



**COUNTY OF PLACER**  
**Community Development/Resource Agency**

**PLANNING**  
**SERVICES DIVISION**

Michael J. Johnson, AICP  
Agency Director

E.J. Ivaldi, Deputy Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael J. Johnson, AICP  
Agency Director

By Loren E. Clark, Assistant Agency Director

**DATE:** July 22, 2014

**SUBJECT: FIRST 4 MILE RESTORATION PROJECT: TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL FUNDING AGREEMENT**

**ACTIONS REQUESTED**

1. Authorize the Board Chair to sign a Funding Agreement between Placer County and the Truckee River Watershed Council approving an expenditure of \$25,000 from the County Wetland Trust Fund account for specific restoration and recreational improvements on the Truckee River.
2. Authorize the transfer of \$25,000 from the Wetland Trust Fund account to the Planning Services Division appropriation.

There is no new net County cost associated with this action.

**BACKGROUND**

For a number of years, the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) has been seeking grant funds to restore riparian and wetland habitat, improve water quality and provide recreational opportunities along the Truckee River in Placer County. A project description of the overall effort is included as Exhibit B.

In 2006, the Planning Division provided the TRWC with a letter supporting TRWC's application for a grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation. The letter expressed the County's support for the project as well as the potential to provide a \$25,000 match from the Wetland Trust Fund for any grant funds awarded to TRWC by the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation. The Wetland Trust Fund was established in 1991 to receive mitigation payments for projects that have impacts on wetland and riparian resources. The funds are used to enhance and restore wetland and riparian areas. These mitigation fees are paid in lieu of the property owner implementing their own habitat restoration projects.

Beginning in 2007, the TRWC has been awarded three separate grants from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation totaling \$33,000. These funds were used to ultimately leverage an additional \$342,450 in grant funds to improve recreational access to the river, and implement a riparian and wetland restoration project along the Big Chief section of the Truckee River. The

TRWC now has sufficient funding to proceed with its project and as part of its overall budget, the TRWC is now requesting that the County provide \$25,000 in matching funds. CDRA had previously earmarked the \$25,000 in the Wetland Trust Fund Account for this project.

The project is within an area of the river identified as the Tahoe City - Squaw Valley reach. In this reach, SR-89 is immediately adjacent to the river. There are three newly-paved vehicle pull-outs along the highway between Tahoe City and Alpine Meadows Road. Since there is no directed or formal access to the river and its attractions, informal access is occurring, causing serious stream bank erosion, loss of habitat, additional user conflicts, and safety concerns. The project calls for creating formal, well defined, highly visible access points to the river and trail as well as habitat restoration in the areas impacted. This provides an opportunity to implement much-needed restoration, accomplished by installing terraced landscaping, planting native, thorny bushes and plants to that discourage informal passage, and a designated formal access path at each pull-out area. These features will be complemented by appropriate directional and interpretive signage.

Key project components include:

1. Formal river access at three new locations consistent with restoration goals, reducing erosion and providing safer recreational access for all users of the trail and river.
2. Directional signage at each new access, along with interpretive signage to help educate the public on how to reduce erosion and protect riparian habitat.
3. Restoration of highly disturbed slopes and river banks to reduce erosion and sedimentation at nine different locations, in physical proximity to the new access locations.
4. Enhancements to riparian wet meadow habitat that support the wildlife and fishery resource and discourage public encroachment into sensitive areas.
5. Construction of three environmentally-friendly "staging areas" along the trail that provide a separate area for safe ingress/egress for river users, including rafters, kayakers, fishermen and swimmers that is separate from the bike trail, thereby reducing user conflicts and significantly improving public safety.

This restoration project is consistent with the County's Truckee River Access Plan, a number of objectives of the Placer Legacy program (i.e., the East Slope Sierra Implementation Measures ES-5, ES-7, and ES-9) and the Placer County General Plan. Now that the TRWC's efforts have become a long-sought after reality, the Community Development Resource Agency is now recommending an expenditure of \$25,000 for work related to the First Four Mile Restoration Project. As noted in the scope of work attached to Exhibit A, the County's contribution would help fund project components 3 and 4 above.

#### Environmental Clearance

This Board action, the execution of a Funding Agreement, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Placer County Code Section 18.08.020(D) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3). The actual restoration project will be carried out by the TRWC and to the extent that any of the restoration and recreational improvements require the County to issue discretionary permits, separate environmental review will be conducted in conjunction with the consideration of said permit applications.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Board's action will result in a \$25,000 expenditure from the Wetland Trust Fund. The current Wetland Trust Fund account balance is \$526,219. A small amount of staff time will be allocated to insure that the requirements of the Funding Agreement are met. The County's contribution is part of a \$367,450 effort and consequently the County's investment is significantly leveraged in terms of the overall project cost. There is no new net County cost associated with this action.

