



**M E M O R A N D U M**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**AND FACILITIES**  
**PARKS DIVISION**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: October 25, 2016

FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works and Facilities  
By: Peter Kraatz, Assistant Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Parks / Presentation / Speedboat Beach Master Plan Implementation Update

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Receive a updated on Speedboat Beach at Lake Tahoe regarding the status of master plan implementation.

**BACKGROUND**

At the April 19 Board of Supervisors meeting earlier this year, department staff presented to your Board master planning efforts as related to Speedboat Beach and recommended actions for this public area of Placer County. This Board report summarizes those actions and status of future tasks still to be completed.

As a reminder, Speedboat Beach is located at the base of the Brockway Vista neighborhood of Kings Beach adjacent to the Nevada State Line. The beach is a relatively small area (approximately 1,000 feet of shoreline) and its boulder strewn shoreline makes Speedboat Beach one of the most picturesque locations around Lake Tahoe. Placer County maintains a 40-foot wide easement, a mapped extension of Harbor Avenue, from Lake Street to the low-water line of Lake Tahoe, which provides public access to the beach via a pathway and stairs as depicted in the attached Speedboat Beach Map. Along the beach, to the east and west of this 40-foot easement area, the public is afforded access and beach use between the high-water and low-water marks of Lake Tahoe by virtue of the Public Trust doctrine administered by the California State Lands Commission, as depicted in the attached Speedboat Beach Map. The North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD) provides beach maintenance under contract with Placer County. Funding for this maintenance is derived from Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue.

Speedboat Beach has historically presented management challenges due to the limited parking and narrow roadways in the adjacent neighborhood, and the last four years of drought lowered the lake level and exposed more useable beach than in average rain years. In April 2015, the beach area (high-water elevation to current water elevation at that time) comprised about 1.8 acres and an average beach width of about 65 feet, but is narrower in years where the lake level is higher. Social media, the internet, and coverage by publications such as Sunset Magazine have also increased awareness of Speedboat Beach.

In response to this increased use, and the associated parking and behavioral problems, staff initiated a planning effort to address these issues and improve the supporting infrastructure. The goal of the planning work was to improve the existing conditions, and not to encourage expanded use. To support the plan, in 2015, the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) approved \$50,000 in TOT revenue from its Capital Investments Project Program.

At the April 19, 2016 Board meeting, staff recommended certain actions be implemented in order to monitor and better control vehicular parking, circulation and access conditions near the beach and the adjacent neighborhood. Your Board approved the first three actions by ordinance passage on April 19, 2016. The list of actions deployed included:

1. Increase parking violation fee from \$25 to \$100 (includes applicable regulatory signage) on certain county roads including Speedboat Avenue, Harbor Avenue, Lake Street, Dip Street, White Cap Lane a, effective May 2 to October 31 each year.
2. Demarcate a 'clear zone' and a loading/unloading zone on Harbor Avenue near Lake Street (includes applicable regulatory signage and pavement markings), effective May 2 to October 31 each year.
3. Modify and extend parking restriction areas on Speedboat Avenue, Harbor Avenue and White Cap Lane (includes applicable regulatory signage), effective May 2 to October 31 each year.
4. Fund the California Highway Patrol for this past summer only to increase officer presence on 33 days this summer to assist in enforcing new parking regulations.
5. Highlight to the public through the county website and weekly newsletters the above changes and remind users of alternative ways to access the beach through TART stops located at Crystal Bay, Nevada 0.4 miles from the beach and public parking facilities located 1 mile west in Kings Beach.
6. During this past summer, observe and monitor traffic behavior and volumes on the roads that access the beach and pedestrian use at the beach.

Separately from the actions above, a group of Brockway neighborhood residents worked directly with the county Sheriff's Office (SO) to fund their officers for increased patrolling during off duty periods this past summer and enforce applicable regulations on the beach and county roads.

