

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. R6T-2016-0067

**AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF
SQUAW VALLEY SKI CORPORATION CONSENT AGREEMENT FUNDS
FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
WDID NO. 6A310118070**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) finds:

1. The Water Board issued Waste Discharge Requirements (Board Order No. 6-93-25) to Squaw Valley Ski Corporation (now Squaw Valley Resort) on April 8, 1993. Those requirements remain in effect.
2. The Water Board and Squaw Valley Ski Corporation entered into a Consent Agreement and Stipulation for Judgment on August 26, 2005 to address multiple permit violations. The Consent Agreement was entered in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Placer (Case No. SCV 12916).
3. The Consent Agreement, in part, required, Squaw Valley Ski Corporation to remit a \$900,000 settlement payment and to complete specific projects. A portion of the settlement payment was set aside for legal fees incurred by the Department of Justice to manage the Consent Agreement.
4. The Water Board and Squaw Valley Ski Corporation successfully satisfied their Consent Agreement responsibilities and the Court terminated the Consent Agreement on August 26, 2010.
5. On March 15, 2011, the Water Board received \$354,187.67 from the California Attorney General's Office for money set aside and not spent by the Department of Justice for its legal fees in managing the Consent Agreement. The use of these funds, plus any additional accrued interest, is unrestricted for the Water Board.
6. At its May 12, 2016 meeting, the Water Board heard an informational item on the current status of Squaw Valley Resort compliance, including the availability of the remaining funds from the Department of Justice. Prior to and subsequent to that meeting, Water Board staff reached out to local non-profit watershed-based groups to solicit potential water quality related projects that can be completed with these funds. Four project proposals were submitted.
 - A. Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration project, sponsored by the Friends of Squaw Creek;

- B. Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad project, sponsored by the Truckee River Watershed Council;
 - C. Donner Creek Bank Stabilization and Channel Enhancement Adjacent to Highway 89 project, sponsored by the Truckee River Watershed Council; and
 - D. Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement project, sponsored by the Alpine Watershed Group.
7. On September 30, 2016, Water Board staff solicited comments on the four projects that were submitted for consideration [See Enclosure 3]. Water Board staff also evaluated the technical merits of each project [see Enclosure 2].
 8. Seven comments were received in support of the Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration project [see Enclosure 4]. In general, the comments highlight the geographic and programmatic nexus provided by the project in addition to its water quality benefits.
 9. Eight comments were received in support of the Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement project [see Enclosure 5]. In general the comments noted water quality benefits provided by the project, how it incorporates benefits derived from surrounding projects, and the benefits the project provides to nearby disadvantaged communities.
 10. The Water Board reviewed comments and technical merits for each of the four projects. The Water Board concluded that the Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration project best meets the geographic and programmatic nexus along with assisting in achieving sediment Total Maximum Daily Load targets set by the Water Board for Squaw Creek. The Water Board also concluded that the Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement project best meets the State of California's goals to support nearby disadvantaged communities. Funding these two identified projects provides appropriate water quality benefits and builds institutional capacity for two small watershed groups within the Lahontan region
 11. The Water Board has notified interested parties throughout the Lahontan Region of its intent to adopt this Resolution by posting to a list server and on the Water Board's web site.
 12. The Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments regarding the Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Water Board authorizes the Water Board Executive Officer pursue a funding agreement and administration of the funds from the State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of \$118,550 with the Alpine Watershed Group for funding the design and permitting portion (Phase I) of the proposed Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement project using funds remaining from the Consent Agreement identified in Finding No. 5, above

2. The Water Board authorizes the Water Board Executive Officer to pursue a funding agreement and administration of the funds from the State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of \$235,637.67 (plus any available accrued interest) with the Friends of Squaw Creek for funding a portion of the proposed Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration project using funds remaining from the Consent Agreement identified in Finding No. 5, above.
3. The Water Board delegates the authority to its Executive Officer to review or prepare any necessary CEQA documentation, issue any findings required by CEQA, and approve or reject the release of funds necessary for project construction. Nothing in this Resolution removes from the Executive Officer's discretion the ability to require mitigation measures or alternatives, including the no project alternative, after review of any environmental documents. If after the completion of any environmental review the Executive Officer concludes that a project may cause potentially significant environmental impacts, the Executive Officer may issue a statement of override, if appropriate, and approve the project or identify an alternative project for consideration.
4. The Water Board directs staff to post the funding agreements with the Friends of Squaw Creek and with the Alpine Watershed Group in a prominent location on the Water Board's web site once the funding agreements are finalized by the State Water Resources Control Board.
5. The Water Board authorizes the Water Board Executive Officer to approve any change orders in the funding agreement that do not involve an increase in funding level.

I, Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, on November 9, 2016.



PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ENCLOSURE 2

**ANALYTICAL SUMMARY
OF
PROPOSED WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
FOR THE
ALLOCATION OF SQUAW VALLEY SKI CORPORATION CONSENT
AGREEMENT FUNDS**

ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PROPOSED WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Earlier this year, Lahontan Water Board staff reached out to local non-profit watershed-based groups to solicit potential water quality related projects that can be completed with the remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds (\$354,187.67). Four potential projects were submitted from the Friends of Squaw Creek, the Truckee River Watershed Council, and from the Alpine Watershed Group. The project summaries are provided in Enclosure 3 of this agenda item.

Staff has reviewed and evaluated the four project proposals with respect to the Lahontan Water Board's Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program project selection criteria established by Resolution No. R6T-2014-0014. Staff has also considered the 15 comment letters on the four projects that were received during the public review and comment period. The public comment period lasted from September 30, 2016 through October 14, 2016, and no additional late comments were received. This document provides a neutral analysis of the four projects with respect to the Water Board's SEP Program project selection criteria and to the received comments.

Friends of Squaw Creek Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration Project

The Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) project improves water quality and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat of a 150-acre montane wet meadow complex and 1.8 miles of Squaw Creek. Allocation of funds towards the SCMR project will allow implementation of approximately two acres of wetland and stream restoration and enable the construction area to be monitored for a period of three years. The restoration will increase sheetflow runoff to the North Floodplain, enabling groundwater recharge and sediment detention. The goals of the entire SCMR project are to thwart head cutting, bank erosion, and failing rip-rap with biotechnical stabilization; enhance Squaw Creek's connection to relict oxbows; increase water storage capacity through wetland ponds; and develop instream aquatic fisheries habitat enhancements. Total project estimated budget is \$354,187.67.

Specific SEP Program project criteria addressed by this project are:

- Public health and safety benefits are achieved by incorporating agency coordination and hydrologic studies into the SCMR project. The project will provide a better understanding of flood attenuation improvement through restoration and of adaptation to extreme climate change variability inducing drought conditions and shorter duration, higher frequency precipitation events.
- Environmental health and safety benefits are achieved through enhancement of aquatic and terrestrial habitat for species such as Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Willow Flycatcher; migration corridors; groundwater surface water interaction; and water supply.

- The SCMR project supports the goals and objectives identified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Basin, such as gathering current water quality information and implementing projects to achieve Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets. The project will reduce bedload transported and deposited in downstream reaches, thereby contributing to both the Squaw Creek sediment concentration TMDL targets and the Truckee River suspended sediment concentration TMDL targets.
- Watershed data efficiencies shall be consolidated between stakeholders to assess restoration through groundwater, surface water and bioassessment sampling. The Friends of Squaw Creek provides a virtual library and GIS database.
- Lahontan Water Board funds will be used to leverage a \$550,000 grant from a State Water Board 319h grant. Over \$500,000 has already been dedicated from other funding sources.
- Environmental justice concerns may be addressed through improved water quality and water supply to downstream users of the Truckee River watershed including Pyramid Lake, a terminal lake on tribal land with endangered fisheries of cultural significance, primarily the endangered cui-ui fish and the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.
- Disadvantaged community concerns may be addressed through tribal outreach and bilingual translation of written materials to share more broadly information on improvements to beneficial uses from the SCMR project.
- The SCMR project is ranked as the Number 1 restoration project in the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management plan.
- Climate change goals are addressed through enhanced carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction. The SCMR Project accounts for, and will better address or manage effects from, extreme climate change variability including drought conditions and shorter duration, higher frequency precipitation events.

The SCMR project provides a significant geographic and programmatic nexus to where the violations occurred by the Squaw Valley Ski Corporation. The violations generally were due to the failure to implement appropriate controls that resulted in sediment discharges to surface waters and the filling of wetlands.

The Friends of Squaw Creek is collaborating with Trout Unlimited, private consulting firms, the Squaw Valley Resort (Squaw Valley Real Estate), the Resort at Squaw Creek, Poulsen Commercial, and Placer County to complete a coordinated watershed-wide restoration plan.

The Friends of Squaw Creek is a small organization. Funding of the SCMR project will further one of the SEP Program's goals to assist with developing institutional capacity.

Alpine Watershed Council
Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project

The Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement (Hope Valley) project will support the stabilization of over 800 feet of eroding banks along the West Fork of the Carson River, and help improve aquatic habitat along nearly 0.50 miles of river at four specific sites. The proposed 0.5 mile stretch through lower Hope Valley would be contiguous with the 2015 restoration project conducted by American Rivers. The project will reduce erosion and sedimentation and provide shading in the West Carson River at the proposed sites. The results will include improved water quality and aquatic habitat, habitat for recreation, channel/floodplain connectivity, and water storage capacity. Total project estimated budget is \$362,420, and the project can be divided into separate and distinct phases:

Phase 1 - Design & Permitting, including environmental review and pre-project monitoring. Estimated budget is \$118,550.

Phase 2 - Implementation of restoration Site No.1 as a demonstration project at the most heavily used and highly visible area. Estimated budget is \$115,530.

Phase 3 - Implementation of Restoration Sites Nos. 2 through 4. Estimated budget is \$128,340.

Specific SEP Program project criteria addressed by this project are:

- Public health and safety benefits are achieved through improved channel/floodplain connectivity, which will result in limiting flood damage impacts to downstream communities. The project will benefit downstream communities who rely on the Carson River as primary drinking source by reducing erosion and sedimentation that would otherwise adversely impact the surface water for drinking water beneficial uses.
- Environmental health and safety benefits are achieved through improved aquatic habitat.
- The Hope Valley Project supports the goals and objectives identified in State and Federal plans. The project addresses several of the California Water Plan Update (2013) resource management strategies in the “Ecosystem Restoration” category regarding the reconnection of rivers to their historic floodplains, restoration of mountain meadows, habitat creation/maintenance compatible with stream and river functions, and stream channel morphology restoration/preservation to provide floodwater access to the floodplain while maintaining channel stability.

The project is considered an effective strategy, according to the California Water Action Plan (2016) priorities, to ensure the restoration of key mountain meadow habitat, manage headwaters for multiple benefits, and to protect/restore degraded

stream and meadow ecosystems to assist in natural water management and improved habitat.

