

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
Submitted by: Jennifer Merchant, Principal Management Analyst

DATE: August 26, 2008

SUBJECT: Approve the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's proposed expenditure of \$190,000 in budgeted infrastructure funds for Design and Permitting of a Class I Bike Trail Connection in Homewood in the amount of \$165,000, Phase I of the Tahoe City Historic Walking Tour in the amount of \$8,000, and Permanent Speed Limit Advisory/Radar Detector Signs for SR 28 in Kings Beach in the amount of \$17,000.

Action Requested

Approve the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association's proposed expenditure of \$190,000 in budgeted infrastructure funds for Design and Permitting of a Class I Bike Trail Connection in Homewood in the amount of \$165,000, Phase I of the Tahoe City Historic Walking Tour in the amount of \$8,000, and Permanent Speed Limit Advisory/Radar Detector Signs for SR 28 in Kings Beach in the amount of \$17,000.

Background

In 1996 voters in Eastern Placer County approved a two percent increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which could fund focused infrastructure, transportation, visitor services and marketing improvements in that area. To administer these programs, Placer County has entered into an annual agreement with the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association. This agreement requires NLTRA to receive approval from the Board of Supervisors prior to expenditure from the infrastructure portion of the agreement budget.

The Resort Association's Infrastructure Committee and Board of Directors have determined that the following projects are consistent with the Resort Association's Tourism and Community Development Master Plan. This Plan was approved by your Board in July 2004. Therefore, the following NLTRA infrastructure expenditures are being recommended for approval.

Brief Project Description / Funding Request:

Class I Bike Trail Connection in Homewood- \$165,000

The recommended Infrastructure Fund request will fund Phase I of the Homewood Bike Trail Project, which includes bike trail design and project permitting. Phase I is expected to be complete by the end of the year. This trail section in Homewood is one

mile in length and will connect two existing Class I trails, replacing one of the most unsafe sections in the Tahoe City Public Utility District bike trail system. Construction is expected to take place starting Spring 2009. The funding request is being matched by an equal amount from the California Tahoe Conservancy. Construction costs are currently estimated at \$1.1 million and funding is being requested from the Conservancy and Placer County Park Dedication Fees. The trail will be maintained by the TCPUD.

Phase I - Planning, for the Tahoe City Historic Walking Tour- \$8,000

The recommended Infrastructure Fund request will fund Phase I, Planning, for the Tahoe City Walking Tour project. The project includes five phases and will ultimately result in implementation of a self-guided walking tour highlighting points of interest related to Tahoe City's many cultural heritage resources. The total project will include kiosks at start and end points, markers, plaques, signage, guidemap and other educational tools. The estimated total project cost is \$90,000, of which a minimum of 30 percent is planned to be funded with non-Transient Occupancy Tax funding sources. Phase I will develop initial project research, design, permitting and project element cost estimates. The project is being led by the Tahoe City Downtown Association in order to enhance the cultural and historic tourism experience in Tahoe City.

Permanent Speed Limit Advisory/Radar Detector Signs for SR 28 in Kings Beach- \$17,000

The recommended Infrastructure Fund request will fund four solar powered radar speed detector signs for the Kings Beach Commercial Core area. SR 28 in Kings Beach suffers from vehicle accidents, injury and deaths at a rate four times higher than the statewide average. The trend is partially attributable to high rates of speed in a pedestrian-oriented beachside community. The signs will identify the speed limit and detect and display the speed of passing cars so motorists are aware if they are exceeding the speed limit. The project is expected to reduce automobile speeds, improve public safety and enhance the tourism experience. It is recommended by the North Tahoe Business Association and will be permitted, installed, owned and maintained by the Placer County Department of Public Works.

Fiscal Impact: The funding described above would come from budget funds designated for infrastructure improvements in the FY 2008-2009 County-North Lake Tahoe Resort Association Agreement. There are sufficient funds available within this budget category to cover the amount of the requested expenditure approval.

Environmental Analysis: The Board of Supervisor's approval of the NLTRA's expenditure funding contribution to this infrastructure project is categorically exempt from CEQA per Section 15061, which provides a general rule that if an activity does not have the potential to cause a significant environmental effect, it is exempt from CEQA. The specific projects were and continue to be evaluated under CEQA by the corresponding lead agencies.

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