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STAFF REPORT

Date: January 27, 2022

To: TRPA Hearings Officer

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: Brodsky Land Capability Challenge; 649 Alpine View, Washoe County, Nevada;
APN 131-212-13, TRPA File Number LCAP2021-0198

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the TRPA Hearings Officer approve the Land capability challenge on the subject parcel. The challenge changes Class 1b-20,553 sq. ft. (100 percent of parcel) to Class 4-20,553 sq. ft. (100 percent of parcel).

Required Motion:

In order to approve the proposed land capability challenge, the Hearings Officer must make the following motion, based on the staff report:

- 1) A motion to approve the proposed land capability challenge.

Staff recommends that the Hearings Officer take the following actions, based on this staff report.

Background:

The subject parcel is shown as Class 1b- Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) on TRPA Land Capability Overlay Maps (aka Bailey Land Capability maps). The Soil Conservation Service *Soil Survey of Tahoe Basin Area, California-Nevada* (Rogers, 1974) places the subject parcel in the M_{SE}, Meeks very stony loamy coarse sand, 15 to 30 percent slope mapunit (Class 1a). A Land Capability Verification (LCV) completed in 1999 verified the entire parcel as 1b-SEZ. The updated *Soil Survey of Tahoe Basin Area, California and Nevada* (NRCS, 2007) maps this parcel as mapunit 7485- Meeks gravelly loamy coarse sand, 15 to 30 percent slopes. This parcel has a geomorphic mapping of E1 for Moraine Lands, undifferentiated (Moderate hazard lands). The Meeks soils formed in glacial outwash and moraines from primarily granitic parent material. Meeks soils have a very stony loamy coarse sand A-horizon, with gravelly and very gravelly loamy coarse sand subsurface textures. A weakly cemented silica horizon occurs between depths of 41 to 70 inches. A thin (1 millimeter thick) silica lamina occurs on the surface of this horizon.

A Land capability challenge (LCAP2021-0198) was filed by David Herzog on behalf of owners Michael and Kendra Brodsky on July 9, 2021. A private soil consultant was not retained for this Land capability challenge. TRPA consultant, Marchel Munnecke, visited the site on September 23, 2021. One soil pit was excavated by backhoe and described.

Findings:

One soil pit was excavated by backhoe to 12 feet as part of a soil hydrologic application. The upper 65 inches was described for this land capability challenge. The pit was located approximately 15 feet southeast of the southeast side of the residence. This soil formed in colluvium and debris material from primarily volcanic parent material. This soil is characterized by a gravelly loam surface texture, with very stony loam, very stony sandy loam, very cobbly sandy clay loam, very gravelly silt loam and extremely gravelly silt loam subsurface textures. From 35 to 65 inches the soil is unsorted and has inclusions of various material including silty alluvial material, pieces of volcanic mud flow rocks, and colluvium. There is also ash mixed in the soil from 43 to 55 inches. Beginning at 65 inches are layers of weathered volcanic mud flow material. At 138 inches is a soil layer with a light gray color, a silty clay texture, and 15% yellowish brown redoximorphic concentrations. These features indicate a seasonal high-water table at this depth (11.5 feet). This soil is very deep, well drained, and is a member of Soil Hydrologic Group B. The vegetation is dominated by a white fir, incense cedar and Jeffrey pine forest with creeping snowberry dominant in the understory. There are also patches of Sierra current, a few Scouler's willows, and one aspen tree with suckers near the front of the residence.