The project aligns with the goals of the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan 2007, which meets the federal Environmental Protection Agency's nine elements for a watershed plan and is consistent with the goals of the Carson River Floodplain Management plan 2008 and its 2013 update. The project also furthers the goals contained in the Upper Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan and the American Rivers' Meadow Assessment.

The project will leverage the relationship built with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (land managers for the proposed project area) to increase the amount of restoration occurring on their land in the lower meadow.

The project aligns with the Tahoe Sierra IRWM goals by benefitting water quality, water supply, and ecosystem restoration.

- The Alpine Watershed Group did not identify efficiencies (databases, automation, system enhancements, etc.).
- Funding of Phase I (design and permitting of all restoration sites) will position the project as fully shovel-ready for other potential funding sources, such as IRWM implementation grants, Proposition 1 grants, and private foundation grants.
- Environmental justice concerns are addressed through the maintenance of native vegetation and wildlife habitat necessary to support many of the Washoe Tribe's cultural heritage activities. The project area represents an important historical and cultural resource of the Washoe Tribe. For over 10 years, the Alpine Watershed Group has been working with the Washoe Tribe's Cultural and Environmental Departments in addressing water quality issues. The Washoe Tribe supports restoration as a tribal resource benefit.
- The Woodfords Community of the Washoe Tribe is considered a disadvantaged community and is located downstream of the proposed project site. Hope Valley is a culturally and environmentally important landscape to the Washoe Tribe. The project would restore and enhance Tribal ancestral lands, enhance plant and wildlife resources of the area, and benefit the Tribal members who visit the land.
- The project will serve to mitigate potential long-term impacts of climate change. One likely result of climate change is the variability of the timing and amounts of spring run-off. Reestablishing a functional floodplain and meadow system will allow the stream corridor to accommodate variable flows in the future. Due to the potential for earlier spring run-off, it will be important for lands to serve as natural storage areas. Meadows provide an important form of natural water storage which also improves late season, in-stream flows.

The Alpine Watershed Group is a small organization. Funding of the Hope Valley project will further one of the SEP Program's goals to assist with developing institutional capacity.

The Alpine Watershed Group consistently partners and collaborates with a broad spectrum of organizations including the US Forest Service, the Washoe Tribe, Friends of Hope Valley, American Rivers, the Carson Water Subconservancy District, and the Tahoe Sierra IRWM.

Truckee River Watershed Council

(1) Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad Culvert Project, and (2) Donner Creek Bank Stabilization and Channel Enhancement Adjacent to Highway 89 Project

The Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad Culvert (Culvert) project consists of re-profiling approximately 0.1 miles of stream bank below a railroad culvert which directs high velocity flows into soft soils. The project will stabilize the bank with a combination of large wood, rock, riparian plantings, erosion control fabric, and hydroseeding with native, drought tolerant grasses and sedges. The site will be anchored with variety of wood structures and longitudinal peak stone toe protection along the base of the bank. The total estimated project cost is \$310,000.

The Donner Creek Bank Stabilization and Channel Enhancement Adjacent to Highway 89 (Hwy 89) project consists of addressing bank erosion concerns and improving habitat conditions. Approximately 0.1 miles of stream bank will be set back, re-profiled, and replanted to enhance aquatic and riparian habitat and reduce erosion pressure on the right bank. The right bank will be extended into the current stream channel alignment and stabilized with plantings, erosion control fabric, and longitudinal peak stone toe protection. This will improve approximately 1/3 acre of riparian habitat. The total estimated project cost is \$310,000.

Both projects will stabilize severely eroding stream banks, largely eliminating one of the largest sources of fine sediment to the lowest half mile of Donner Creek. This will result in improved water quality in Donner Creek as well as the main stem of the Truckee River. Both projects will enhance riparian habitat and improve in-stream habitat and substrate diversity by reducing fine sediment and restoring natural physical processes. The projects will reduce risk to Highway 89 by stabilizing the right bank and adjusting the stream channel to the east.

Both of the projects proposed by the Truckee River Watershed Council are very similar with respect to satisfying specific SEP Program project criteria. The following discussion applies equally to both the Culvert and the Hwy 89 projects, unless otherwise specified.

- The Culvert project achieves public health and safety benefits by stabilizing a stream bank located immediately below a trailer home park. Large weather events and

ongoing erosion could lead to slope failure and threaten the safety of at least one mobile home site.

The Hwy 89 project achieves public health and safety benefits by similarly stabilizing a stream bank section that threatens the integrity of a portion of Highway 89.

- Environmental health and safety benefits are achieved from the Culvert project by creating new riparian and in-stream habitat with improved diversity, vegetation, and water flow. This will address ongoing sediment discharges from the project area.

The Hwy 89 project area offers limited area for riparian habitat and little riparian canopy for the channel. Instead, this project will significantly enhance riparian habitat along the stream corridor, particularly along the left bank, and improve instream habitat quality and substrate diversity by reducing fine sediment loads and restoring natural physical processes.

- The projects support attainment of the Truckee River TMDL, which establishes a target of 20 percent annual sediment load reduction or a reduction of 10,000 tons per year over the 20-year life of the TMDL. It is estimated that implementation of the projects can yield 1,200 tons per each project area. This translates to a reduction of 60 tons per year per project, or 0.6% of the entire annual reduction per project, called for in the Truckee River TMDL.

The projects are each located in a reach of Donner Creek that was identified in the *Middle Truckee River Suspended Sediment Monitoring Reports* (WY 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014) as the reach contributing the highest load of suspended sediment to the Truckee River within the Town of Truckee. The Donner Basin, in which the projects are located, is a high priority basin as identified in the Truckee River Watershed Coordinated Watershed Management Strategy (TRWC, 2014) and is identified as a high priority in the Donner Basin Watershed Assessment.

- The Truckee River Watershed Council did not identify efficiencies (databases, automation, system enhancements, etc.).
- The Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada recently awarded funds in support of completing the final design of the two projects. The DOJ funds would be used to complete one of the projects, including on-the-ground work. Other potential funding sources include the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Truckee River Fund, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Martis Fund, and Laird Norton Family Foundation.
- Environmental justice concerns may be addressed by the two projects through improvements to water quality in the Truckee River, the main source of drinking water for Reno and Sparks, NV, which includes water supply for tribal lands. Additionally, the Culvert project will stabilize the slope immediately beneath a trailer home park, improving safety and avoiding property loss.

- The Truckee River Watershed Council did not identify any Disadvantaged Community concerns that may be addressed by the projects.
- The projects align with the Tahoe Sierra IRWM by benefitting water quality, water supply, and ecosystem restoration.

Both projects have a nexus to where the violations occurred with the Squaw Valley Ski Corporation via (1) water quality improvement project against water quality violations, and (2) watershed/geography since the Truckee River is the receiving water for this project and the downstream receiving water for the area of the violations within the Squaw Creek watershed.

The Truckee River Watershed Council has an extensive history for successfully completing water quality projects, has a transparent stakeholder process for identifying and selecting projects, and has demonstrated that it is financially accountable. The Lahontan Water Board has partnered with the Truckee River Watershed Council on numerous occasions, most recently to implement a pilot project for implementing the Lahontan Water Board's SEP Program.

ENCLOSURE 3

**WATER BOARD STAFF LETTER REQUESTING COMMENTS ON THE
FOUR PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 30, 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Request for Comments on Proposed Expenditure of Remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds, Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070

Through the mid- to late-1990's, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) issued several orders to address various issues of non-compliance with Squaw Valley Ski Corporation (now Squaw Valley Resort). The Water Board referred the matter to the California Attorney General's Office for further enforcement, and complaints were eventually issued by each party against the other. The parties settled their complaints against each by signing and entering the Consent Agreement and Stipulation for Judgment (Consent Agreement) in 2005. The Consent Agreement, in part, required Squaw Valley Resort to remit a \$900,000 settlement payment and to complete specific projects identified within the Consent Agreement. The Consent Agreement was entered in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Placer (Case No. SCV 12916).

The Water Board and Squaw Valley Resort worked cooperatively to resolve all issues identified in the Consent Agreement, and the jurisdiction of the court terminated the Consent Agreement in 2010. Subsequent to the termination, the Water Board received \$354,187.67 from the Attorney General's Office for money set aside and not spent by the Department of Justice for its legal fees in managing the Consent Agreement. The use of these funds is unrestricted for the Water Board.

Water Board staff reached out to local non-profit watershed groups to solicit potential water quality related projects that can be completed with these funds. Four potential projects were submitted from the Friends of Squaw Creek, the Truckee River Watershed Council, and the Alpine Watershed Group. The project summaries are provided in the enclosure, which also describes primary criteria the Water Board is proposing to evaluate the projects. The information provided in the table is based solely on the information provided by the project sponsors.

Water Board staff will be making a recommendation to the Water Board at its November 9-10, 2016 meeting in South Lake Tahoe regarding which project or portions of projects to fund with the remaining Squaw Valley Consent Agreement funds. Please submit any written comments you may have to Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov by **October 14, 2016**. Please include "Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds" in the subject line.

AMY L. HORNE, PhD, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If you need further information regarding this matter, please contact Eric J. Taxer at (530) 542-5434 or Eric.Taxer@waterboards.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lami Kasper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "p".

for Scott C. Ferguson, P.E.
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

Enclosure

Project No. 1
Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration

Project Proponent: Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC)

Estimated Budget: \$354,187.67

Project Description: The Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) Project improves water quality and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat of a 150-acre montane wet meadow complex and 1.8 miles of Squaw Creek. Allocation of DOJ funds towards the SCMR Project will fund implementation of approximately two acres of wetland and stream restoration and enable the construction area to be monitored for a period of three years. The restoration will increase sheetflow runoff to the North Floodplain, enabling groundwater recharge and sediment detention. The goals of the entire SCMR Project are to thwart head cutting, bank erosion, and failing rip-rap with biotechnical stabilization; enhance Squaw Creek's connection to relict oxbows; increase water storage capacity through wetland ponds; and develop instream aquatic fisheries habitat enhancements. If funded, permitting will take place in 2016/2017 to allow the project to be constructed during the 2017 construction season.

Location: Eastern Placer County, in Olympic Valley, California, six miles (9.6 km) northwest of Lake Tahoe, California between the towns of Tahoe City and Truckee. - 120.1985, 39.2116

Affected Watershed and/or Groundwater Basin: Squaw Creek/Truckee River Watershed 16050102 Olympic Valley Groundwater Basin: 6-108

Expected Benefits or Improvements to Water Quality and/or Beneficial Uses: The SCMR Project purpose is to improve water quality for all beneficial uses, specifically to implement measures to attain the Squaw Creek Sediment TMDL, enhance native fisheries habitat for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and improve water supply through groundwater recharge.

Estimated Project Duration: Pre-project monitoring, permitting, and construction will occur over the next 12 months. An additional 36 months of post-construction monitoring are proposed.

