

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT EIR/EIS/EIS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

PROJECT: Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project (CA State Clearinghouse #2007032099)

AGENCIES: California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS/EIS) and notice of public hearing

SUMMARY: The Upper Truckee River (UTR) and Marsh Restoration Project (project) is an ecosystem restoration project that is identified in TRPA's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP Project # 01.02.01.07). The project area includes approximately 600 acres located on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe in the City of South Lake Tahoe along the Upper Truckee River (UTR) from Lake Tahoe to U.S. Highway 50. The need for the project originates from the environmental degradation that the UTR has experienced as a result of human alterations to the river and watershed. The purpose of the proposed action is to restore natural geomorphic processes and ecological functions in this lowest reach of the UTR, improve ecological values, provide public access consistent with other objectives, and help reduce the river's discharge of nutrients and sediment. Five alternatives are being considered and analyzed at a comparable level of detail. A preferred alternative has not been identified.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Article VII of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact and Chapter 3 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, the Conservancy, Reclamation, and TRPA have made available for public review and comment the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS for the project.

Interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to submit comments on the completeness and technical adequacy of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS. Following receipt and consideration of public comments, the lead agencies will select a preferred alternative from the alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS. The preferred alternative may combine features from more than one of the alternatives included in the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

Following the close of the public comment period, a Final EIR/EIS/EIS will be prepared and circulated in accordance with CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA requirements. The Final EIR/EIS/EIS will include responses to all comments received and a discussion of any changes to the selected alternative. The lead agencies will circulate the Final EIR/EIS/EIS for 60 days before taking action on the proposed project. Following circulation of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS, each of the lead agencies (Conservancy, Reclamation, and TRPA) will follow their respective agency adoption/certification process.

DATES: Public meetings on the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS will be held by the Conservancy, Reclamation, and TRPA. Written comments will be accepted during the public meetings; and written comments will be accepted throughout the review period, as described below. Public review will begin on **February 7, 2013**, and in compliance with the standard time limits prescribed by State law and TRPA, comments should be received no later than **April 8, 2013**.

Oral and written comments, including names and addresses of commentators, will be made available for public review. Individuals may request that their identity or address be withheld from public disclosure, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: All comments will be responded to in the Final EIR/EIS/EIS. Written comments only need to be sent to one agency at the following address:

California Tahoe Conservancy
ATTN: Scott Carroll
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

If comments are provided via email, please email scarroll@tahoe.ca.gov with the Subject Line: Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project. Please attach comments in a MS Word document and include commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address in MS Word.

MEETINGS: Meetings are being held to provide interested persons with the opportunity to learn about the project and submit comments on the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS.

The Conservancy will host the following informational public workshops:

February 27, 2013

Inn by the Lake
3300 Lake Tahoe Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150
1:30 – 4:00 PM and
6:00 – 8:30 PM

March 28, 2013

Lake Tahoe Community College Board Rm
1 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Written and Oral comments will be accepted at the following public hearings:

March 13, 2013

TRPA Advisory Planning Commission
128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449
Beginning at 9:30 am

March 27, 2013

TRPA Governing Board Meeting
128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449
Beginning at 9:30 am

DRAFT EIR/EIS/EIS COPIES: Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS are available for public inspection and review at the following locations during normal business hours:

California Tahoe Conservancy

1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-5580

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449
(775) 588-4547

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Mid-Pacific Regional Library
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-5593

El Dorado County Library

South Lake Tahoe Branch
1000 Rufus Allen Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150
(530) 573-3185

The Draft EIR/EIS/EIS is available for download at:

<http://tahoe.ca.gov/index.aspx>

<http://www.trpa.org/>

http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=2937

CDs are also available upon request from Conservancy.