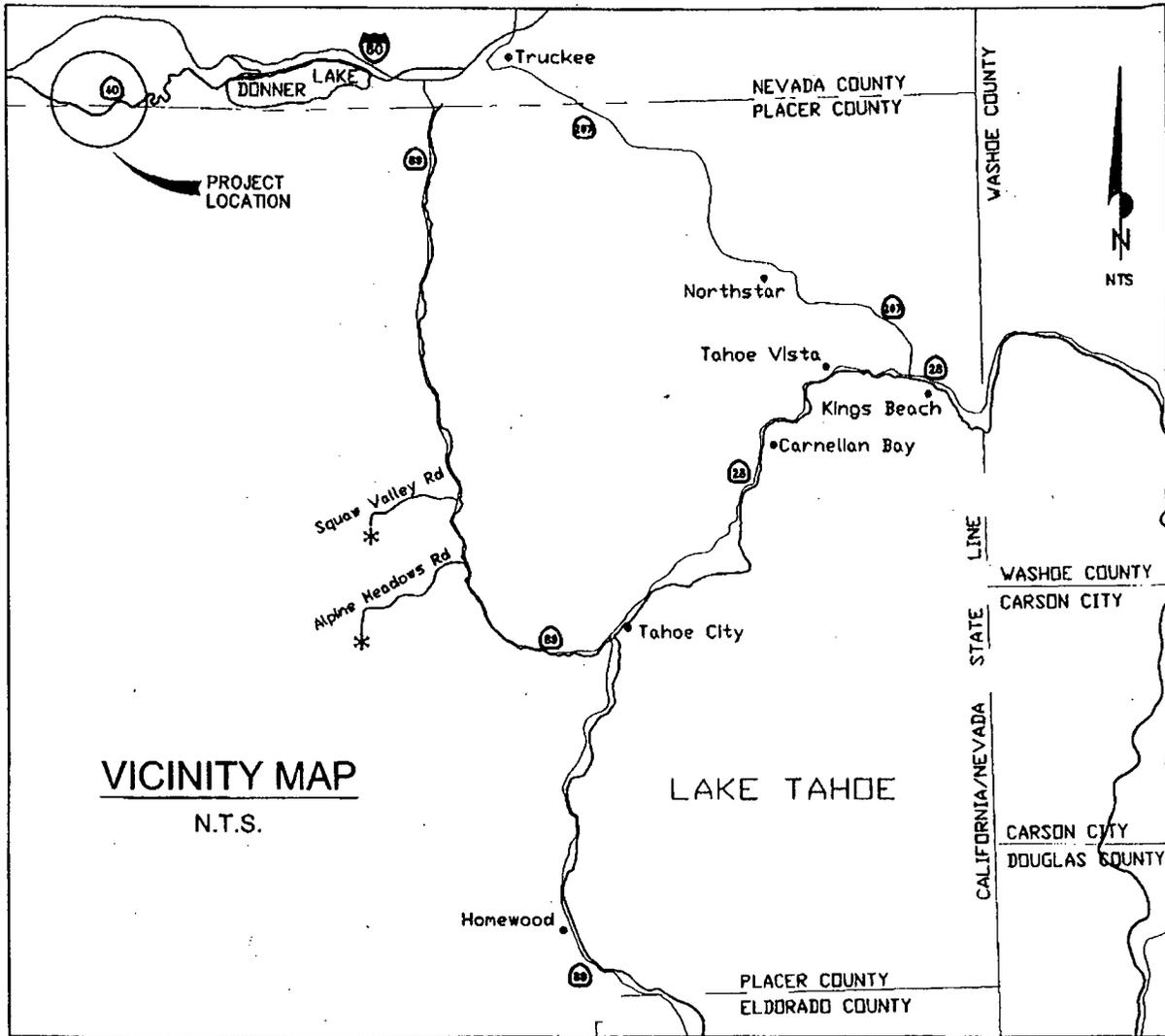
WHEREAS, the Rubicon Trail, although not a County roadway, is a public trail, and

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 Rubicon Trail Project and the Donner Pass Road Stabilization (Phase 2) Project; and
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application, and
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder 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 Applicant 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(s).

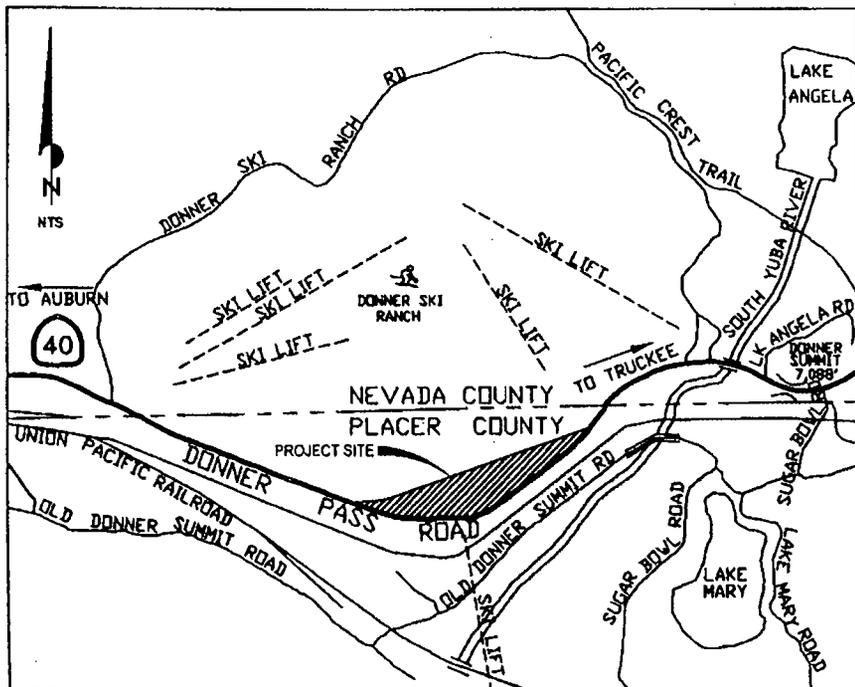


This Rubicon Trail System Map is a cooperative effort of El Dorado County, Placer County, Eldorado National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, and Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR), as compiled and edited by Randy Burleson for the Rubicon Trail Foundation (RTF), copyright 2008, v64c



**VICINITY MAP**

N.T.S.



**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

N.T.S.

**PLACER COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS**

**Donner Pass Road  
Slope Rehabilitation**

**VICINITY & LOCATION MAP**