Project Readiness: The SCMR Project is ranked No.1 in the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group and is ready to be implemented. FOSC has established Memorandums of Understandings with stakeholders and is a signatory of the Tahoe Sierra IRWM. Squaw Valley Resort has purchased a 9.4 acre parcel (Placer County APN 096-221-013) for proposed restoration and dedicated it to Placer County. The Resort at Squaw Creek has also transferred the adjacent 0.7 acre parcel proposed for restoration (Placer County APN 096-060-054-000) to Placer County. Placer County as the lead CEQA agency has funded and completed an initial study for all SCMR Project Phases. Final CEQA studies for the total project are underway, including archeological, biological and wetland delineation, and are anticipated to be

completed by the end of 2016 to enable permit applications over winter. Construction will take place during the 2017 season.

Public Health and Safety Benefits: The SCMR Project area has been recently amended in the 2016 FEMA floodplain maps. Agency coordination and hydrologic studies are being incorporated into the SCMR Project to better understand if flood attenuation may be improved through restoration to help adapt to extreme climate change variability including drought conditions and shorter duration, higher frequency events.

Environmental Health and Safety Benefits: The SCMR Project is ranked as the No. 1 restoration project in the Tahoe Sierra IRWM. The SCMR Project contributes to achieving Squaw Creek TMDL targets by reducing bedload transported and deposited in downstream reaches, and contributes to achieving the Truckee River Suspended Sediment Concentration TMDL by reducing fine sediment carried in suspension to the Truckee River. The SCMR Project also enhances aquatic and terrestrial habitat for species such as Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Willow Flycatcher, migration corridors, groundwater surface water interaction, water supply, carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction, and flood attenuation while protecting meadow systems.

Identify Other Potential Project Benefits or Efficiencies: The SCMR Project supports the goals and objectives identified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Basin, such as gathering current water quality information and implementing projects to achieve TMDL targets. The SCMR Project aligns with the integrated watershed management goals identified by the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Group by benefitting water quality, water supply, and ecosystem restoration. The SCMR Project serves a regional need of reducing bedload and fines, increasing water supply through groundwater recharge, and prolonging baseflows for aquatic species and downstream users in California and Nevada. The SCMR Project will help meet instream flow requirements for fish, wildlife and recreation. Watershed data efficiencies shall be consolidated between stakeholders to assess restoration through groundwater, surface water and bioassessment sampling. FOSC provides a virtual library and GIS database. The SCMR Project accounts for and will better address or manage effects from extreme climate change variability including drought conditions and shorter duration, higher frequency events.

Identify Other Project Funding Sources, and if Additional Funds Are Needed to Close a Funding Gap: The Lahontan DOJ funds will support implementation of a stand-alone aspect of the SCMR Project to re-wet the North Floodplain and reduce sediment in-stream to improve water quality. Squaw Valley Resort and Resort at Squaw Creek have dedicated the required parcels to Placer County. The Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 funds have contributed \$300,000 to the CEQA final studies and permitting for the entire project. The Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation has allocated \$8,000 towards Friends of Squaw Creek organizational capacity, and the National Forest Foundation has provided \$250,000 funds towards construction and monitoring of upstream reaches. The total SCMR Project implementation costs are estimated to be \$1.5 million.

Identify if Potential SEP Funding may be used to Leverage Matching Funds: The remaining DOJ funds will be used to leverage a \$550,000 grant from the State Water Board 319h grant. Applications are to be submitted October 2016 for construction of additional downstream reaches of the project.

Environmental Justice Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: Water quality and supply are improved to downstream users of the Truckee River watershed including Pyramid Lake, a terminal lake on tribal land with endangered fisheries of cultural significance, primarily the endangered cui-ui fish and the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

Disadvantaged Community Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: Tahoe-Sierra IRWM is addressing DAC through tribal outreach and bilingual translation of written materials to share more broadly information on improvements to beneficial uses from restoration, including the SCR.

Project No. 2
Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad Culvert

Project Proponent: Truckee River Watershed Council

Estimated Budget: \$150,000 – Design & CEQA/Permitting, \$150,000 – Construction, \$10,000 – Pre-and-Post-Project Monitoring **Total Project Cost: \$310,000**

Project Description: Re-profile approximately 0.1 miles of stream bank below a railroad culvert which directs high velocity flows into soft soils. The project will stabilize the bank with a combination of large wood, rock, riparian plantings, erosion control fabric, and hydroseeding with native, drought tolerant grasses and sedges. We will anchor site with variety of wood structures and longitudinal peak stone toe protection along the base of the bank.

Phases include: 1) Pre-Project Monitoring, 2) Design, CEQA and Permitting, 3) Construction, 4) Post-Project Monitoring

Location: Donner Creek upstream of West River Street, Truckee, Nevada County, CA (39.3176, -120.2046)

Affected Watershed and/or Groundwater Basin: Donner Creek/Truckee River Watershed Hydrologic Unit Code – 12 (160501020201), Martis Valley Groundwater Basin (6-67).

Expected Benefits or Improvements to Water Quality and/or Beneficial Uses: This project will stabilize a severely eroding stream bank, largely eliminating one of the largest sources of fine sediment to the lowest half mile of Donner Creek. This will result in improved water quality in Donner Creek, as well as the main stem of the Truckee River.

The project will enhance riparian habitat by stabilizing the bank, and improve in-stream habitat by providing cover for aquatic species and reducing the amount of fine sediment along the stream bed.

Estimated Project Duration: 2 to 5 years

Project Readiness: This project, identified as a high priority in the Donner Basin Watershed Assessment (TRWC, 2016, www.truckeeriverwc.org), is currently in concept design and is partially funded for final design. This proposal includes planning, completing final design, obtaining landowner agreement, permitting and construction.

Public Health and Safety Benefits: This project site is located immediately below a trailer home park. Large weather events and ongoing erosion could lead to slope failure and threaten the safety of at least one mobile home site. This project will stabilize the stream bank, thus protecting the mobile home park.

Environmental Health and Safety Benefits: The Truckee River, the main source of drinking water for the Reno/Sparks area of Nevada, is listed as being impaired by

sediment. This project will directly address an area of that contributes sediment to the Truckee River to improve water quality.

Riparian and in-stream habitat, are compromised in the project area. This project will create new habitat with improved diversity, vegetation, and water flow.

Identify Other Potential Project Benefits or Efficiencies: This project supports attainment of the Truckee River TMDL, which establishes a target of 20% annual sediment load reduction or a reduction of 10,000 tons a year over the 20-year life of the TMDL. Using the Universal Soil Loss Equation, it is estimated that implementation of the proposed Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of the Railroad Culvert Project can yield 1,200 tons. This translates to a reduction of 60 tons per year, or 0.6% of the entire annual reduction called for in the Truckee River TMDL.

This project is located in a reach of Donner Creek which was identified in the *Middle Truckee River Suspended Sediment Monitoring Reports* (WY 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014) as the reach contributing the highest load of suspended sediment to the Truckee River within the Town of Truckee. Though the reach is short, erosion is severe. This site is a priority sediment source.

The project has a nexus with source of funds (Remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds, Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070) via (1) water quality improvement project against water quality violations, and (2) watershed/geography since the Truckee River is the receiving water for this project and the receiving water for the area of the violations.

The Donner Basin, in which this project is located, is a high priority basin as identified in the Truckee River Watershed Coordinated Watershed Management Strategy (TRWC, 2014) and is identified as a high priority in the Donner Basin Watershed Assessment (TRWC, 2016, www.truckeeriverwc.org).

The project aligns with the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM by benefitting water quality, water supply, and ecosystem restoration.

Identify Other Project Funding Sources, and if Additional Funds Are Needed to Close a Funding Gap: The Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada recently awarded funds in support of completing the final design of this project. The DOJ funds would be used to complete the project, including on-the-ground work. Other potential funding sources include the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Truckee River Fund, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Martis Fund, and Laird Norton Family Foundation.

Identify if Potential SEP Funding may be used to Leverage Matching Funds: The Truckee River Fund awarded \$90,000 in support of completing the final design of this project. The DOJ funds would leverage this private source of funding to complete the project.

Environmental Justice Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: This project will stabilize the slope immediately beneath a trailer home park, improving safety

and avoiding property loss. This project will result in 0.6% of the annual reduction called for in the Truckee River TMDL, and improvements to water quality in the Truckee River, the main source of drinking water for Reno and Sparks, NV, which includes water supply for tribal lands.

Disadvantaged Community Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project:

None.

Project No. 3
Donner Creek Bank Stabilization and Channel Enhancement
Adjacent to Highway 89

Project Proponent: Truckee River Watershed Council

Estimated Budget: \$150,000 – Design & CEQA Permitting, \$150,000 – Construction, \$10,000 – Pre-and-Post-Project Monitoring. **Total Project Cost: \$310,000**

Project Description: To address the bank erosion concerns and improve habitat conditions, approximately 0.1 miles of stream bank will be set back, re-profiled, and replanted to enhance aquatic and riparian habitat and reduce erosion pressure on the right bank. The right bank will be extended into the current stream channel alignment and stabilized with plantings, erosion control fabric, and longitudinal peak stone toe protection. This will improve approximately 1/3 acre of riparian habitat.

Phases Include: 1) Pre-Project Monitoring, 2) Design, CEQA, and Permitting, 3) Construction, and 4) Post-Project Monitoring

Location: Donner Creek adjacent to HWY89S, upstream of railroad tracks, Truckee, Nevada County, CA (39.3201, -1202073)

Affected Watershed and/or Groundwater Basin: Donner Creek/Truckee River Watershed Hydrologic Unit Code – 12 (160501020201) Martis Valley Groundwater Basin (6-67)

Expected Benefits or Improvements to Water Quality and/or Beneficial Uses: This project will stabilize severely eroding stream bank, largely eliminating one of the largest sources of fine sediment to the lowest half mile of Donner Creek. This will result in improved water quality in Donner Creek as well as the main stem of the Truckee River.

The project will enhance riparian habitat and improve in-stream habitat and substrate diversity by reducing fine sediment and restoring natural physical processes. The project will also reduce risk to Highway 89 by stabilizing the right bank and adjusting the stream channel to the east.

Estimated Project Duration: 2 to 5 years

Project Readiness: This project, identified as a high priority in the Donner Basin Watershed Assessment (TRWC, 2016, www.truckeeriverwc.org), is partially funded for concept design. This proposal includes planning, completing final design, obtaining landowner agreement, permitting and construction. Based upon the findings and project concept resulting from the Donner Basin Assessment, it is anticipated a Mitigated Negative Declaration will satisfy CEQA requirements.

Public Health and Safety Benefits: The right bank of Donner Creek exhibits severe bank erosion that, if unaddressed, will likely affect the stability of Highway 89 relatively

soon. By stabilizing the right bank and adjusting the stream channel further to the east, the project will reduce the erosion risk to Highway 89.

Environmental Health and Safety Benefits: The Truckee River, the main source of drinking water for the Reno/Sparks area of Nevada, is listed as being impaired by sediment. This project will directly address an area of that contributes sediment to the Truckee River to improve water quality.

