

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, and Interested Parties

From: California Department of Parks and Recreation Project Manager

Subject: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF A SCOPING MEETING FOR THE UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER RESTORATION AND LAKE TAHOE GOLF COURSE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT

Date: January 14, 2022

Description of the Project

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) is preparing an EIR for the Project identified below and is requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR. State Parks is proposing the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Lake Tahoe Golf Course Reconfiguration Project (Project), which includes geomorphic-based river restoration of the Upper Truckee River within the 169-acre Lake Valley State Recreation Area (LVSRA) and portions of Washoe Meadows State Park (WMSP). The purpose of the Project is to restore natural river hydrologic conditions, geomorphic processes, and ecological function to 1.8 miles of the Upper Truckee River, which will reduce erosion and therefore improve water quality in the Upper Truckee River and Lake Tahoe. The proposed restoration Project aims to achieve this goal by constructing a meandering river channel at a grade that would be connected with the floodplain. The present channel would be restored to a more natural, balanced condition that mimics portions of the historic channel, which in general involves actions that reverse past actions that altered the natural course, depth, and velocity of the river. To accomplish this river restoration, the Project also includes reconfiguration of the 135-acre, 18-hole regulation Lake Tahoe Golf Course within LVSRA to allow room for the river meanders and establish a greater buffer between the river and the golf course. Existing undersized bridges would be removed and replaced with floodplain spanning bridges, the golf course would be modernized with a new irrigation system, drought resistant turf, and new restroom facilities, among other improvements. A trail connecting from Highway 50 along the river into Washoe Meadows State Park would also be included.

State Parks is the lead agency under CEQA and the US Army Corps of Engineers is the federal lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which will be conducted jointly with the CEQA process.

Location of the Project

The Project would be located within the LVSRA and portions of the 608-acre WMSP, both of which are located at approximately 6,280 feet above mean sea level in El Dorado County, California, approximately 4.5 miles south of Lake Tahoe near the intersection of US Highway 50 and Meadow Vale Drive.

Issues to be Addressed in the EIR

It has been determined that an EIR is required because the Project could result in potentially significant impacts to environmental resources. The EIR will identify the potentially significant environmental effects of the Project, including those resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project. The EIR will also discuss and analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project, including a No Project alternative scenario and a "Stabilize in Place" alternative to the Project that could attain most of its basic objectives at a reduced cost. Other alternatives may be added to the analysis based on input received during the 45-day scoping period following issuance of this NOP, focused on avoiding or reducing any of its significant environmental effects while still attaining the goals of the Project, or by the EIR team in response to potentially significant environmental impacts identified during the EIR process.

Specific areas of analysis to be addressed in the EIR include: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, and energy conservation. Where feasible, mitigation measures will be recommended to avoid or reduce potentially significant impacts. The EIR will also address potential cumulative impacts of the Project, considered together with past, other current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

Information to be included in the EIR will be based, in part, on input and comments received during the scoping period. Decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies under CEQA, property owners, and members of the public will also have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR once it is issued. Additional information about the environmental review process for the Project can be found on the State Parks website for the Project at: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29860. Further information about the project is available at: <https://restoreuppertruckee.net/>.

Public Scoping Period for this Notice of Preparation

State law mandates a 30-day time limit after the date of the NOP for the scoping period. State Parks has chosen to increase the duration of scoping period for this Project to 45 days, beginning on January 14, 2022, and ending at 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2022. Please include a name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, and e-mail address of a contact person for all future notification related to this process. Public comments will become part of the public record and will be published in a Scoping Report.

Please send your comments to:

ECORP Consulting, Inc.

c/o Matt Trask

2525 Warren Dr.

Rocklin, CA 95677

or via email: mtrask@ecorpconsulting.com

Scoping Meeting

For the public and regulatory agencies to have an opportunity to obtain information and submit comments on the scope of the EIR for the Project, a meeting will be held during the EIR scoping period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually. The meeting will be held in two sessions, to allow a greater participation by agencies during working hours and the general public during the evening hours, on **January 25, 2022**.

Session 1 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Session 2 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86117625150?pwd=VTRkTERSaJlxRW9RN3VOeWovZ0JWZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 1762 5150

Passcode: 072958

Or Dial (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 861 1762 5150

Passcode: 072958

The scoping meeting will start with a brief presentation at 4 and 6 p.m., providing a summary of State Parks process for reviewing the Project application and environmental review process, an overview of the Project, and information on how members of the public can comment on the scope of the EIR. Following the presentation, interested parties will be provided an opportunity to provide comments about the Project. Written comments also may be submitted anytime during the NOP scoping period to the address, email, or facsimile number provided above.

REMINDER: All comments will be accepted by postmark, email, or facsimile through February 28, 2022. Please be sure to include your name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, and email address.