

December 14, 2022

California Tahoe Conservancy Board Members  
California Tahoe Conservancy  
[public\\_comment@tahoe.ca.gov](mailto:public_comment@tahoe.ca.gov)

**Re: 7. Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition – Motel 6 and Knox Johnson Parcels**

The purpose of this letter is to express the League to Save Lake Tahoe’s (“League”) support for the California Tahoe Conservancy’s (Conservancy) acquisition of 31.2 acres of environmentally sensitive land adjacent to the Upper Truckee River and Upper Truckee Marsh. The League is dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental health, sustainability and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin. In connection with our mission, we advocate for restoration projects that address sources of fine sediment, the leading cause of Lake Tahoe’s dramatic clarity loss over the past half-century. The League also works with partner agencies around Lake Tahoe to conduct hands-on volunteer restoration work in meadows and waterbodies, including the Upper Truckee River and Johnson Meadow.

Acquisition of these parcels has unparalleled ecosystem benefits for the Tahoe Basin and directly supports both the League’s and the Conservancy’s goals and missions. This acquisition is vital to restoring and preventing further development of the largest watershed and wetland in the Tahoe Basin. It also allows for preservation of mountain meadow and wetlands next to the Upper Truckee River and Upper Truckee Marsh. The parcels that would be acquired are one of the highest priority environmentally sensitive lands still in need of acquisition in the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan.

The League is a part of the Upper Truckee River Watershed Advisory Group and is supportive of projects that restore the natural function of the upper Truckee River while reducing sediment loading into Lake Tahoe. Restoring the natural geomorphic and ecological processes along the Upper Truckee River will help reduce the river’s suspended sediment discharge to Lake Tahoe. This multiple-benefit water quality protection project is directly in line with Conservancy goals and mission by acquiring and restoring aging developed properties on environmentally sensitive lands, and either retiring or transferring the associated development rights to town centers.

The League strongly recommends that the Board Adopt Resolution 22-12-05 authorizing: (1) an update to the previously authorized (under Resolution 21-11-06) acquisition of El Dorado County Assessment Number (AN) 031-290-037 and AN 031-290-039 or portions thereof, and subsequent demolition and site stabilization, for an increased amount of up to \$18 million; (2) acceptance of a grant of \$1.5 million from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to support the acquisition; and (3) potential acceptance of a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board and other potential grants to support the acquisition. Acquiring the 31.2 acres of environmentally sensitive land adjacent to the Upper Truckee River and Upper Truckee Marsh is a one time opportunity to purchase this land that, when restored to its previous floodplain, will enhance and further decades of work to restore the Upper Truckee Marsh.

The League will continue to support the Conservancy in the acquisition and restoration of this important river and marsh to reduce sediment discharge into Lake Tahoe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darcie', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer  
The League to Save Lake Tahoe