Appendix O. Letters of Support for Section 4(f)
O.1 Recreation Area Entrance Acquisition
January 12, 2006

RE: Proposed Kings Beach Improvement Project (4F Analysis)

Dear Mr. Grehm:

The North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon the street and pedestrian improvements associated with the County's Commercial Core Improvement Project for California State Route 28 in Kings Beach, California.

The NTPUD operates and manages the Kings Beach State Recreation Area (KBSRA) under an operating agreement with California State Parks. We manage and maintain the Coon Street Plaza area under a maintenance agreement with the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). These sites operate as one seamless site to the KBSRA and Coon Street Plaza user or visitor.

We understand that the proposed improvements located at the entrance to Kings Beach State Recreation Area and at Coon Street may impact the combined site(s) the NTPUD operates. We have reviewed the preliminary designs and feel that the project will have a positive impact on the properties and will significantly improve pedestrian and vehicle safety in the center of Kings Beach. The NTPUD strongly supports the Kings Beach Commercial Core Project because it will improve accessibility to the properties and contribute to a more favorable and aesthetic view from the properties and to those traveling on CA 29.

As the operator of these sites, we would also welcome the opportunity to work with County staff to determine if improvements could be made to the KBSRA parking lot and the Coon Street parking area to enhance existing parking capacity by better design of what presently exists.
We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the County on the implementation of this project.

Sincerely yours,

Steven R. Rogers,
General Manager/CEO

Copies:
Placer Co. DPW Truckee Office
Hayden Sohm, CA State Parks
Ray Lacey, CTC
Jennifer Merchant, Placer Co. CEO
Kathy Long, NTPUD P&F Manager
February 2, 2006

County of Placer
Department of Public Works
11444 B Avenue – De Witt Center
Auburn, CA 95603
Attn: Ken Grehm

RE: Proposed Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Grehm:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the streetscape and pedestrian improvements proposed as part of Placer County’s Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project (KBCCIP) for State Route 28 in Kings Beach. The Conservancy has several properties within the project area, and would like to ensure their optimal integration into the project.

It is my understanding that Conservancy properties west of Coon Street will not be directly impacted by the proposed improvements. The Conservancy therefore has no substantive concerns regarding the KBCCIP project as regards the recreational value of these parcels.

However, it does appear that, depending upon which alternative is selected, the parcel at the southeast corner of Coon and State Route 28 may be impacted. As we discussed last month, the Conservancy purchased this parcel (Placer County APN 090-134-001) in order to provide a revenue stream for maintenance of the adjacent Coon Street Plaza properties. Thus, while your proposed impact is minor when measured in square footage, we will be looking to an appraisal to determine the fiscal impact, if any.

We support the Commercial Core Improvement Project, and are eager to see it move forward. I am sure you understand, however, the Conservancy’s need to confirm that a minor reduction in the square footage of the above-referenced parcel will not excessively compromise our revenue generating potential. Please be sure to work in coordination with this office as you proceed toward appraisal, as it will be important to work with State-approved appraisers. Further, please note that any real estate transaction will require authorization by the Conservancy board.
The Conservancy remains committed to improvements in Kings Beach and throughout the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. We look forward to working with you on this and other projects. As always, do not hesitate to contact me at (530) 543-6038 if I can offer further clarification, or be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Ray Lacey
Program Coordinator, Public Access

Cc: Hayden Sohm
    Dan LaPlante
    Steven Rogers
    Scott Cecchi
County of Placer  
Department of Public Works  
11444 B Avenue – De Witt Center  
Auburn, CA 95603  
Attn: Ken Grehm

January 12, 2006

Dear Mr. Grehm:

We appreciate the opportunity to review the street improvements associated with the County’s Commercial Core Improvement Project for SR 28. We understand that the proposed improvements located at the entrance to King’s Beach State Recreation Area may impact State Park Property. We have reviewed the preliminary designs and feel that the project will have a very positive impact on the park. California State Parks supports this project because it will improve accessibility and contribute to a more favorable impression as visitors enter the park. We look forward to working with the County on the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hayden W. Sohm  
Sierra District Superintendent

CC: Steven Rogers  
Karl Knapp  
Ken Anderson

[Signature]  
Dan LaQuante
O.2 Proposed Vault and Media Filter Acquisition
February 27, 2007

County of Placer
Department of Public Works
11444 B Avenue – De Witt Center
Auburn, CA 95603
Attn: Ken Grehm

RE: Updated Comments Related to Proposed Kings Beach Improvement Project (4F Analysis)

Dear Mr. Grehm:

The North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) appreciates the opportunity to provide additional and updated comments related to proposed street and pedestrian improvements associated with the County’s Commercial Core Improvement Project for California State Route 28 in Kings Beach, California.