Both stream banks offer limited area for riparian habitat and little riparian canopy for the channel. The project will significantly enhance riparian habitat along the stream corridor, particularly along the left bank, and improve instream habitat quality and substrate diversity by reducing fine sediment loads and restoring natural physical processes.

Identify Other Potential Project Benefits: This project supports attainment of the Truckee River TMDL, which establishes a target of 20% annual sediment load reduction or a reduction of 10,000 tons a year over the 20-year life of the TMDL. Using the Universal Soil Loss Equation, we estimate that implementation of proposed Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of the Railroad Culvert can yield 1,200 tons. This translates to a reduction of 60 tons per year, or 0.6% of the entire annual reduction called for in the Truckee River TMDL.

This project is located in a reach of Donner Creek which was identified in the *Middle Truckee River Suspended Sediment Monitoring Reports* (WY 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014) as the reach contributing the highest load of suspended sediment to the Truckee River within the Town of Truckee. Though the reach is short, erosion is severe. This site is a priority sediment source.

The project has nexus with source of funds (Remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds, Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070) via (1) water quality improvement project against water quality violations, and (2) watershed/geography since the Truckee River is the receiving water for this project and he receiving water for the area of the violations.

The Donner Basin, in which this project is located, is a high priority basin as identified in the Truckee River Watershed Coordinated Watershed Management Strategy (TRWC, 2014) and is identified as a high priority in the Donner Basin Watershed Assessment (TRWC, 2016, www.truckeeriverwc.org).

The project aligns with the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM by benefitting water quality, water supply, and ecosystem restoration.

Identify Other Project Funding Sources, and if Additional Funds are Needed to Close a Funding Gap: The Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada recently awarded funds to further develop the concept design of this project. The DOJ funds would be used to complete the project, including on the ground work. Other potential funding sources include the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Truckee River Fund, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Martis Fund, and Laird Norton Family Foundation.

Identify if Potential SEP Funding may be Used to Leverage Matching Funds: The Truckee River Fund awarded \$15,000 to further develop the concept design of this project. The DOJ funds would leverage this private source of funding to complete the project.

Environmental Justice Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: This project will result in improvements to water quality in the Truckee river, the main source of drinking water for Reno and Sparks, NV, which includes water supply for tribal land areas.

Disadvantaged Community Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: None

Project No. 4
Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement

Project Proponent: Alpine Watershed Group

Estimated Budget: Phase 1: \$118,550, Phase 2: \$115,530, Phase 3: \$128,340 – Total Project Cost: \$362,420

Project Description: The project will support the stabilization of over 800 feet of eroding banks along the West Fork of the Carson River, and help improve aquatic habitat along nearly 0.50 miles of river at four specific sites.

The proposed 0.5 mile stretch through lower Hope Valley would be contiguous with the 2015 restoration project conducted by American Rivers. The project would fund implementation of one demonstration project at the most heavily used and highly visible sites (Phases 1 and 2, below).

Phasing Options: Phase 1) Design & Permitting – including environmental review and pre-project monitoring. Phase 2) Implementation of restoration Site #1, as demonstration project Phase 3) Implementation of Restoration Sites # 2-4.

Location: West Fork Carson River through lower Hope Valley Project area consists of four meanders from the Highway 88 bridge (38.771890, - 119.934319) about 0.5 river miles downstream, ending just before (but not including) the meander restored in fall of 2015 (38.776818, -119.933301).

Affected Watershed and/or Groundwater Basin: North Lahontan Hydrologic Unit Region, HUC Unit: 16050201 – Upper Carson; Carson Valley Groundwater Basin (6-06), Upper Carson Watershed, Lower Carson Watershed, and Hope Valley Meadow.

Expected Benefits or Improvements to Water Quality and/or Beneficial Uses: The project will reduce erosion and sedimentation and provide shading in the West Carson River at the four proposed sites. The results will include improved water quality and aquatic habitat. The project will also benefit water users in the Carson Valley, fishing and other recreation activities for visitors and residents of Alpine County, and the environment through more a connected and functional channel and floodplain.

Meadow restoration projects have been demonstrated to increase water storage capacity. Through restoration, these meadows are reconnected to groundwater, which usually results in reduced water temperatures in Summer. Reconnecting the meadow with its floodplain also reduces erosion and sediment delivery.

Estimated Duration: Two to three years

Project Readiness: The project has undergone initial planning by project partners including American Rivers, Friends of Hope Valley, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (the landowner). Final design plans will be developed in order for CEQA to be completed and the project to be implemented.

Public Health and Safety Benefits: None identified

Environmental Health and Safety Benefits: None identified by project applicant.

Identify Other Potential Project Benefits: This project aligns with the California Water Action Plan priorities and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program by providing multiple benefits such as enhancing wildlife habitat, improving water filtration ability and augmenting carbon storage capacity.

In 2015 American Rivers completed the first stream bank restoration project along the West Fork Carson within Hope Valley. The site was on California Department of Fish and Wildlife land in the Lower Hope Valley, at the downstream end of this proposed project. In 2016, a second major restoration project is being constructed further upstream. This reach consists of approximately 25 treatments for bank stabilization and riparian restoration along a 1.3 mile section of USFS land in the Upper Hope Valley. The proposed project will address the land between the two project areas completed in 2015 and 2016. The proposed project leverages greater ecological benefit and larger areas of connection of stream to meadow floodplain while completing one of the final needed restorations on the Upper West Carson River.

The proposed project will help to mitigate the potential long-term impacts of climate change. Re-establishing a functional floodplain and meadow system will allow the river corridor to accommodate variable flows in the future. Due to the potential for earlier spring runoff, it will be important for these meadowlands to serve as natural storage areas. Meadows provide an important form of natural water storage, which also improves late season, in-stream flows.

This project will address several of the California Water Plan Update (2013) resource management strategies in the "Ecosystem Restoration" category, including the following: 1) Reconnect rivers to their historic floodplains as part of new flood management approaches, 2) Restore mountain meadows, 3) Maintain and create habitat around stream and river corridors that is compatible with stream and river functions, 4) Restore and preserve stream channel morphology to provide floodwaters access to the floodplain and to encourage stable banks and channel form.

This project is considered an effective strategy according to the California Water Action Plan (2016) priorities: 1) Restore key mountain meadow habitat, 2) Manage headwaters for multiple benefits, and 3) Protect and restore degraded stream and meadow ecosystems to assist in natural water management and improved habitat.

Environmental Justice Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: The project area represents an important historical and cultural resource of the Washoe Tribe. For over 10 years, the Alpine Watershed Group has been working with the Washoe Tribe's Cultural and Environmental Departments in addressing water quality issues. The Washoe Tribe supports restoration as a tribal resource benefit. Maintaining native vegetation and wildlife habitat is necessary to support many of the Washoe Tribe's cultural heritage activities.

Disadvantaged Community Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: The Woodfords Community of the Washoe Tribe is considered a disadvantaged community and is located downstream of the proposed project site. As mentioned above, this project helps to protect the cultural and environmental resources of significance to the Washoe Tribe.

Identify if Potential SEP Funding may be Used to Leverage Matching Funds: Once initial project funding is secured (e.g. Phase 1 & 2), additional funds will be sought for the remaining phases. Phase 1 Design of all restoration sites will position the project as fully-shovel-ready (with planning and design complete for whole project, the 3 remaining restoration sites would be shovel-ready). Sources to be pursued include IRWM Implementation Grants and other appropriate Proposition 1 grants and private foundations.

ENCLOSURE 4

**COMMENT LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF THE SQUAW CREEK MEADOW
RESTORATION PROJECT**

Taxer, Eric@Waterboards

From: Eric Poulsen <epsquaw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 12:07 PM
To: Lahontan
Subject: Squaw Valley Litigation funds allocation

Dear Lahontan Board Members -

My name is Eric Poulsen. I have been a community member in Squaw Valley for over 65 years.

I am writing to ask that you give strong consideration to granting the remaining funds in The Squaw Valley Litigation Fund to the Squaw Valley FOSC for their Squaw Creek Rehabilitation project for the following reasons:

- First, much of the damage to Squaw Creek was caused by the actions of the State of California.

For the 1960 Winter Olympics, the State of California and the Army Corp of Engineers graded out a major portion of the westernmost part of the Squaw Valley Meadow and forest land (now asphalt ski area parking lot) and then channelized Squaw Creek into what is now known as the Trapezoidal Channel. They placed the Olympic parking on top of meadowlands by compacting snow mixed with sawdust and with this destroyed Meadow / Creek vegetation (willows and grassland) for the parking and construction of 4 temporary bridges and a roadway up the south side of Squaw Valley. This led to major sedimentation and degradation of Squaw Creek.

Prior to this time, Squaw Creek provided a good fishery and spawning ground for the fish.

This was done for a 15 day event - 1960 Winter Olympics - which then became a state park. It is important for the State to contribute back to the restoration and remediation of Squaw Creek and the Squaw Valley Meadow.

- Secondly, these funds were generated by litigation that came out of Squaw Valley and so these funds should be returned to improvements in Squaw Valley.

This watershed improvement project is a worthy of this contribution. I applaud you for your efforts in assisting with our hard working FOSC board members and their efforts with this creek restoration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Poulsen

Sent from my iPad



**SQUAW VALLEY
PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT**



October 6, 2016

Lahontan Regional Water Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds – Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) Project

On behalf of the Squaw Valley Public Service District, I am writing to express support of the Friends of Squaw Creek's request for the "Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) Project". As the project description describe, an award of the consent agreement funds will fund implementation of wetland and stream restoration to attain the Squaw Creek Sediment TMDL.

The District's support of this project is based on its benefits to water quality, water supply through groundwater recharge and the enhancement of groundwater / surface water interactions. The Lahontan Board's approval of the proposed project will help achieve the goals mandated in the State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2007-0008, attached.

This seems a particularly appropriate use of these funds since the issues of non-compliance from which the Squaw Valley Consent Agreement funds originated occurred in Squaw Valley. Award of these funds in support of this project is a direct return to the environment that endured the impacts associated with the issues of non-compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds.

Sincerely,



Mike Geary, PE
General Manager

Cc: Friends of Squaw Creek Board of Directors

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2007- 0008**

**APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR THE LAHONTAN REGION (BASIN PLAN) TO ESTABLISH A
TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR SEDIMENT IN SQUAW CREEK**

WHEREAS:

1. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan Water Board) adopted the revised Basin Plan under Resolution No. 6-93-98 on September 9, 1993. The revised Basin Plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on January 19, 1995, by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on March 31, 1995, and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on May 29, 2000.
2. On April 13, 2006, the Lahontan Water Board adopted Resolution No. R6T-2006-0017 (Attachment) amending the Basin Plan to establish a program (TMDL) to control sediment in Squaw Creek, Placer County. The Lahontan Water Board established a sediment loading capacity for Squaw Creek of 28,425 tons per year, equaling an average daily load of approximately 78 tons. The TMDL accounts for critical conditions by establishing multiple targets which together address net long-term effects to the meadow reach of Squaw Creek, which appears to be most sensitive to sedimentation. Attainment with the TMDL will be assessed using multi-year data based on rolling averages and trend analysis.
3. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that Regional Water Quality Control Boards may revise Basin Plans.
4. The Lahontan Water Board found that the analysis contained in the TMDL staff report, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) checklist, and the response to comments comply with the requirements of the State Water Board's certified regulatory CEQA process as set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 23, section 3775, et seq.
5. While this amendment addresses only the impairment to beneficial uses of Squaw Creek due to excessive sediment, the State Water Board recognizes that beneficial uses of Squaw Creek may also be affected by diminished flow conditions.
6. The Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by OAL and the TMDL approved by USEPA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Basin Plan adopted under Lahontan Water Board Resolution No. R6T-2006-0017.