**Exhibits:**

Exhibit A: Funding Agreement

Exhibit B: First Four Mile Restoration Project – Project Description, June 16, 2014

cc: Lisa Wallace, TRWC

## **Exhibit A**

### **FUNDING AGREEMENT First Four Mile Restoration Project Truckee River Watershed Council**

This FUNDING AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014 by and between the County of Placer, a political subdivision of the State of California ("County") and the Truckee River Watershed Council, a California non-profit 501(c)(3) organization ("TRWC").

#### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the TRWC identifies, coordinates, funds/arranges for funding and implements restoration, prevention and monitoring projects directly related to the health, beauty, and economy of the Truckee River watershed.

WHEREAS, one of TRWC's proposed projects is the Truckee River Restoration and Public Access Project, the first section of which is identified as the "First Four Mile Restoration Project" ("Project"),

WHEREAS, the Project is located within an area of the Truckee River identified as the Tahoe City - Squaw Valley. SR-89 is immediately adjacent to the river. A general depiction of the Project site is attached hereto as Attachment "A"

WHEREAS, there is no directed or formal access to the river and its attractions in the Project vicinity and as a result, informal access is occurring, causing serious stream bank erosion, loss of habitat, additional user conflicts, and safety concerns.

WHEREAS, since 2006 the TRWC has sought funding for this Project and as of June 2014 has secured a total of \$342,450 in funding from the Tahoe City PUD (source funds are California River Parkways), the Truckee River Fund, and the State of California Department of Conservation. This leaves a \$25,000 funding gap, which TRWC has requested from the County.

WHEREAS, the County has reviewed the scope of work for the Project and finds that it is consistent with the Placer County General Plan, the Placer County Trails and Bicycle Plan, the Truckee River Corridor Access Plan, the adopted Truckee River TMDL and the objectives of the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program. Specifically, the Project calls for creating formal, well defined, highly visible access points to the river and trail consistent with restoration goals, erosion reduction and creation of safer recreational access for all users of the trail and river. Restoration of highly disturbed slopes and river banks to reduce erosion and sedimentation will be accomplished as well as habitat restoration and enhancements to riparian wet meadow habitat that support the wildlife and fishery resource. These features will be complemented by appropriate directional and interpretive signage.

WHEREAS, County has determined that its participation in funding the Project for the purposes described herein is in the public interest given the public conservation and habitat restoration benefits that the Project will produce.

WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into this agreement under which TRWC will perform or cause to be performed the Project and whereas the County will reimburse for said work a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) ("County Funding") based on the following obligations.

## AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date identified above and shall terminate upon the County's conveyance in full of the County Funding for the Project.
2. Payment. TRWC shall submit a detailed invoice(s) requesting reimbursement of County Funding. The invoice(s) must be accompanied by a detailed description of the work performed for the Project for which the County Funding has been allocated. TRWC agrees to allocate the County Funds solely to tasks identified in the scope of work contained in Attachment B. The County reserves the right to request additional information on the work performed for which reimbursement is sought before approving the invoice(s) for payment. TRWC may elect to submit multiple invoices for incremental payment of the County Funding obligation or one single invoice but in no event shall the total County Funding obligation exceed a maximum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of the date on which approval for payment was made.
3. Acknowledgement of County Contribution. Landowner agrees to acknowledge the County Contribution on the primary Project sign(s), brochures or website to the County's reasonable satisfaction for a period of at least ten (10) years from the completion date of the Project.
4. Property Access by County. Upon receipt of written notice, TRWC shall provide the County and County's designated agents reasonable access to the Project site for a period of five (5) years from the completion date (the "Review Period") to assess compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement .
5. Indemnification. County shall have no liability in connection with the Project. TRWC shall indemnify and hold the County harmless and defend from any and all claims, losses and/or other damage of whatever nature relating in any way to the Project and/or TRWC's performance hereunder.

6. Notices. Any notice or demand required to be given herein shall be made by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, confirmed fax or reliable overnight mail to the address of the respective parties set forth below:

COUNTY:

Placer County Community Development Resources Agency  
3091 County Center Drive  
Auburn, CA 95603

TRWC:

P.O. Box 8568  
Truckee, CA 96162

**County or TRWC may from time to time designate any other address for this purpose by written notice to the other party.**

7. Binding on Successors; Future Cooperation; Governing Law. This Agreement shall be binding on the parties hereto and their respective successors, heirs and assigns. The parties agree that this Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with laws of the State of California. Initial venue for any dispute shall be the Superior Court for the State of California, Placer County. The parties hereby waive any federal court removal and/or original jurisdiction rights that they may have. TRWC shall comply with all federal, state and local laws relating to its performance hereunder, including, without limitation, all applicable state contractor licensing and workers compensation laws.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties have duly executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

