

**To:** California State Clearinghouse, Nevada State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Property Owners, & Interested Parties

**From:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

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

**Date:** January 28, 2022

### **Description of the Project**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) are initiating preparation of a joint EIR/TRPA EIS for the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Lake Tahoe Golf Course Reconfiguration Project (Project). This joint document is an EIR prepared by State Parks pursuant to CEQA (Public Resource Code Section 21000 et seq.) and State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) and an EIS prepared by TRPA pursuant to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, Code of Ordinances, and Rules of Procedure. This notice meets the CEQA and TRPA noticing requirements for an NOP.

State Parks and TRPA are requesting comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS. The project 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.

### **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/TRPA EIS is required because the Project could result in potentially significant impacts to environmental resources. The EIR/TRPA EIS 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/TRPA EIS 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/TRPA EIS 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](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**

The purpose of the NOP is to solicit comments from interested persons, organizations, and agencies as they relate to the scope and content of the information to be included and analyzed in the EIS/TRPA EIS. Agencies should comment on the elements of the environmental information that are relevant to their legal authority and statutory responsibilities in connection with the project.

The designated public scoping period will extend for 45 calendar days beginning on January 28, 2022, and concluding on March 15, 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: **Matt Trask, ECORP Consulting, Inc., 2525 Warren Dr. Rocklin, CA 95677, [mtrask@ecorpconsulting.com](mailto:mtrask@ecorpconsulting.com)**.

Two public scoping meeting will be held to provide the opportunity to learn about the Project and to receive comments from the public and other interested parties and agencies regarding the issues that should be addressed in the EIR/TRPA EIS. The scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
TRPA Governing Board (GB) Meeting  
Virtual

Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
TRPA Advisory Planning Commission (APC) Meeting  
Virtual

TRPA is concerned for the health and safety of community members, our staff, and our Governing Board. Amid rapidly evolving circumstances, the agency must consider its obligation to continue work while doing our part to slow the spread of the novel Coronavirus. TRPA will utilize technology to hold both public scoping meetings. Any interested member of the public will be able to participate and observe the meeting remotely without coming to a physical location. In-person attendance will not be part of the TRPA public meetings under the current recommendations from the state and local agencies. The staff summary for this project will be available for review via TRPA.gov seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Interested persons may provide comments and input to the Governing Board and/or Advisory Planning Commission meeting prior to the meeting and day of the meeting. Interested parties can provide comments during the meeting by using the platform GoToWebinar. Visit the service providers website, [www.gotomeeting.com/webinar](http://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar), in advance of

the meeting to prepare your system to connect to the meetings (webinar). The link to connect to the meeting will be posted on the Meetings and Notices page of the TRPA website the day of the meeting.

**REMINDER:** All comments will be accepted by postmark or e-mail through March 15, 2022. Please be sure to include your name, organization (if applicable), mailing address, and e-mail address.