

STAFF REPORT

Date: June 21, 2023

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Release of City of South Lake Tahoe Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Mitigation Funds (\$25,000) for Microplastic Beach Clean Up

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve The City of South Lake Tahoe’s request, subject to the conditions cited below. The request is consistent with the Environmental Improvement Program objectives, Chapter 60 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, and the Governing Board’s policy guidelines for the release of mitigation funds.

Required Motion: To approve the requested release, the Board must make the following motion:

- 1) A motion to approve the release subject to the conditions contained in this memorandum.

In order for the motion to pass, an affirmative vote of any eight Board members is required.

Table 1 Proposed Funding Release			
EIP #	PROJECT	Fund	Amount
04.02.02.0012	Microplastic Beach Clean Up	O&M	\$25,000.00
	Total Funding Requested		\$25,000.00

Project:

The City of South Lake Tahoe, in partnership with the League to Save Lake Tahoe, is requesting O&M funds for the Microplastic Beach Clean Up Project (EIP # 04.02.02.0012). This EIP Stewardship Program Project proposes the use of innovative technology, the ECO-CLEAN Bot, to safely remove micro plastics from Lake Tahoe beaches within the City of South Lake Tahoe.

The ECO-CLEAN Bot is an all-electric, solar + battery powered beach sifting robot that sifts and cleans beaches without causing harmful degradation to the native flora and fauna. The ECO-CLEAN BOT has the ability to clean over 3,000 sq/meters of beach per hour, without emitting any fossil fuels. The project proponents, the City of South Lake Tahoe and the League to Save Lake Tahoe, believe that this tool will change the way local agencies, jurisdictions, resorts, and private residences clean their beaches.

Removal of harmful micro plastics and debris is critical to preserving Lake Tahoe and this work will help the City of South Lake Tahoe meet the statewide Trash Reduction mandates for urban stormwater discharge National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittees.

Funding Match:

Operations and maintenance fund releases requires a 1:1 local funding match. For this project, the City of South Lake Tahoe is requesting the mitigation funds be released directly to the League to Save Lake Tahoe who has already secured matching funds.

City of South Lake Tahoe – Local Funding Match			
	Mitigation Funds	Local Match	Total Budget
League to Save Lake Tahoe Funds		\$25,000	\$25,000
O&M Mitigation Funds	\$25,000		\$25,000
Total	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000

The account balance for the Operations and Maintenance fund for The City of South Lake Tahoe as of March 31, 2023 is \$407,196.36 which is sufficient to cover this request.

Conditions: Staff recommends approving the release of these funds subject to the following conditions of approval:

1. The recipient shall only use the funds for the project cited above and as approved by TRPA.
2. TRPA reserves the right to withhold funds to ensure project priorities, goals, and objectives are consistent with those of the Environmental Improvement Program and TRPA’s Regional Plan.
3. The City agrees to follow all laws, codes, and regulations adopted by federal, state, and local authorities/agencies.
4. The City agrees to maintain a report detailing the use and expenditures of all funds used on the project. These records shall be made available for review and audit by TRPA within thirty (30) calendar days upon written request.
5. All mitigation funds not used as described above shall be returned to TRPA. Upon written approval from TRPA, these funds may be re-allocated to another project.

6. These funds may not be used for design studies, environmental documents, application costs, or other pre-design tasks.
7. By acceptance of the Operations and Maintenance funds the City agrees to match these funds 1:1 with local funding.
8. The City agrees to report the applicable EIP Performance Measures achieved by this project.

Regional Plan Compliance: The proposed project is consistent with the TRPA Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances.

Contact Information: For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Tracy Campbell at (775) 589-5257 or tcampbell@trpa.gov.

Attachment:

- A. EIP Project Fact Sheet

Attachment A

EIP Project Fact Sheet
Microplastics Beach Clean Up – City of South Lake Tahoe