The NTPUD operates and manages the Kings Beach State Recreation Area (KBSRA) under an operating agreement with California State Parks. We manage and maintain the Coon Street Plaza area under a maintenance agreement with the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC). These sites principally operate as one seamless site to the user/visitor of KBSRA and Coon Street Plaza.

We understand that the proposed improvements located at the entrance to Kings Beach State Recreation Area and at Coon Street may impact the combined site(s) the NTPUD operates. We continue to be involved and participate in the review of the preliminary designs and feel that the project will have a very positive impact on the properties and improve pedestrian and vehicle safety in the center of Kings Beach. The North Tahoe Public Utility District strongly supports implementation of the Kings Beach Commercial Core Project because it will improve accessibility and contribute to a more favorable and aesthetic view from the properties and those traveling on CA 28. We do not believe a no project alternative is in the best interests of the community.

As the operator of these sites, we would also welcome the opportunity to work with County staff to determine if improvements could be made to both the KBSRA parking lot and the adjacent Coon Street parking areas to enhance existing parking capacity by better design of what presently exists.
We understand that there is new dialogue focused on the nature of the proposed water quality improvements necessary to support this project and that some of the proposed water quality mitigation projects may affect State owned property (Coon Street Plaza and Kings Beach State Recreation Area) managed or operated by the NTPUD. In this regard we would encourage the following considerations:

- Placer County employ measures to minimize to the maximum extent possible the temporary construction effects associated with the construction of water quality treatment facilities, especially during the peak summer season when the District generates parking and concession revenue to cover the operating expenses associated with these facilities.

- That any such facilities which might include basin reconfiguration and/or the construction of underground vaults and media filters will be operated and maintained by Placer County at a service level acceptable to the District and the State property owners or contracted out to the District to maintain and be reimbursed by the County.

In general, it is the NTPUD's belief that operation of these water quality improvement facilities would not negatively affect the use of the properties by the recreating public they are intended to serve. As the water purveyor for the Kings Beach area we strongly support efforts to improve the water quality and to minimize runoff into Lake Tahoe from the Kings Beach Commercial Core and areas upstream and downstream. We believe the completed Kings Beach Commercial Core Project, which includes both pedestrian safety improvements and water quality improvements as outlined the Projects Need/Purpose Statement will significantly improve the visitor's impression and access to the Kings Beach State Recreation Area.

We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the County on the implementation of this project.

Sincerely yours,

Steven R. Rogers,
General Manager/CEO

Copies:
Placer Co. DPW Truckee Office
Ken Anderson, CA State Parks
Ray Lacey, California Tahoe Conservancy
Jennifer Merchant, Placer Co. CEO
Kathy Long, P&R Manager
0.3 Emergency Access
11-1-07
Ken Grehm
Director of Public Works
County of Placer
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220
Auburn, CA 95604

SUBJECT: KINGS BEACH COMMERCIAL CORE ALTERNATIVES

Dear Mr. Grehm,

I have been asked once again to provide input on the above highway alternatives in Kings Beach. My comments are based on attending some of the community meetings and having had the opportunity to discuss the project with Sheriff’s Department Captain Jeff Granum. In fact Capt. Granum and I were provided a separate meeting to review and comment on project alternatives.

Prefacing my remarks, this Fire District is not a planning agency. We do not see ourselves as an agency that evaluates the value, socio-economic or otherwise, of any project against the potential for more traffic delays. The District’s primary concern with any project review is delivery of service. In this case I’m referring to fire engines and paramedic ambulances getting to the scene of an emergency as quickly and safely as possible. Life safety is always our number one concern followed by protection of property and the environment.

In reviewing the most recent preferred alternatives for Kings Beach, I don’t see either alternative as cause for concern. Red lights and sirens are typically needed and traffic usually yields the right of way to emergency responders. Downtown Tahoe City in many respects mimics the one alternative and in the 15 years I’ve been responding from the Tahoe City fire station it has never been a serious problem. Even on peak holidays, so long as the center turn lane remains open, the Fire District isn’t constrained from responding. I’ve discussed roundabouts with my colleagues with Truckee Fire District and don’t hear of problems. The bottom line is if emergency vehicles are to get through traffic, stopped vehicles must have room to pull over.

There is no question that traffic can slow our response in some respect. We just don’t feel it is our job to weigh that impact against what other agencies and the public envisions for the community.
One other point should be mentioned. There is no clear understanding, at least in my mind, what the long term commercial build-out of Kings Beach will look like. District vehicles, particularly fire engines, need to have room to set up operations on Highway 28. The preference is to do this without shutting down traffic. With the discussion of changes to height of structures, fire operations may need to stage farther from buildings in bicycle or traffic lanes causing potential traffic flow impacts.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

Duane L. Whitelaw
Fire Chief

Cc Dan LaPlante
Fire District Board of Directors