



**MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
COUNTY OF PLACER**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
By: Jennifer Merchant, Deputy County Executive Officer

**DATE:** March 10, 2015

**SUBJECT:** North Lake Tahoe Resort Association FY 2015-16 Capital Project Recommendations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Merchant", written over the name of the Deputy County Executive Officer.

**Action Requested**

Approve North Lake Tahoe Transient Occupancy Tax infrastructure account expenditure in the total amount of \$1,481,609 for 10 projects, as detailed below, at no net cost to the County general fund.

**Background**

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

The Resort Association has implemented a new process this fiscal year for reviewing and approving requests for funding of capital projects. Previously, projects were considered and recommended for approval on a first-come first-served basis. Because the previous process created the possibility that funding would not be available for higher priority projects, a new annual "call for projects" process was established. In order to initiate the process with a fresh funding cycle, funding for the proposed projects is from the Resort Association's current fiscal year budget, but will not be available for allocation until July 1, 2015. The Resort Association's Capital Investment/Transportation Committee and Board of Directors have voted to recommend that the County Executive Office carry forward the following 10 projects for approval by your Board. In doing so, they affirm that the projects are consistent with the North Lake Tahoe Tourism and Community Investment Master Plan, which was approved by your Board in July 2004. The recommended projects have the potential to lead to significant improvements to the tourism infrastructure at North Lake Tahoe. Therefore, the following expenditures are being recommended by the County Executive Office for approval.

**Brief Project Descriptions / Funding Requests:**

**Truckee River Trail Restoration - \$433,859**

The requested funding would be used to pay for the first year of a three-year project for complete reconstruction of significant areas of the Truckee River Trail between 64-Acres Park and the entrance to Squaw Valley, repairing surface damage, shoulder failure and drainage/erosion issues. The reconstruction will facilitate an improved and safer surface for bicycling, walking and skating. The project will strengthen and improve the trail surface,

providing for 20 to 25 years of expected life span. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD). Total project cost for FY2015-16 totals approximately \$525,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by TCPUD. It is anticipated that a request for funding for years two and three of this project will be submitted to, and recommended for approval by, the Resort Association for FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18. Placer County and TCPUD are currently evaluating whether a partnership to combine the scope of work for this project and a portion of the Squaw Valley Bike Trail and Staging Area Rehabilitation project (described later in this report) would create economies of scale, resulting in a lower combined cost for both projects.

#### **Martis Valley Trail Segment 3A Planning and Development - \$250,000**

The funds requested will pay for design and construction of segment 3A (from the Wildlife Viewing Area to the east end of Northstar Golf Course) of the Northstar/Martis Valley Trail. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Northstar Community Services District on behalf of the Placer County Department of Facilities Services, Parks Division ("Parks Division"). Total project cost for segment 3A is \$1,920,505. The remainder of funding for segment 3A is to be provided by the Parks Division in the amount of \$1,500,000 in Park Dedication Fees, and by the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$254,000.

#### **Squaw Valley Bike Trail and Staging Area Rehabilitation - \$246,500**

This funding will pay for the costs of the first year of a two year project for major rehabilitation of the asphalt surfaces of the Squaw Valley Bike Trail and the Trail Staging Area located within Squaw Valley Park. Rehabilitation work will include crack sealing, structural stabilization and renewed wearing surfaces. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Parks Division. Total project cost for FY 2015-16 is \$280,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by the Parks Division. It is anticipated that a request for funding for the second year of this project will be submitted to and recommended for approval by the Resort Association for FY 2016-17. Placer County and TCPUD are currently evaluating whether a partnership to combine the scope of work for this project and the Truckee River Trail Restoration project (described earlier in this report) would create economies of scale, resulting in a lower combined cost for both projects.

#### **North Tahoe Regional Park Trail and Wayfinding Signage - \$135,000**

The funds requested would be utilized to provide trail improvements, wayfinding and interpretive signage leading to and within North Tahoe Regional Park in Tahoe Vista, as well as replacement of par course equipment in this popular, highly utilized park. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the North Tahoe Public Utility District. Total project cost is estimated at \$189,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by the North Tahoe Public Utility District.

