



**MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
ADMINISTRATION**
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

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

DATE: March 8, 2016

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve North Lake Tahoe Transient Occupancy Tax infrastructure account expenditure in the total amount of \$2,203,500 for 11 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's Capital Investment/Transportation Committee and Board of Directors have voted to recommend that the County Executive Office carry forward the following 11 projects for approval by your Board. In doing so, they affirm that the projects are consistent with the North Lake Tahoe Tourism Master Plan, which was approved by your Board in October 2015. 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 - \$576,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for the second 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 FY 2016-17 is approximately \$652,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by TCPUD. It

is anticipated that a request for funding in the same amount for year three of this project will be submitted to, and recommended for approval by, the Resort Association for FY 2017-18.

Truckee River Access Trail Environmental Document - \$500,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for the assembly of a multi-agency (CEQA and NEPA) environmental document to facilitate permitting, design and construction of the preferred trail alignment that will connect the north end of the existing shared-use trail at Squaw Valley Road north to the Placer County line at the Town of Truckee near West River Street. The total trail distance is about 8 miles. Based on the level of complexity of the trail, Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities (DPWF) and Planning Services Division proposes a project level environmental document for the two 2-mile trail sections at the north and south ends of the project site, and a program level environmental document for the 4-mile trail section in between. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Placer County DPWF and the Planning Services Division, which are working jointly to complete this project phase.

Tahoe City Mobility Improvements Environmental Document - \$300,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for three multimodal project improvements for Tahoe City. These include: developing feasible trail alignment alternatives for Lakeside Shared-Use Trail connection between Commons Beach and Fanny Bridge; developing design alternatives of improved parking circulation and pedestrian mobility for access to downtown business core of Tahoe City; and developing design alternatives for improved pedestrian crossing facilities on State Route 28 in downtown Tahoe City. Based on the final planning products of the mobility study effort (funded by TOT and Tahoe City Public Utility District) and expected by the end of March 2016, the proposed improvements would be analyzed under a multi-agency environmental document to commence in July 2016. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities.

Tahoe City Ice Rink - \$300,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for a seasonal ice-skating rink in the Tahoe City Public Utility District's (TCPUD) Winter Sports Park. The goal is to locate and open the ice rink for the 2016-2017 winter season. The proposed ice rink is planned to be 50' x 80' and is a modular construction meaning it can be expanded in the future if desired. In addition to the ice rink infrastructure, components such as a Zamboni, ice refrigeration, generators and other necessary items will be included in the investment required to offer a quality ice skating experience. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the TCPUD, Tahoe City Downtown Association, and Tahoe City XC. Total project cost for FY 2016-17 totals \$400,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by public and private donors.

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

This funding will pay for costs of the second 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 2016-17 is \$246,500. 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 2017-18.

North Tahoe Shared-Use Trail Environmental Document - \$150,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for the assembly of a multi-agency environmental document to facilitate permitting of the preferred trail alignment that will connect the Cedar Flat neighborhood to the North Tahoe Regional Park. The project proposes a Class 1 or better shared-use trail, approximately 6 miles long extending the existing multi-use trail along the North Lake Tahoe area. The project provides for an extension to the existing Tahoe City multi-use trail network, linking residential, commercial and recreational uses. Existing TOT funding dedicated to this project of \$100,000 has not been expended yet as the tasks supported by that funding will not be complete until June 2016. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities.

TART Bus Shelter - \$65,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for construction of a Tahoe Area Regional Transit (TART) bus shelter at a high ridership location, continuing a multi-year effort to install attractive, durable, protective and long lasting facilities for transit riders at key bus stops along the TART routes in the North Lake Tahoe region. Based on ridership data, this shelter will be located in the eastbound direction on SR 28 in Kings Beach east of Coon Street. The proposed shelter will replicate previously-built TART shelters from consistency and user familiarity perspectives. Construction would occur in summer 2016. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities. Placer County will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the shelter.

Water Trail Wayfinding Interpretive Signage Phase 2 Production Project - \$25,000

The requested funding will ensure the production and development of sign panels and frames for signage at six public Launch Landing Areas within the North Lake Tahoe region of Placer County between March 2016 and September 2016. The Lake Tahoe Water Trail (LTWT) Signage Production Project is the second phase of the lake-wide educational Wayfinding Interpretive Signage Project managed by the Sierra Business Council (SBC). Educational LTWT signage will provide useful water safety and resource conservation tips, and navigable paddle routs and distances to locate public beach access to shoreline businesses, nearby hiking trails, historic sites, lodging and campgrounds. Signage will assist recreation providers to reach and communicate with the escalating paddler population concerning safety, regulatory restrictions,

and environmental stewardship. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the SBC. Total project cost for F 2016-17 totals approximately \$75,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by SBC.

Martis Valley Trail Segments 1B-2, 3A & 3B Design and Construction - \$25,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for a ten foot wide paved multipurpose recreation trail approximately 9 miles long connecting the Northstar Village with the Town of Truckee, and ultimately the Tahoe Basin, as well as existing paved and unpaved trails along its route. It is the intent of the Northstar Community Services District (NCSD) to implement construction of the trail in logical segments that provide useable links to existing trails and destination points as funding allows. Construction of future phases connecting the Village with the Tahoe Basin would be subject to funding availability and public demand. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the NCSD. Total project cost for Phase I is \$5.75 million. The balance of the funding is to be provided by the NCSD, Placer County, and state and federal transportation and recreation sources. Placer County Parks Division provided \$1.5 million to segment 3A in FY 2015-16.

Solar Powered Message Boards – Squaw/Alpine County Roads - \$10,000

The requested funding would be used to pay for a solar powered message board to enhance visitor experience at Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. The message board will expedite the flow of traffic on county roadways, as well as State Route 89, and alert visitors to road hazards or delays. In addition, the message board will provide community awareness of wildland fires, avalanche hazards or flooding, snow removal activity, mountain conditions, and parking conditions. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Total project cost for FY 2016-17 totals \$19,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Ski Resort.

Historic Donner Summit Gateway Welcome Sign & Visitor Kiosk - \$6,000

Funding for this project would be used to pay for Phase I of a two phase project for the planning and design of a welcome sign and visitor kiosk. Phase I will include community outreach, identification of constraints and regulations, and navigation through the regulatory process. As currently conceived, the Gateway will be located near the Soda Springs exit off I-80 onto Old Highway 40, or Donner Pass Road. It will consist of a large two-sided weather-proof “welcome” sign to greet visitors, with a small parking area to encourage visitors to stop for information. There will be a self-serve kiosk with brochures and maps to orient the visitor to the various sites, activities, and important historic features of the area. This funding request was submitted to the Resort Association by the Donner Summit Business Group. Total project cost for FY 2016-17 is \$10,000. The balance of the funding is to be provided by local ski area fundraising through the Donner Summit Area Association.

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.