As a result of the above actions, staff makes the following observations:

- Feedback to staff from Brockway residents was generally consistent in that parking conditions were more organized than in the past with users often complying with the new parking restrictions.
- Increased patrolling by SO and CHP officers resulted in the issuance of 117 parking citations by SO on the Brockway neighborhood county roads between May 15 and September 19 this year. We do not yet have a final count on the number of citations issued by CHP.
- Pedestrian use at the beach was quantitatively monitored during spring and summer months with a battery operated pedestrian counter installed along the boardwalk to the beach. Between May 28 and September 5 of this year, average weekday and weekend daily beach use was 394 and 635 visitors respectively. During the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend, the average daily beach use from July 2 to July 4 was 1,110 visitors.
- Traffic volumes were monitored between July 22 and July 28 this year on Speedboat and Harbor Avenues and compared with pedestrian volumes measured on those days. Highest hourly traffic occurred in the afternoons between 1:45 pm and 5:45 pm, and ranged from 187 vehicles on Speedboat to 320 vehicles on Harbor. During that week, daily use at the beach ranged from 495 to 807 daily visitors with the highest amount of beach visitation occurring on the weekends. However, the highest amount of vehicular traffic occurred roughly midweek. The conclusion here would be that the beach use does not necessarily create more vehicular traffic than the regular weekday PM peak hour traffic that we would typically expect from a residential area.
- On many summer days (particularly weekends and holidays), observations were made that every available legal parking space on the county roads was being used and overflow parking would tend to occur on Yacht Street where no formal parking signage or parking restriction ordinance is deployed. As a result, staff has responded by installing signage at either end of Yacht that requires no county ordinance for enforcement purposes. It informs motorists that parking on this road by which you block the travel lane or access to a driveway can result in a parking violation and towing.
- In addition, on many summer days (particularly weekends and holidays), observations were made that beach users were parking in the CalNeva private parking lot at the east end of White Cap Lane. This private property owner is simply being a good neighbor and allowing the public to park their vehicles there for free without restrictions (other than signing their property to discourage overnight parking or camping). Obviously, county staff does not

promote such use of someone's private property, but it's an important observation from the perspective that if this 'good neighbor' parking situation changes, parking conditions in the Brockway neighborhood during peak beach visitation periods could worsen.

As a result of staff observations, it is recommended that the parking ordinances passed earlier this year remain in effect along with the additional signage added to Yacht Street. In addition, there may be comments received from the public recommending changes. Staff will review and respond to those requests as and when they occur. Staff does not recommend funding CHP for increased patrolling in the future as staff would contend that the increased CHP presence in the first season of enacting the new parking regulations should be sufficient and that normal CHP patrolling on these county roads in the future should also be sufficient. However, should local residents wish to fund additional CHP enforcement in the future, staff would assist in facilitating any necessary arrangements.

Staff has no other recommendations with the Board report pertaining to vehicular parking, circulation and access conditions at this time. Staff can certainly consider continuing to monitor and report on beach use in subsequent years if desired by the Board.

Should Brockway neighborhood residents desire future increased SO patrolling, that would be determined and negotiated separately between SO and the residents, as has been the case this year and previous years.

Other components of the Speedboat Beach Master Plan include facility improvements consisting of informational signs and interpretive panels for the beach visitor, retrofitting pedestrian access to the beach (boardwalk and stair improvements), and installation of permanent restrooms for beach visitors. These improvements are all in the design and permitting stages and are expected to be constructed in 2017 depending on funding availability.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The actions of this report are for informational purposes only and as such are exempt under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15306, "Information Collection".