#### **Tahoe Public Art Program – \$125,000**

This funding will provide for construction, installation, and marketing/promotion of public art in the Kings Beach Roundabouts. The funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by Tahoe Public Art, a program of North Tahoe Arts, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Total project cost is \$320,000. The remaining funding is to be raised by Tahoe Public Art through grants, donations and/or other fundraising methods. The Resort Association recommended disbursement of TOT funds to the project be conditioned upon Tahoe Public Art successfully raising the balance of the project funding.

**Tahoe City Mobility Improvements Plan - \$85,000**

This funding will allow the Placer County Department of Public Works, with assistance from a consulting firm, to perform preliminary engineering services of facilities identified in mobility improvements planning for Tahoe City and to conduct related environmental analysis. Final products will include preliminary design plans, specifications and engineer's estimate as well as an environmental document. The funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Placer County Department of Public Works. Total project cost is \$100,000. Placer County Department of Public Works will provide the remaining \$15,000.

**Tahoe City Parking Facilities Project Plan - \$85,000**

This funding will allow the Placer County Department of Public Works, with assistance from a consulting firm, to perform preliminary engineering services of public parking facilities identified in the parking study currently underway for Tahoe City and to conduct related environmental analysis. Final products will include preliminary design plans, specifications and engineer's estimate as well as an environmental document. Based upon preliminary results of the current parking study, it is likely that the proposed services would focus on preliminary design of an expanded Grove Street parking lot with vehicle access to pedestrian path connections to businesses and Highway 28 as appropriate. The funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Placer County Department of Public Works. Total project cost is \$100,000. Placer County Department of Public Works will provide the remaining \$15,000.

**Lake Tahoe Water Conditions Interactive Displays - \$65,000**

The funds requested will pay for design, fabrication and installation of touchscreen interpretive displays in three high visitation facilities in Placer County. The facilities have not been determined, but will be determined prior to TOT fund disbursement. These displays will use a proprietary software program which continuously measures near-shore Lake Tahoe water quality by reporting clarity, algal concentration, temperature and other variables every 30 seconds, 24 hours a day. The displays and related exhibits will serve to educate visitors on the benefits and value of environmental stewardship, as well as allow visitors to better plan water-based activities by having access to real-time lake water temperatures, surface currents, wind speeds and directions. The funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the U.C. Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC), developer of the software program. Total project cost is \$1,515,000. The remaining funding is being raised by TERC through grants, donations and other fundraising methods.

**Speedboat Beach Access Master Plan - \$50,000**

This project will provide for a study to address public safety and access issues at Speedboat Beach. Speedboat Beach is a small beach area, accessed from Lake Street in Brockway near the Nevada state line. Popularity of the beach has created significant crowding within the limited existing roadside parking on narrow residential streets, resulting in visitors parking off road and on private residential property. The study, which includes a public outreach component to facility users and the adjacent neighborhood, will consider potential pedestrian access improvements, informational and interpretive signage, parking solutions, and options for restroom facilities. The funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Parks Division. Total project cost is \$57,000. The Parks Division will provide the remaining \$7,000.

**Tahoe City Field Station Wayfinding Signage - \$6,250**

The funds requested will be utilized to pay for fabrication and installation of a wayfinding entrance sign at the front of the Tahoe City Field Station/Interpretive Center in Lake Forest utilizing the Resort Association's Wayfinding Signage Design Guidelines. The funding request

was submitted to the Resort Association by TERC. Total project cost is \$13,000. TERC is providing the remaining \$6,250.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The funding described above would come from TOT funds generated in the North Lake Tahoe area and currently held in the County Treasury for the purpose of capital project implementation in eastern Placer County. There are sufficient funds available to fund the amount of the requested total expenditure.

**Environmental Analysis:**

The Board of Supervisors' approval of the Resort Association's funding contribution to these projects is categorically exempt for CEQA per Guidelines 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 project applicants are responsible for undertaking environmental review of their respective project(s) per CEQA, if applicable. Allocation of the recommended funding toward project construction would occur only once any associated environmental analysis is certified as complete by the applicant.