In the Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Tahoe Basin Area, California-Nevada (Rogers, 1974), the Meeks soils are partially defined by a silica cemented layer at depths of 41 to 70 inches, and form in glacial outwash and moraine material from primarily granitic parent material. This soil lacks a silica cemented layer and has formed in primarily volcanic material. It has finer textures than the Meeks soil and has a mixed soil that appears to be from debris flow deposits. This soil is taxonomically the same as the Jorge soil which is mapped in the vicinity in the 2007 soil survey. However, this soil has finer textures at depth and may have formed in debris flow deposits and has a very different appearance from the Jorge soil. This soil is dissimilar to the Tahoma soils because it has more rock fragments. This soil is dissimilar to any soils mapped in the 1974 Soil Survey. Table 4 in the *Land-Capability Classification of the Lake Tahoe Basin, California and Nevada* is utilized to classify unnamed soils. Based on Table 4 this parcel is Class 4- XXX 16-30 percent slopes.

This parcel was mapped as 100% SEZ in a 1999 land capability verification. The Bailey Land Capability GIS layer shows this area as Class 1b- SEZ (see photographs, Image 3). This layer has additional areas identified as SEZ that were not mapped in the 1974 Soil Survey. The 1974 Soil Survey maps this area as MsE- Class 1a (see photographs, Image 4). TRPA has not officially adopted the Bailey Land Capability SEZ layer, but it is used for preliminary LCV review. There is no evidence of primary or secondary SEZ indicators on this parcel. There is a creek drainage approximately 110 feet to the northwest of this parcel. The vegetation on this parcel is upland conifer forest with creeping snowberry in the understory. There are a few Scouler's willows present, but they are not continuous, and do not have the associated species to indicate the primary SEZ vegetation type of Willow Thicket as described in the Appendix of *The Vegetation of the Lake Tahoe Region* (TRPA 1971). There is no evidence of surface flow, and the depth to the seasonal high-water table was 11.5 feet below the ground surface.

The table below summarizes the changes in land capability as concluded by this land capability challenge.

Land Capability District	Area (sq. ft.)	
	1999 LCV	2022 LCC
Class 1b (SEZ)	20,553	0
Class 4 (XXX, 16 to 30 % slopes)	0	20,553
Total Parcel Area	20,553	20,553

This memorandum was jointly prepared by Senior Planner, Julie Roll. If you have questions on this Hearings Officer item, please contact Julie Roll, 775-589-5247, or email at jroll@trpa.gov.

BAILEY LAND CAPABILITY CHALLENGE FINDINGS

Site Information	
Assessor's Parcel Numbers: (APN)	131-212-13
TRPA File No. / Submittal Date:	LCAP2021-0198 / 7/9/2021
Owner or Applicant:	David Herzog
Address:	PO Box 105, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

Environmental Setting	
Bailey Soil Mapping Unit¹ / Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) / Land Class / Geomorphic Hazard Unit	MsE, Meeks very stony loamy coarse sand, 15 to 30 percent slope mapunit, Class 1a/ HSG B/ E1- Moraine Land, undifferentiated (Moderate erosion hazard)
Soil Parent Material	Colluvium over debris flows over volcanic mud flows
Slopes and Aspect	23 to 29 percent; sloping southwest.
Elevation and Datum	6,766 to 6,814 feet, Google Earth
Rock Outcrops and Surface Configuration	Uniform slightly convex slope. No rock out crops on the parcel or in the area.
SEZ and Hydrology Source	There is a drainage approximately 110 feet to the northwest of this parcel. The vegetation on this parcel is upland conifer forest with creeping snowberry in the understory. There are a few Scouler's willow present, but they are not continuous, and do not have the associated species to indicate the Willow Thicket vegetation type as described in the Appendix of <i>The Vegetation of the Lake Tahoe Region</i> (TRPA 1971). There is no evidence of surface flow, and the depth to the seasonal high-water table was 11.5 feet below the ground surface.

¹ TRPA currently relies upon the Soil Survey of Tahoe Basin, California-Nevada (Rogers and Soil Conservation Service, 1974), which the Bailey Land Capability system is predicated upon.

Vegetation	The vegetation is dominated by a white fir, incense cedar and Jeffrey pine forest with creeping snowberry dominant in the understory. There are also patches of Sierra current, a few Scouler's willows and one aspen tree with suckers near the front.
Ground Cover Condition	Good (vegetation 85 %, duff/mulch 65 % cover)
Site Features	Residence, garage, retaining walls, stairways, walkways, several decks, A/C driveway.

