

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: September 9, 2008

FROM: KEN GREHM / ROBERT COSTA ^{KG} _{RGC}

SUBJECT: **APPROVE THE TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN**

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution:

1. Approving the draft Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan; and
2. Authorizing the Director of Public Works to approve any final revisions to the draft plan, and submit the plan to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

BACKGROUND

In July 2006, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan) designated that portion of Placer County situated within the Truckee River Watershed as a regulated Small Municipal Storm Sewer System, subject to coverage under a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In 2007, Lahontan directed that Placer County and the Town of Truckee develop and implement a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan and implementation schedule, under the authority of Section 13267 of the California Water Code. The monitoring plan is due to Lahontan by September 15, 2008.

The Lahontan monitoring directive also encompasses the water quality program envisioned by the County's Martis Valley Community Plan, Natural Resources implementation element number 18, which reads:

"The County shall work with the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board, the Army Corps Of Engineers, Truckee Tahoe Sanitation Agency, and private landowners to initiate a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to address the cumulative impacts on water quality in Martis Lake and the creeks which drain into it. The program shall strive to coordinate existing water quality monitoring efforts underway presently and modify those as necessary to create a comprehensive program."

As the Martis Valley area develops, on-going monitoring of water quality will provide information to support and guide future land use decisions, and will help define progress in the implementation of the County's Stormwater Management Plan.

On January 8, 2008, your Board authorized a Professional Services Contract with 2NDNATURE, LLC for the preparation of the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan (TRWQMP). The Town of Truckee has partnered with the County in the development of a single, comprehensive plan, resulting in a consistent approach and cost efficiencies. The plan preparation process has progressed smoothly, with significant public and stakeholder involvement. Though the plan is essentially complete, as of this date there are still minor revisions being made; the plan will be completed for submittal to Lahontan by September 15.

The TRWQMP was developed to meet a number of objectives, with the most important being the assessment of progress in meeting the goals of the County's and Town's stormwater quality protection programs, as defined in their respective Stormwater Management Plans. For Placer

County, a second important objective is the monitoring of water quality within the Martis Valley Community Plan area to insure that new development impacts are avoided or mitigated over time. A third objective is to demonstrate compliance with Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements established by Lahontan for the Truckee River and Squaw Creek.

The TRWQMP provides for a variety of monitoring types and locations intended to meet these objectives in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. Implementation of monitoring efforts is presented in a phased approach, with the first phase being a base level of effort that will meet most of the plan objectives, relies on existing monitoring efforts by others, and emphasizes monitoring in Martis Valley where some funding is available through an existing County Service Area (CSA). The second phase is a more-fully developed comprehensive monitoring effort designed to better satisfy the monitoring objectives. A third phase is defined as the on-going adaptive management of monitoring efforts to respond to changing conditions and informational needs over time. Monitoring implementation will be based upon availability of funding; this may result in partial or full implementation of described phases.

Placer County has been involved in the implementation of Stormwater Management Plans throughout much of the unincorporated areas of the County since 2003. These plans incorporate educational and outreach elements, public involvement, construction site controls, illicit discharge prevention, new development best management practices, and municipal operations improvements. The effectiveness of these actions and activities on protecting water quality is difficult to assess, as the goal is to influence and improve behaviors that impact water quality. Monitoring of water quality in a comprehensive way, over an extended timeframe, is the best way to determine if such actions are being effective.

In addition to the management plan efforts, Placer County continues to implement projects designed to reduce water quality impacts throughout the region, especially within the Lake Tahoe watershed. Currently, DPW has nearly 20 active water quality enhancement projects in process, representing a commitment of approximately \$35 million. A recent \$500,000 grant award from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will fund a slope stabilization and roadway shoulder rehabilitation project on Donner Summit, along Old Highway 40, for improvement of local water quality conditions outside of the Tahoe Basin.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Approval of the TRWQMP and its subsequent implementation are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Placer County Code Section 18.36.080 Class 6, Information Collection (CEQA Guidelines Section 15306).

FISCAL IMPACT

Full implementation of the TRWQMP Phase 1 within Placer County is estimated to cost \$389,000 annually, with first-year costs of up to \$621,000. Phase 2 would increase annual costs by an additional \$99,000. However, if overlapping current monitoring efforts being conducted by others continue, at their expense, annual costs to the County could be as low as \$136,000. Public Works intends to implement a portion of Phase 1, as funding becomes available. The first areas to begin monitoring will be the Martis Valley watershed and Squaw Creek.

Funding is available through Martis Valley Water Quality Monitoring County Service Area Zones of Benefit for monitoring in the Martis Creek watershed portion of the plan. This CSA currently provides approximately \$350,000 annually, and these funds are currently budgeted in DPW's FY2008/2009 budget. Grant funding is currently being sought to fund other portions of the Phase 1 monitoring. Should grant funds be secured, the current budget will be amended to include this funding.

A copy of the Draft Monitoring Plan
is on file w/Clerk of the Board for viewing

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

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION APPROVING
THE TRUCKEE RIVER WATER QUALITY
MONITORING PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ACT OF
BEHALF OF THE COUNTY IN ALL MATTERS
WITH THE STATE RELATING TO THE
SUBMITTAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PLAN.

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 County of Placer is a permittee under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Phase II Stormwater Quality Program within the Truckee River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, pursuant to Section 13267 of the California Water Code has required the preparation and submittal of a water quality monitoring plan within this NPDES permit area; and

WHEREAS, the County of Placer's 2003 Martis Valley Community Plan includes an implementation measure providing for development and implementation of a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan within said Community Plan boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan has been prepared by the County of Placer to fulfill these objectives and to provide valuable information on the condition, and future protection, of surface water resources within this watershed area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that this Board approves the Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Plan and authorizes the Director of Public Works to act on behalf of the County in all matters with the State of California related to the submittal and implementation of this monitoring plan.