2. Directs the Lahontan Water Board to continue to support the efforts of entities pumping groundwater as well as other stakeholders in Squaw Valley to: (1) minimize effects on the creek, (2) develop a groundwater management plan that recognizes potential effects of pumping on the creek and seeks to minimize or eliminate adverse effects on Squaw Creek, and (3) conduct a study of potential interaction between groundwater pumping and flows in Squaw Creek. The State Water Board further directs the Lahontan Water Board to report on the progress of these efforts at a future State Water Board meeting in March 2008.
3. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to transmit the amendment and the administrative record for this action to OAL and the TMDL to USEPA for approval.

CERTIFICATION

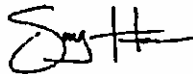
The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Board held on February 20, 2007.

AYE: Tam M. Doduc
Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D.
Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.
Charles R. Hoppin

NO: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Song Her
Clerk to the Board

Taxer, Eric@Waterboards

From: Brian Slusser <4seaslusser@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 1:44 PM
To: Lahontan
Subject: "Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds"
Attachments: PastedGraphic-2.pdf

Water Board,

The left over funds from the Squaw Vally Consent Agreement should be used solely for projects is Squaw Valley Creek. That agreement generated them so that is where that should be used and not is some other area of the Truckee Watershed.

Brian Slusser
Four Seasons Fly Fishing
PO Box 10731
Truckee, CA 96282

530-388-0525
<http://www.flyfishingtruckee-lahoe.com>
Orvis Endorsed Guide
Certified Casting Instructor

October 14, 2016

Eric Taxer
Chief, Basin Planning and TMDL Unit
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

RE: Clean Water Act 303d Listing of Impaired Waterbody: Bear Creek

Dear Mr. Taxer,

Squaw Valley Resort requests the award of the remainder of the Squaw Creek litigation funds to be contributed to Friends of Squaw Creek. Friends of Squaw Creek is a non-profit, representative of a collaborative watershed vision amongst Squaw Creek stakeholders to reach the Squaw Creek TMDL objectives. Squaw Creek Restoration contributes to the reductions in bedload transport and achieving the Squaw Creek and Truckee River TMDLs.

Squaw Valley Resort has dedicated parcel APN 096-221-013 to Placer County for preservation of open space. It is a just use of litigation funds to enhance the aquatic habitat from within the watershed in which the water quality litigation occurred.

Sincerely,

Michael Gross

October 12, 2016

To: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

From: Jennifer Montgomery, Placer County Supervisor, District 5 (Representing Olympic Valley)

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Greetings Patty and the Lahontan Water Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Proposed Expenditure of Remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds, Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070".

Please accept this email as my request to award the SVSC Consent Agreement funds to the project proposed by the Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC).

It is important that the project is located within the watershed where the funds were generated and that the funds be spent in that same watershed.

The proposed project would complete an important portion of the greater Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) Project. Specifically, this money would address a two-acre portion of the Squaw Valley meadow that is currently degraded and dysfunctional. It is located just south of Squaw Valley Road between the Meadows Condominiums and the Squaw Valley Stables.

Currently, FOSC is collaborating with Trout Unlimited, HydroRestoration, Balance Hydrologics, the Squaw Valley Resort (Squaw Valley Real Estate), the Resort at Squaw Creek, Poulsen Commercial, and Placer County to complete a coordinated, watershed-wide restoration plan. The current focus is on the meadow reach of Squaw Creek and this northwest meadow project would complete an important segment of the overall plan.

Please consider awarding the SVSC Consent Agreement funds to the Friends of Squaw Creek.

Respectfully,

Jennifer

Jennifer Montgomery

Placer County Supervisor, District 5

530-889-4010

Taxer, Eric@Waterboards

From: Ed Heneveld <doced@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 09, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Lahontan
Cc: Taxer, Eric@Waterboards; Ferguson, Scott@Waterboards
Subject: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds
Attachments: Squaw Creek NW Meadow Restoration.docx; draft design SC NW meadow.pdf

October 8, 2016

To: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

From: Ed Heneveld, Chairman, Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC)

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Greetings to the Lahontan Water Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the “Proposed Expenditure of Remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds, Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070”.

My request is for you to award the SVSC Consent Agreement funds to the project proposed by the Friends of Squaw Creek.

Although the other 3 projects represent worthy watershed improvement opportunities, I think it is an important consideration that our project is located in the watershed where the funds were generated and the funds would be spent in that same watershed.

Our proposed project (attached) would complete an important portion of the greater Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) Project. Specifically, this money would address a two-acre portion of the Squaw Valley meadow that is currently degraded and dysfunctional. It is located just south of Squaw Valley Road between the Meadows Condominiums and the Squaw Valley Stables. The attached draft design illustrates this section of the northwest meadow to be improved and a possible plan to be implemented (including post project monitoring). Currently, FOSC is collaborating with Trout Unlimited, HydroRestoration, Balance Hydrologics, along with Squaw Valley Resort (Squaw Valley Real Estate), the Resort at Squaw Creek, Poulsen Commercial, and Placer County to complete a coordinated, watershed-wide restoration plan. Our current focus is on the meadow reach of Squaw Creek and this northwest meadow project would complete an important segment of our overall plan.

Please consider awarding the SVSC Consent Agreement funds to the Friends of Squaw Creek.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Heneveld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "E".

Ed Heneveld,

Squaw Valley, Olympic Valley resident and chairman of the Friends of Squaw Creek

Our organization, the Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC), is a grassroots organization in Squaw Valley that originated in April of 2002 in response to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placing Squaw Creek on its 303d list of impaired streams due to excessive sediment as well as community alarm perceiving reduced stream flows and loss of fish population. FOSC brings together landowners, businesses, jurisdictional agencies, and private citizens dedicated to enhancing the Squaw Creek watershed. Our mission is "The Friends of Squaw Creek seek to provide a forum for facilitating and coordinating efforts to promote a naturally sustainable environment for the Squaw Creek watershed through education, communication, science, and community involvement. FOSC works to improve Squaw Creek's ecological system in order to perform its natural, physical and biological function, considering its uses and constraints." Additional objectives include providing leadership to facilitate specific enhancement projects for Squaw Creek, improving communications within the community, improving the habitat of the watershed, and educating the community on this watershed's ecology.

Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration

Project Proponent: Friends of Squaw Creek (FOSC) **Estimated Budget:** \$354,187.67

Project Description: The Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration (SCMR) Project improves water quality and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat of a 150-acre montane wet meadow complex and 1.8 miles of Squaw Creek. Allocation of DOJ funds towards the SCMR Project will fund implementation of approximately two acres of wetland and stream restoration and enable the construction area to be monitored for a period of three years. The restoration will increase sheetflow runoff to the North Floodplain, enabling groundwater recharge and sediment detention. The goals of the entire SCMR Project are to thwart head cutting, bank erosion, and failing rip-rap with biotechnical stabilization; enhance Squaw Creek's connection to relict oxbows; increase water storage capacity through wetland ponds; and develop instream aquatic fisheries habitat enhancements. If funded, permitting will take place in 2016/2017 to allow the project to be constructed during the 2017 construction season.

Location: Eastern Placer County, in Olympic Valley, California, six miles (9.6 km) northwest of Lake Tahoe, California between the towns of Tahoe City and Truckee. - 120.1985, 39.2116

Affected Watershed and/or Groundwater Basin: Squaw Creek/Truckee River Watershed 16050102 Olympic Valley Groundwater Basin: 6-108

Expected Benefits or Improvements to Water Quality and/or Beneficial Uses: The SCMR Project purpose is to improve water quality for all beneficial uses, specifically to implement measures to attain the Squaw Creek Sediment TMDL, enhance native fisheries habitat for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and improve water supply through groundwater recharge.

Estimated Project Duration: Pre-project monitoring, permitting, and construction will occur over the next 12 months. An additional 36 months of post-construction monitoring are proposed.

Project Readiness: The SCMR Project is ranked No.1 in the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group and is ready to be implemented. FOSC has established Memorandums of Understandings with stakeholders and is a signatory of the Tahoe Sierra IRWM. Squaw Valley Resort has purchased a 9.4 acre parcel (Placer County APN 096-221-013) for proposed restoration and dedicated it to Placer County. The Resort at Squaw Creek has also transferred the adjacent 0.7 acre parcel proposed for restoration (Placer County APN 096-060-054-000) to Placer County. Placer County as the lead CEQA agency has funded and completed an initial study for all SCMR Project Phases. Final CEQA studies for the total project are underway, including archeological, biological and wetland delineation, and are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2016 to enable permit applications over winter. Construction will take place during the 2017 season.

Public Health and Safety Benefits: The SCMR Project area has been recently amended in the 2016 FEMA floodplain maps. Agency coordination and hydrologic studies are being incorporated into the SCMR Project to better understand if flood attenuation may be improved through restoration to help adapt to extreme climate change variability inducing drought conditions and shorter duration, higher frequency events.

Environmental Health and Safety Benefits: The SCMR Project is ranked as the No. 1 restoration project in the Tahoe Sierra IRWM. The SCMR Project contributes to achieving Squaw Creek TMDL targets by reducing bedload transported and deposited in downstream reaches, and contributes to achieving the Truckee River Suspended Sediment Concentration TMDL by reducing fine sediment carried in suspension to the Truckee River. The SCMR

Project also enhances aquatic and terrestrial habitat for species such as Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Willow Flycatcher, migration corridors, groundwater surface water interaction, water supply, carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction, and flood attenuation while protecting meadow systems.

Identify Other Potential Project Benefits or Efficiencies: The SCMR Project supports the goals and objectives identified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Basin, such as gathering current water quality information and implementing projects to achieve TMDL targets. The SCMR Project aligns with the integrated watershed management goals identified by the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Group by benefitting water quality, water supply, and ecosystem restoration. The SCMR Project serves a regional need of reducing bedload and fines, increasing water supply through groundwater recharge, and prolonging baseflows for aquatic species and downstream users in California and Nevada. The SCMR Project will help meet instream flow requirements for fish, wildlife and recreation. Watershed data efficiencies shall be consolidated between stakeholders to assess restoration through groundwater, surface water and bioassessment sampling. FOSC provides a virtual library and GIS database. The SCMR Project accounts for and will better address or manage effects from extreme climate change variability including drought conditions and shorter duration, higher frequency events.