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

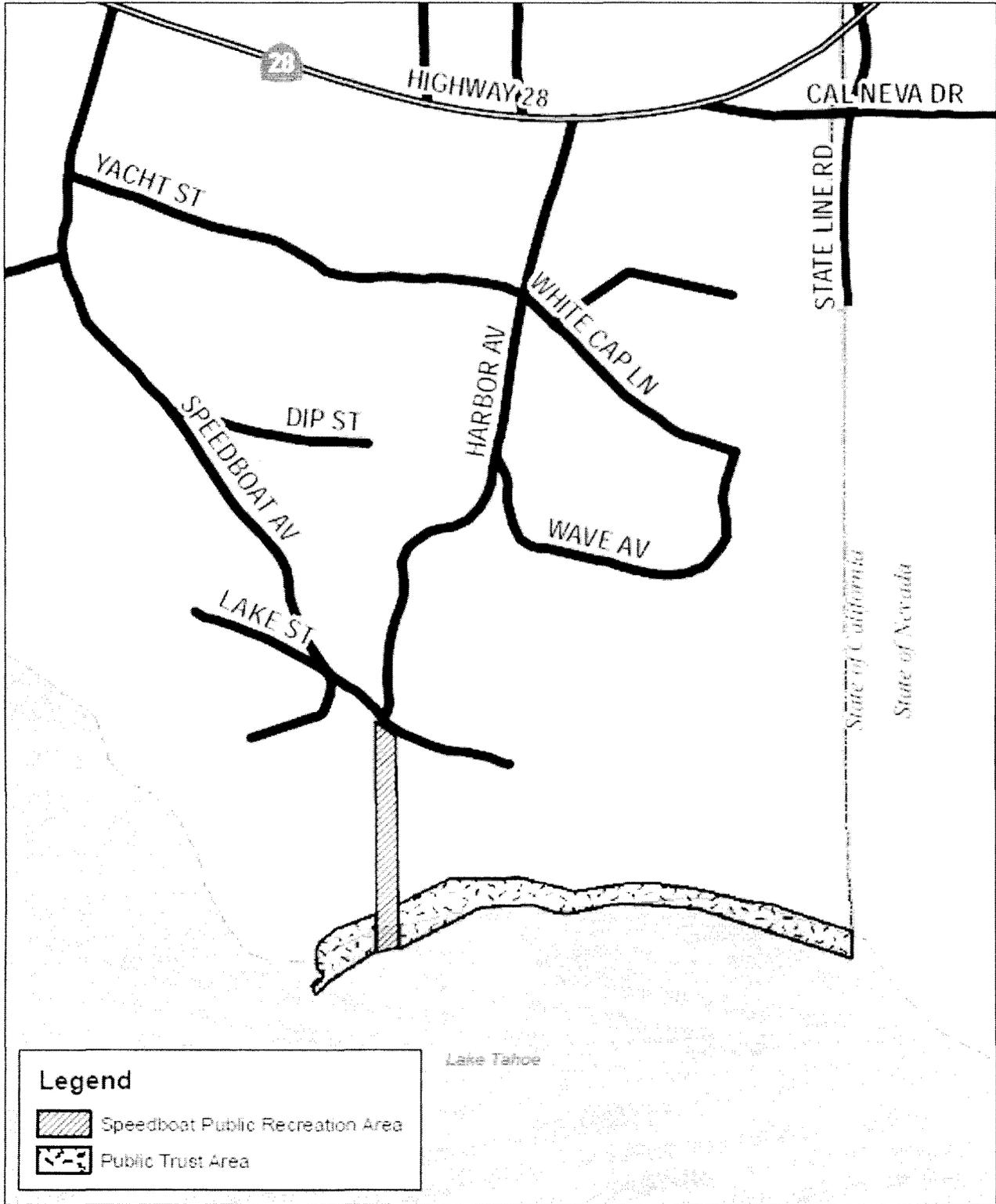
The Speedboat Beach master planning efforts are being funded through an allocation of TOT Capital Investment/Transportation Fund and previously budgeted staff time of the supporting departments. Once the design is completed for facility improvements, staff will return to your Board with a recommendation for implementation funding.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Speedboat Beach Map  
Current Parking Restriction/Loading Zone Map

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# Speedboat Beach Map



# Brockway Parking Restrictions