Field Investigation and Procedures	
Consultant and Address	Marchel Munnecke (TRPA consultant) PO Box 1015 Twin Bridges, CA 95735
TRPA Staff Field Dates	September 23, 2021
SEZ Mapping / NRCS Hydric Soil	None present
Number of Soil Pits or Auger Holes and Description Depth	1 pit excavated by backhoe to 12 feet that was described for this challenge to 65 inches.
Additional or Repetitive TRPA Sample Locations	NA
Representative Soil Profile Descriptions	Ms. Munnecke's soil profile description, see attached.
Areas Not Examined	Residence, garage, retaining walls, stairways, walkways, several decks, A/C driveway.

TRPA Findings	
2006 Soil Survey Map Unit	7485- Meeks gravelly loamy coarse sand, 15 to 30 percent slopes (Class 1a)
Consultant Soil Mapping Determination and Rationale	Based on slopes and soil characteristics this parcel is entirely mapped as capability Class 4- XXX, 16 to 30 percent slopes. In the <i>Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Tahoe Basin Area, California-Nevada</i> (Rogers, 1974), the Meeks soils are defined by a silica cemented layer at depths of 41 to 70 inches, and form in glacial outwash and moraine material from primarily granitic parent material. This soil lacks a silica cemented layer and has formed in primarily volcanic material. It has finer textures than the Meeks soil and has a mixed soil that appears to be from debris flow deposits. This soil is taxonomically the same as the Jorge soil which is mapped in the vicinity in the 2007 Soil Survey.

	<p>However, this soil has finer textures at depth and may have formed in debris flow deposits and has a very different appearance from the Jorge soil. This soil is dissimilar to the Tahoma soils because it has more rock fragments. This soil is dissimilar to any soils mapped in the 1974 Soil Survey. Table 4 in the <i>Land-Capability Classification of the Lake Tahoe Basin, California and Nevada</i> is utilized to classify unnamed soils. Based on Table 4 this parcel is Class 4- XXX 16-30 percent slopes.</p> <p>This parcel was mapped as 100% SEZ in a 1999 land capability verification. The Bailey Land Capability GIS layer shows this area as Class 1b- SEZ (see photographs, Image 3). This layer has additional areas identified as SEZ that were not mapped in the 1974 Soil Survey. The 1974 Soil Survey maps this area as MsE- Class 1a (see photographs, Image 4). TRPA has not officially adopted the Bailey Land Capability SEZ layer, but it is used for preliminary LCV review. There is no evidence of primary or secondary SEZ indicators on this parcel. There is a creek drainage approximately 110 feet to the northwest of this parcel. The vegetation on this parcel is upland conifer forest with creeping snowberry in the understory. There are a few Scouler's willows present, but they are not continuous, and do not have the associated species to indicate the primary SEZ vegetation type of Willow Thicket as described in the Appendix of <i>The Vegetation of the Lake Tahoe Region</i> (TRPA 1971). There is no evidence of surface flow, and the depth to the seasonal high-water table was 11.5 feet below the ground surface.</p>
Slope Determination	23 to 29 percent slopes.
TRPA Conclusion(s)	TRPA concurs with consultants' determination and rationale above.
Applicable Area	See parcel map for soil delineations.

Contact Information:

This staff report was prepared by TRPA Senior Planner Julie Roll. If you have questions on this Hearings Officer item, please contact Julie Roll at 775-589-5247 or jroll@trpa.gov.

Attachments:

- A. Parcel map with soil map units delineated
- B. Ms. Munnecke's soil profile description
- C. Site photographs

Attachment A

Parcel map with soil map units delineated

Attachment B

Ms. Munnecke's soil profile description

Attachment C

Site photographs