Identify Other Project Funding Sources, and if Additional Funds Are Needed to Close a Funding Gap: The Lahontan DOJ funds will support implementation of a stand-alone aspect of the SCMR Project to re-wet the North Floodplain and reduce sediment in-stream to improve water quality. Squaw Valley Resort and Resort at Squaw Creek have dedicated the required parcels to Placer County. The Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 funds have contributed \$300,000 to the CEQA final

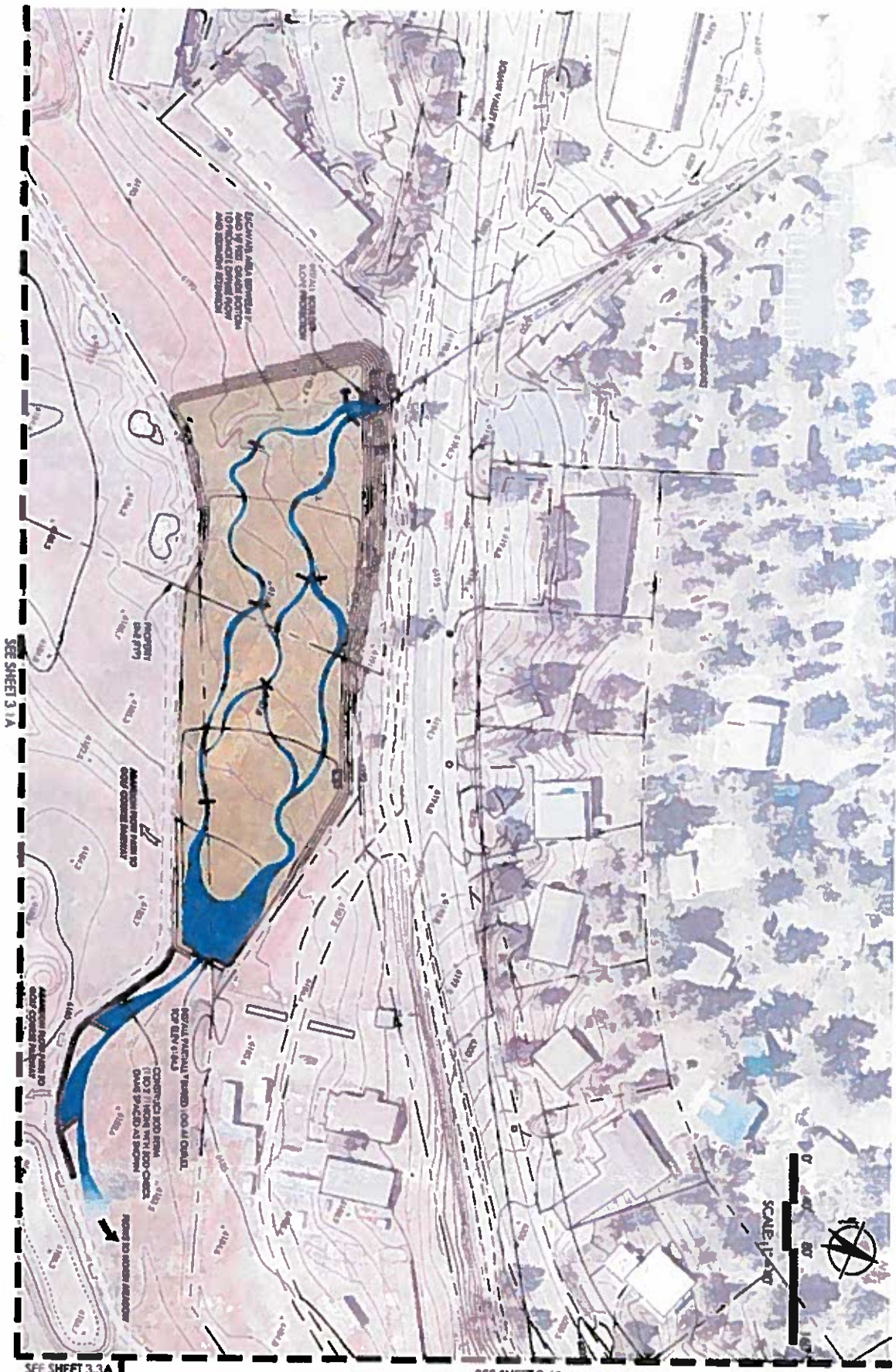
studies and permitting for the entire project. The Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation has allocated \$8,000 towards Friends of Squaw Creek organizational capacity, and the National Forest Foundation has provided \$250,000 funds towards construction and monitoring of upstream reaches. The total SCMR Project implementation costs are estimated to be \$1.5 million.

Identify if Potential SEP Funding may be used to Leverage Matching Funds: The remaining DOJ funds will be used to leverage a \$550,000 grant from the State Water Board 319h grant. Applications are to be submitted October 2016 for construction of additional downstream reaches of the project.

Environmental Justice Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: Water quality and supply are improved to downstream users of the Truckee River watershed including Pyramid Lake, a terminal lake on tribal land with endangered fisheries of cultural significance, primarily the endangered cui-ui fish and the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

Disadvantaged Community Concerns that may be Addressed by the Project: Tahoe-Sierra IRWM is addressing DAC through tribal outreach and bilingual translation of written materials to share more broadly information on improvements to beneficial uses from restoration, including the SCR.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



3.2A

PROJECT NUMBER	21512
SHEET	1 of 6

**ALTERNATIVE A:
UPPER MEADOW 1**
SQUAW MEADOW RESTORATION
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
FRIENDS OF SQUAW CREEK / TROUT UNLIMITED

DESIGNED BY	DATE	BY	SUBMITALS / REVISIONS
D SHAW			
DRAWN BY			
CHECKED BY			
IN CHARGE			
DATE	7.22.14		



ENCLOSURE 5

**COMMENT LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF THE HOPE VALLEY
RESTORATION AND AQUATIC HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

October 13, 2016
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Dear Lahontan RWQCB,

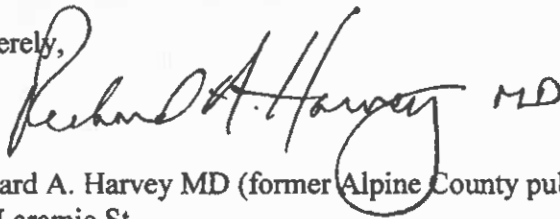
I strongly support the Alpine Watershed Group's *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* project proposal for the Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds.

I live in Markleeville (Alpine County) and have had an opportunity to observe and participate in the restoration and outreach work done by the Alpine Watershed Group. The AWG partners with other Alpine County organizations and provides important water quality monitoring, watershed restoration, and environmental education. Examples of restoration projects include Markleeville Creek Day, the Alpine Aspen Festival, Hope Valley Meadow Restoration Project, the East Carson OHV Restoration Project and others. These projects have involved multiple partners including the USFS, American Rivers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Carson Water Subconservancy District, the EPA, OCTA, River Wranglers, Sierra Nevada Alliance, the Sierra Business Council and others.

The SEP proposed project in Alpine County involves continuing and extending 2 restoration projects on the West Fork of the Carson River in Hope Valley. These projects will benefit Hope Valley by slowing water flows, improving meadow water storage, improving water quality and ultimately benefiting downstream water users.

Thank you for considering AWG's important project proposal. I encourage the Water Board to fully fund the proposed project in Hope Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Harvey MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "H" and "V".

Richard A. Harvey MD (former Alpine County public health officer)
206 Laramie St.
Markleeville,
CA 96120



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Carson Ranger District
1536 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
775-882-2766

File Code: 2520
Date: October 12, 2016

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board,

I am writing to support the Alpine Watershed Group's *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* project proposal for the remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds (Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070).

The Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, has been working with the AWG for several years. They are a reliable and professional non-profit organization. Their ability to successfully manage grants, provide water quality monitoring, implement restoration projects, work with local and regional partners, and educate the community gives us the confidence to recommend them for funding.

The proposed project represents an important restoration component in Hope Valley on the West Carson River. It aligns with our past and continued work in the region. The Forest Service has been working on river restoration upstream of the proposed project. The *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* also furthers state and regional goals contained in numerous plans, including the California Water Plan, California Water Action Plan, Carson River Watershed Stewardship Plan, Upper Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan, and American Rivers' Meadow Assessment.

Thank you for considering AWG's project proposal. I encourage the Water Board to fully fund the proposed project in Hope Valley.

Sincerely,



IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger



Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Environmental Protection Department



October 12th, 2016

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Dear Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board,

We are writing to support the Alpine Watershed Group's *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* project proposal for the remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds (Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070).

The Washoe Tribe's Environmental Protection Department has been working with AWG for several years. The Alpine Watershed Group is a reliable and professional non-profit organization. Their ability to successfully manage grants, provide water quality monitoring, implement restoration projects, work with local and regional partners, and educate the community gives us the confidence to recommend them for funding.

The proposed project represents an important restoration component in Hope Valley/Carson River Watershed. It aligns with our past and continued work in the region. The Washoe Tribe strives to protect, maintain, and enhance the natural resources both on and off Tribal lands for current and future generations. Hope Valley is a culturally and environmentally important landscape to the Washoe Tribe. This project would restore and enhance Tribal ancestral lands, and benefit the plants and animals who occupy the lands and the Tribal members who visit the lands.

The *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* also furthers state and regional goals contained in numerous plans, including the California Water Plan, California Water Action Plan, Carson River Watershed Stewardship Plan, Upper Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan, and American Rivers' Meadow Assessment.

Thank you for considering AWG's important project proposal. We encourage the Water Board to fully fund the proposed project in Hope Valley.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hochrein
Environmental Program Coordinator
Washoe Environmental Protection Department
michelle.hochrein@washoetribe.us

919 Highway 395 South, Gardnerville, Nevada 89410
(775) 265-8600 • (775) 265-8680 • FAX (775) 265-3211



FRIENDS OF HOPE VALLEY
PO Box 431
Markleeville, CA 96120
www.friendsofhopevalley.com

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

South Lake Tahoe, CA 9615

Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Dear Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board,

The Friends of Hope Valley (FOHV) is a nonprofit organization whose members share a deep affection for the unspoiled beauty of the sierra's eastern slope of Alpine country. Formed in 1985 in response to a proposal to run power transmission line through Hope Valley, the Friends have been successful in their on going protection efforts, including preserving over 25,000 acres of open space in Hope Valley and the eastern Alpine County

We are writing to support the Alpine Watershed Group's Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement project proposal for the remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds (Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070).

Our group has worked with the Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) since it was created. We have partnered with them on many projects in Alpine Country. FOHV has been working on the West Fork of the Carson River since it became public lands. We have completed several small bioengineering projects and planted countless willows over the last 25 years. The AWG proposed project is in a high priority area just below a bridge. Completing this project will make a huge difference on this reach of the river.

