

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

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Supervisor Bruce Kranz  
By: Jennifer Merchant, Principal Management Analyst 

**DATE:** July 23, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Issues Related to Fourth of July Holiday Misconduct on the Truckee River

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**ACTION REQUESTED:** Receive a report from Supervisor Kranz on Issues Related to Fourth of July Holiday Misconduct on the Truckee River and provide appropriate direction to staff.

**BACKGROUND:** For decades, the Truckee River has played a central role in summer recreation experience at North Lake Tahoe. While law enforcement efforts are significantly broadened over the holiday period throughout the North Lake Tahoe area, the Truckee River is growing as a significant epicenter for various alcohol-related incidents. The growth may be related to a holiday alcohol ban on the American River in Sacramento County, as well as other rivers in Northern California.

This year, the problems have increased to unprecedented proportions. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District reports four medical calls to the river on July 4<sup>th</sup>, one as a result of a near-fatal accident. Even given the maximization of law enforcement resources through cooperative efforts with regional state, federal and local agencies, resources are taxed beyond their limits. Data collected by Placer County Environmental Health shows that the number of rafts floating the river doubled over last year, while business on the Placer County-permitted rafting operators was cut in half.

Environmental degradation such as trampled river banks, excessive litter and loss of water clarity were also documented.

Because the Truckee River, its banks and other ingress and egress points are under a patchwork of state, federal and private ownerships and jurisdictions, any resolution will require a multi-agency approach.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This is a discussion for the purpose of providing an opportunity to provide direction to staff. No funding is being requested at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Provide appropriate direction to staff.

