

# BOARD TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**FROM:** MICHAEL J. JOHNSON, AICP - Director of Planning  
**SUBJECT:** Placer Legacy Program Update - Waddle Ranch  
**DATE:** December 11, 2007

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**SUMMARY:** This information is being presented to provide the Board as a follow up to the October 2, 2007 decision to support the acquisition of the Waddle Ranch in Martis Valley.

**BACKGROUND:** On October 29, 2007 an important conservation achievement was made when the \$23.5 million Waddle Ranch was purchased by the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) with the financial support of the County of Placer. Placer County, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), and TDLT and a number of other private and public partners successfully completed the 1,481-acre acquisition. Placer County's initial contribution was \$5.3 million with a commitment to provide an additional \$4.7 million. This \$10 million commitment represents the largest single contribution by any one entity. Other funding partners include:

- California Wildlife Conservation Board - \$6.5 million
- Truckee Donner land Trust - \$1.15 million
- The California Resources Agency - \$2.025 million
- Truckee Tahoe Airport District - \$3 million
- Capital Campaign/Fund Raising - \$2 million

**DISCUSSION:** Waddle Ranch is directly adjacent to the Martis Creek Lake National Recreation Area and is within both Placer and Nevada Counties. It has been privately owned since the 1850s; used primarily for grazing cattle and harvesting timber. It remains the most biologically diverse property in the Martis Valley, providing habitat for deer, birds, mountain lion, black bear, and critical watershed areas to Martis Creek.

Over the past year, Placer County staff has worked with TDLT and TPL to develop a conservation easement and the associated documents that would lead to the conservation and public use of the property. The Truckee Tahoe Airport District will ultimately hold fee title to the property, with a conservation easement held by TDLT and third party rights held by the County of Placer. The conservation easement provides public access to the property, which will include a range of passive recreational activities including hiking, mountain biking, fishing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, and picnicking. The protection of Waddle Ranch as permanent open space would link Martis Creek Lake National Recreation Area with the Tahoe National Forest and, potentially, other open space properties that may be acquired in the future.

After being closed to the public for 50 years the public is now invited to discover Martis Valley's newest public resource.

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