Thank you for considering AWG's important project proposal. We encourage the Water Board to fully fund the proposed project in Hope Valley.

Sincerely,

Debbi Waldear

President. Friends of Hope Valley

October 10, 2016

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Dear Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board,

We are writing to support the Alpine Watershed Group's *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* project proposal for the remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds (Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070).

American Rivers has been working with AWG since 2011. The Alpine Watershed Group is a reliable and professional non-profit organization. Their ability to successfully manage grants, provide water quality monitoring, implement restoration projects, work with local and regional partners, and educate the community gives us the confidence to recommend them for funding.

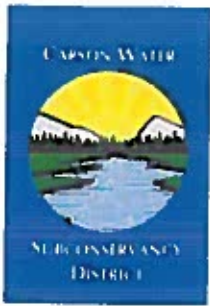
The proposed project represents an important restoration component for the Hope Valley Meadow and the Carson River Watershed. American Rivers is in the process of implementing large scale streambank restoration in upper Hope Valley and completed limited streambank restoration in lower Hope Valley in 2015. This project will leverage the relationship built with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (the land managers) to increase the amount of restoration occurring on their land in the lower meadow. The *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* also furthers state and regional goals contained in numerous plans, including the California Water Plan, California Water Action Plan, Carson River Watershed Stewardship Plan, Upper Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan, and American Rivers' Meadow Assessment.

Thank you for considering AWG's important project proposal. We encourage the Water Board to fully fund the proposed project in Hope Valley.

Sincerely,



Julie Fair
Associate Director, California Conservation
American Rivers



CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT
777 East William Street, Suite 110A
Carson City, NV 89701
775/887-7450, fax 775/887-7457
www.cwsd.org

10/11/2016

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Dear Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board,

We are writing to support the Alpine Watershed Group's *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* project proposal for the remaining Squaw Valley Ski Corporation Consent Agreement Funds (Olympic Valley, Placer County – WDID NO. 6A310118070). Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) works closely with the AWG and helps fund the organization (\$20,000) annually to support their programs in the Carson River Watershed.

The proposed project represents an important restoration component in Hope Valley along the West Fork of the Carson River Watershed. The project aligns with the goals of the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan 2007 which meets the federal Environmental Protection Agency's nine elements for a Watershed plan. This plan is currently being updated. The plan also is consistent with the goals of the Carson River Floodplain Management Plan 2008 (CRFMP) and its 2013 update. The CRFMP has been adopted by Alpine County, and the four counties in Nevada that the river runs through.

CWSD noticed that AWG's application write-up may lack some specifics regarding Public Health and Safety benefits and Environmental Health and Safety benefits. The proposed project is critical floodplain restoration that will increase the capacity to attenuate floodwaters in the upper watershed; therefore, limiting flood damage impacts to downstream communities. Additionally, the West Fork of the Carson River provides public drinking water to users downstream. The project will reduce sediment and erosion issues, providing improved water quality benefits to this public drinking water source.

The Alpine Watershed Group is a reliable and professional non-profit organization. Their ability to successfully manage grants, provide water quality monitoring, implement restoration projects, work with local and regional partners, and educate the community is evident in the

work they have completed. CWSD supports their efforts and is confident in their ability to complete the work on budget and in a timely fashion.

Besides the above mentioned plans, the *Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement* furthers CA state and regional goals contained in numerous other plans, including the California Water Plan, California Water Action Plan, AWG's Upper Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan, and the recent American Rivers' Meadow Assessment.

Thank you for considering AWG's project proposal for funding and we encourage the Water Board to utilize the Squaw Valley Corporation Consent Agreement funds to implement the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Hunt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brenda Hunt
Watershed Program Manager
Carson Water Subconservancy District

cc: **Ed James**
Alpine Watershed Group
Friends of Hope Valley
American Rivers

October 13, 2016
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Proposed Expenditure of Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds

Dear Lahontan RWQCB,

I strongly support the Alpine Watershed Group's Hope Valley Restoration & Aquatic Habitat Enhancement project proposal for the Squaw Valley Consent Agreement Funds.

My family and I have been recreating in eastern Alpine County for over 35 years. My children learned to backcountry ski and fly fish in the meadows and waters of Hope Valley, a beautiful iconic part of Alpine County. Over these years this valley has been our destination, traveling from the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego and now from Bend, Oregon.

Alpine County is unique, with a large amount of public land and a small population. It is difficult for it to attract funding for restoration and enhancement projects, competing with relatively large and well-known neighboring watersheds and communities. Visitors, like myself, must speak up for the County and the work of the Alpine Watershed Group.

During these years I became familiar with the Alpine Watershed Group's efforts and abilities, and have been willing to serve on AWG's Board of Directors, now its Chairman. The AWG is a community based organization working to preserve Alpine County's watersheds for generations to come, supporting monitoring programs, conducting hands-on educational programs and implementing restoration projects. The AWG has partnered with the River Wranglers, Carson Water Subconservancy District, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USFS, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Sierra Business Council and other organizations to complete restoration projects, including the stream bank stabilization projects with American Rivers along two reaches of the West Fork Carson within Hope Valley.

Our proposed project would address land between these two project areas, leveraging greater ecological benefit and larger areas of connection of

stream to meadow floodplain while completing one of the final needed restorations on the Upper West Carson River.

Thank you for considering the Alpine Watershed Group's project proposal. I encourage the Water Board to fully fund this proposed project in Hope Valley.

Sincerely,

John W. Barr, MD
Chairman
Alpine Watershed Group

19855 SW Touchmark Way #C12
Bend, Oregon 97702

ENCLOSURE 6

POWER POINT PRESENTATION BY WATER BOARD STAFF

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
ALLOCATION OF SQUAW VALLEY SKI
CORPORATION CONSENT
AGREEMENT FUNDS FOR A WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**Item 10
November 9, 2016**

A BRIEF HISTORY...

- Consent Agreement Issued
- Compliance Achieved
- \$357,187.67 Unspent
From Department of
Justice (DOJ)

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ex rel. BILL LOCKYER, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA, and PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ex rel. the CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LAHONTAN REGION,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SQUAW VALLEY SKI CORPORATION;
SQUAW VALLEY DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY; SQUAW VALLEY
PRESERVE; ALEXANDER C. CUSHING,
an individual; NANCY R. WENDT, an
individual; HANS A. BURKHART,

Defendants.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- **Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration project
(Friends of Squaw Creek)**
- **Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad project
(Truckee River Watershed Council)**
- **Donner Creek Bank Stabilization and Channel Enhancement
Adjacent to Highway 89 project
(Truckee River Watershed Council)**
- **Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement
project (Alpine Watershed Group)**

SQUAW CREEK MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

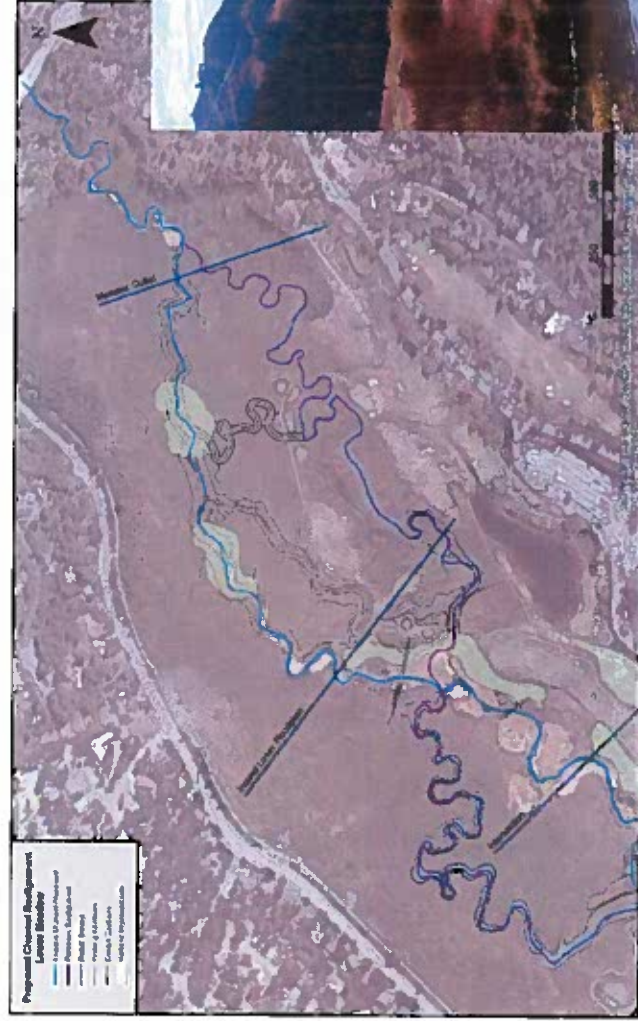
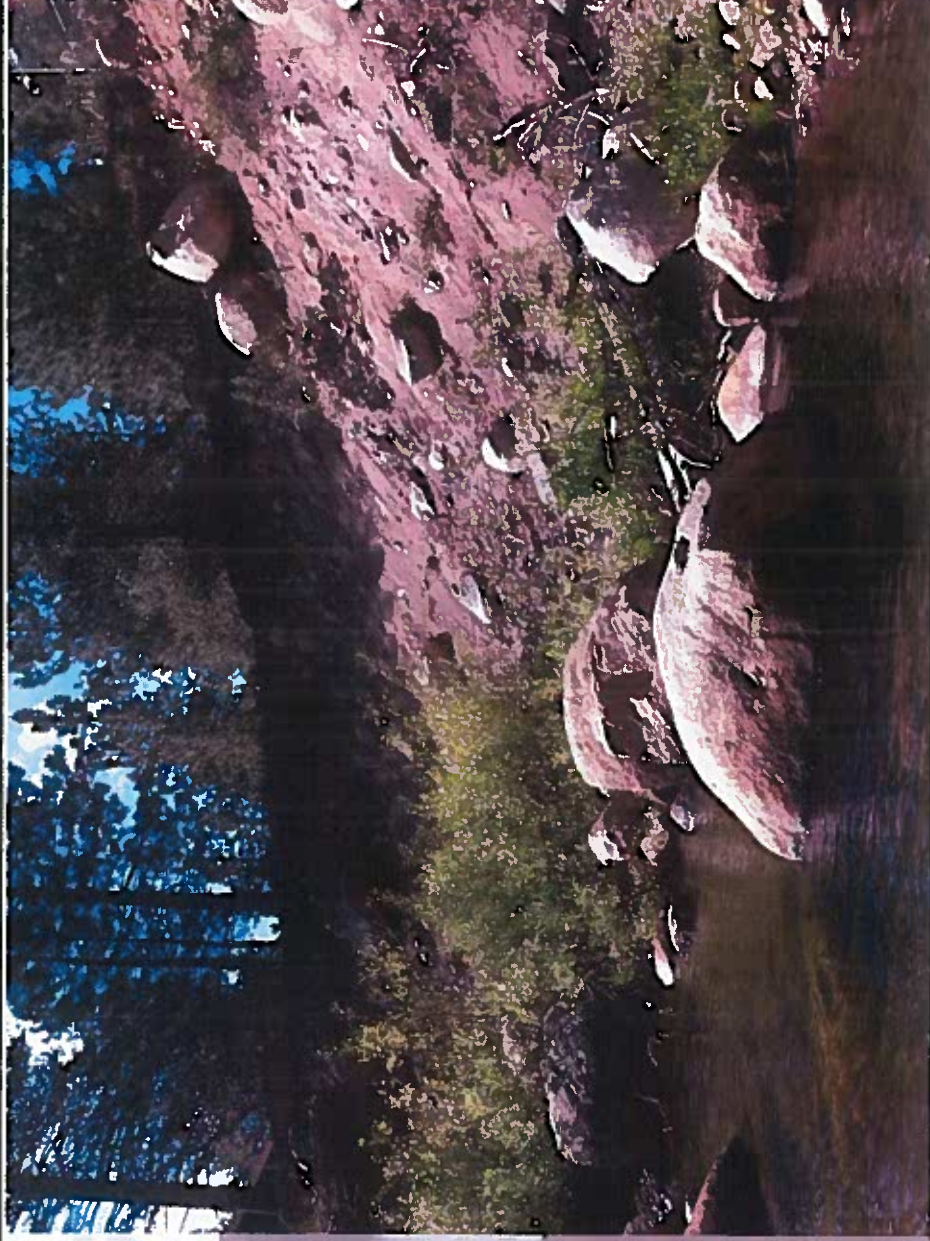