**COUNTY:** County of Placer

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Duran  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Approved As to Form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

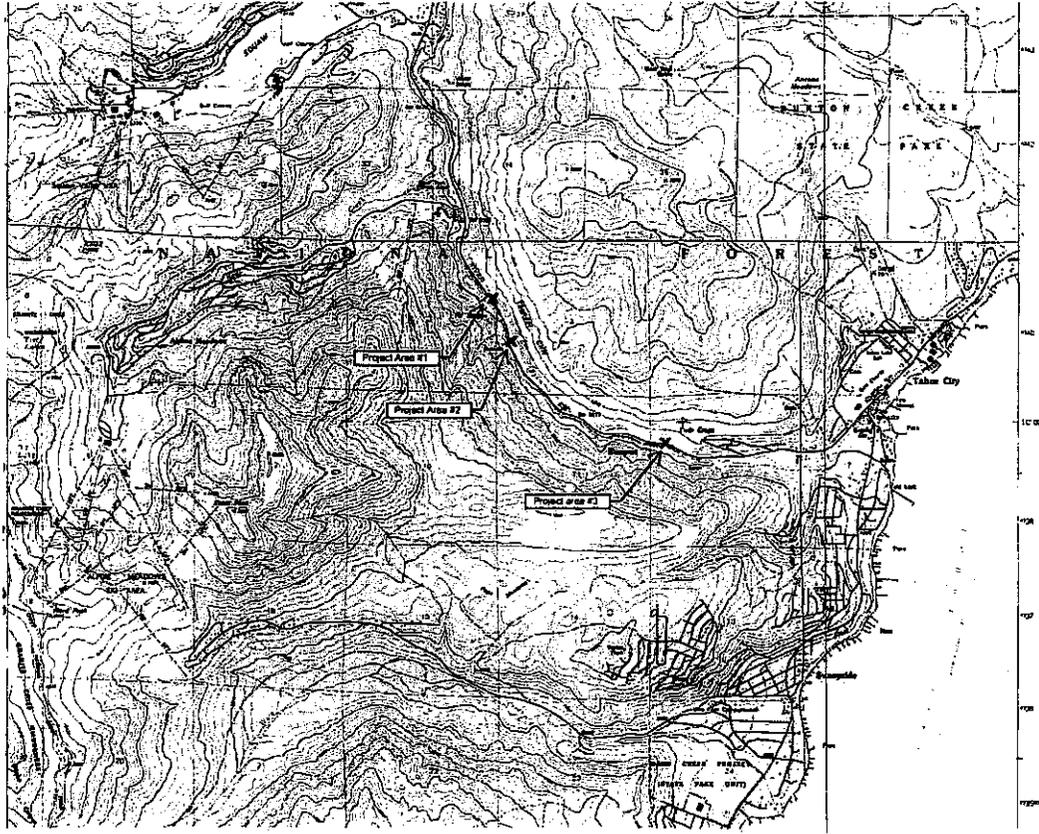
**TRWC:** Truckee River Watershed Council

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Wallace  
Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

## Attachment A Project Depiction/Map

Sites 1, 2, and 3: On the Truckee River, between Tahoe Dam and Alpine Road.  
Each site has three locations which will be restored.



**First 4 Mile Restoration Project**

**Location Map**

294

## Attachment B Scope of Work

### First 4 Mile Restoration Project

The First 4 Mile Restoration Project will expand and enhance several areas of montane wet meadow habitat along the Truckee River. The sites are degraded by rafters pulling out of the river for a rest stop and by anglers seeking access to the river. Enhancement of these meadow and wetland areas will provide improved water quality (by decreasing erosion), greater diversity of habitat for wildlife and will create a natural barrier to discourage recreational use of these sites. Restoration actions will be to:

1. Plant dense stands of native riparian vegetation (e.g. willow). The vegetation restores the meadow habitat and creates a natural barrier protecting more sensitive meadow and wetland vegetation.
  
2. Restore the Truckee River banks. Stabilize the banks with installation of large boulders, dense vegetation, and root wads. The boulders, vegetation, and root wads reduce erosion, provide in-stream habitat, and create a natural barrier protecting more sensitive meadow and wetland vegetation.
  
3. Repair current Truckee River ingress/egress areas. Repair block pavers currently in place at ingress/egress areas. Vegetate adjacent bare and eroding banks and slopes. Place large boulders and logs to promote these areas for ingress, egress areas resting.

#### Deliverables:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. 100% Design Plans                       | September 2014             |
| 2. Pre-, during-, and after photos         | September 2015             |
| 3. Quarterly invoices and progress reports | Quarterly through Dec 2015 |