Photo and map provided by Hydrorestoration
Allocation of Squaw Valley

Item No. 5

DONNER CREEK BANK STABILIZATION DOWNSTREAM OF RAILROAD CULVERT PROJECT



**Photo Courtesy
of Truckee River
Watershed
Council**

Item No. 5

DONNER CREEK BANK STABILIZATION AND CHANNEL ENHANCEMENT ADJACENT TO HIGHWAY 89 PROJECT

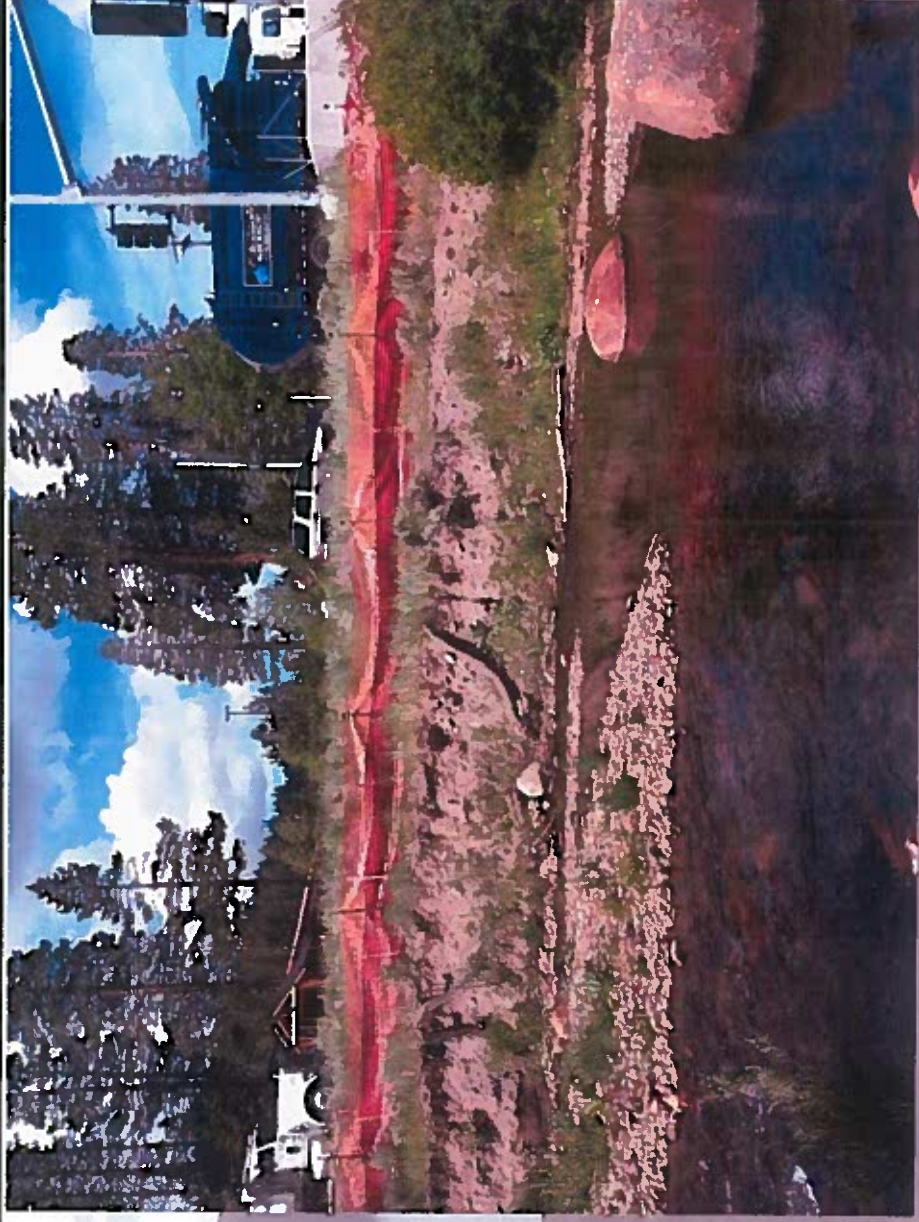


Photo Courtesy
of Truckee River
Watershed
Council

HOPE VALLEY RESTORATION AND AQUATIC HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

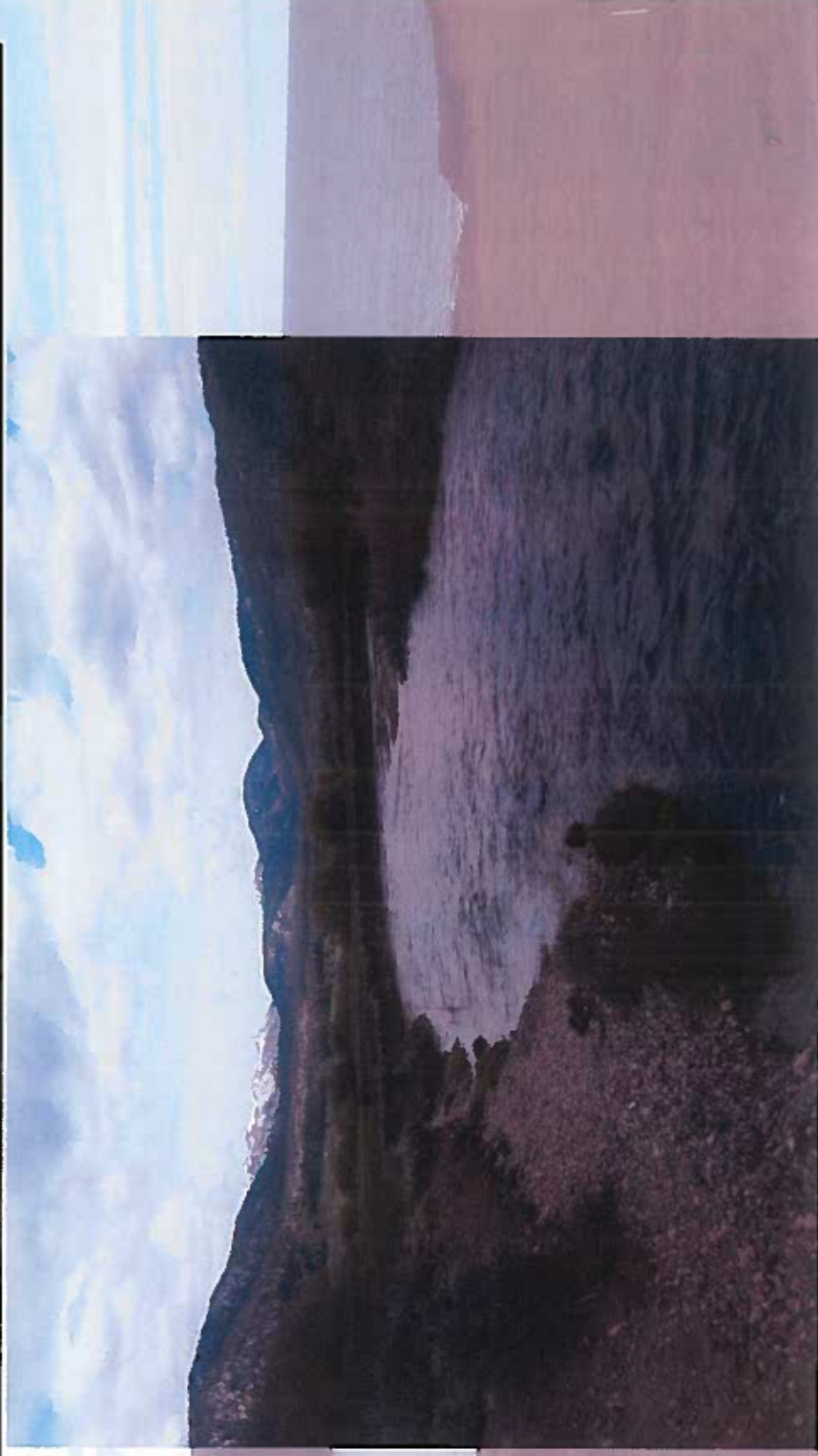


Photo Courtesy
of Alpine
Watershed
Group

Item No. 5

COMMENTS SUPPORTING SQUAW CREEK MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

- **Eric Poulsen, Community Member**
- **Mike Geary, Squaw Valley Public Service District**
- **Brian Slusser, Four Seasons Fly Fishing**
- **Michael Gross, Squaw Valley Resort**
- **Jennifer Montgomery, Placer County Supervisor,
District 5**
- **Ed Heneveld, Chairman, Friends of Squaw Creek**

COMMENTS SUPPORTING HOPE VALLEY RESTORATION PROJECT

- **Richard Harvey (former Alpine County public health officer)**
- **Irene Davidson, District Ranger, USFS Carson/Bridgeport Ranger District**
- **Michelle Hochrein, Washoe Tribe**
- **Debbi Waldear, Friends of Hope Valley**
- **Julie Fair, Associate Director, California Conservation, American Rivers**
- **Brenda Hunt, Carson Water Subconservancy District**
- **John Barr, Chairman, Alpine Watershed Group**

CONSIDERATIONS

- **Climate Change**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Leveraging Funds**
- **Geographic Nexus**
- **TMDL**
- **Unique Cultural Opportunities**

RECOMMENDATION

- **Allocate \$235,637.67 for Portion of Proposed Squaw Creek Meadow Restoration Project**
- **Allocate \$118,550 for Design and Permitting (Phase I) of Proposed Hope Valley Restoration and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project**

