

Adopted by
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
in Sacramento, California
January 23, 2012

**Approval of the Upper Truckee River Restoration
and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project**

WHEREAS, the Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project (Project) has been proposed and has been the subject of environmental review by the lead agency, California State Parks (CSP), as a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Project is located in Washoe Meadows State Park (WMSP) and Lake Valley State Recreation Area (LVSRA); and

WHEREAS, previous uses of the land include logging, a dairy in the meadow areas, gravel extraction, a drag strip, the extension of utility lines through the property and the straightening of the Upper Truckee River to improve drainage and reduce flooding; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, the Commission classified and named the property formerly referred to as Lake Valley Estates, which was an area proposed for urban development, and divided it into two units, WMSP and the LVSRA; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the LVSRA allowed for the continuing operation of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course within the LVSRA; and the designation of WMSP allowed for the protection of a wet meadow associated with Angora Creek and the Upper Truckee River and associated forest areas; and

WHEREAS, the LVSRA General Plan calls for the restoration and reconfiguration of the Upper Truckee River and the perpetuation of an existing public golfing opportunity, which cannot be accomplished without an adjustment between the borders of LVSRA and WMSP; and

WHEREAS, an action necessary to implement CSP's approval of the Project will be, pursuant to Public Resources Code 5002.2 and 5002.3, approval by the California State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) of the proposed WMSP Classification Adjustment and the proposed LVSRA Classification Adjustment wherein, land supporting the reconfigured golf course that is currently within the adjacent WMSP will be incorporated into LVSRA as a result of the classification adjustment, in exchange for other land associated with the river restoration that currently is in LVSRA, which will be incorporated into WMSP; and

WHEREAS, another action necessary to implement CSP's approval of the Project will be approval by the Commission of the proposed General Plan Amendment (GPA) to the LVSRA General Plan wherein the GPA amends the boundaries of the LVSRA to implement the classification adjustment and exchange of land with WMSP and replaces specified maps and information in the LVSRA General Plan with modified maps and information; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code section 5002.2 designates the GPA as a project under the CEQA (Public Resources Code 21000 et seq.) and, thus, an environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared, providing discussion, disclosure and analysis of the impacts of future development associated with the GPA and Project; and

WHEREAS, the EIR evaluating the GPA is a part of the combined EIR/Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Project, pursuant to CEQA, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Compact, ordinances, and rules; and

WHEREAS, the GPA and EIR will be used for tiering pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21093, covering general goals and guidelines of the General Plan, as modified by the GPA, and the appropriate level of CEQA review for each subsequent project relying on the GPA; and

WHEREAS, CSP issued a notice of preparation to prepare an EIR for the Project on August 28, 2006; held two public scoping meetings for the Project on September 26, 2006 and presented the Project at a TRPA Governing Board meeting on September 27, 2006, and a TRPA Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meeting on September 13, 2006; prepared a draft EIR and released it for public comment on August 26, 2010; received public comments on the draft EIR through November 15, 2010; held public hearings on the draft EIR at the TRPA APC meeting on October 13, 2010, and at the Governing Board meeting on October 27, 2010; prepared responses to all significant environmental issues raised in public comments; published and released the final EIR on September 14, 2011; and

WHEREAS, CSP has met all obligations in seeking input from all interested parties during GPA development through meetings, a planning workshop, web-based information, information exchanges and public scoping, including public meetings before the TRPA, one of the Project's lead agencies, where planning issues were discussed, and in addition all materials pertaining to the planning process were made available on CSP's public website; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental need for restoration of the study area's reach of the Upper Truckee River stems from its contribution of fine sediment to the river and Lake Tahoe through accelerated bank and bed erosion, the impaired natural geomorphic processes and ecological functions, and the diminished quality of the

habitat in the riparian corridor caused by prior human alterations; and

WHEREAS, CSP proposes to restore, to the extent feasible, natural geomorphic processes that sustain channel and floodplain morphology, and ecosystem function in terms of ecological processes and aquatic and riparian habitat quality along the Upper Truckee River; and

WHEREAS, CSP proposes to reduce erosion and improve water quality including reduction of the CSP reach's contribution of suspended sediment and nutrient loading in the Upper Truckee River and Lake Tahoe; and

WHEREAS, CSP proposes to reduce the environmental impact of the golf course on the river's water quality and riparian habitat by integrating environmentally sensitive design concepts, while maintaining public golf recreation opportunity and quality of play to feasibly support a course.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the final EIR has been prepared in accordance with all requirements of State CEQA Guidelines; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director of CSP has reviewed and considered the final EIR, finds that it reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the lead agency, and therefore, certifies the adequacy of the final EIR; and be it

RESOLVED: that the draft EIR considers a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives, sufficient to foster informed decision making, public participation, and a reasoned choice. Thus, the alternatives analysis in the draft EIR is sufficient to carry out the purposes of such analysis under State CEQA, NEPA, and TRPA guidelines; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director agrees with the characterization of the draft EIR and final EIR with respect to those impacts identified as "less than significant" and finds that those impacts have been described accurately and are less than significant as so described in the draft EIR and final EIR. This finding does not apply to impacts identified as significant or potentially significant that are reduced by mitigation measures to a level characterized in the draft EIR and final EIR as less than significant or impacts characterized in the draft EIR and final EIR as significant and unavoidable. Each of those impacts and the mitigation measures adopted to reduce them are dealt with specifically in the findings below; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director agrees with the characterization of the draft EIR and final EIR with respect to Impact 3.4-6, "Short-Term Risk of Surface Water or Groundwater Degradation during Construction," that is identified as significant and unavoidable. Implementation Mitigation Measure 3.4-6: Prepare and Implement Effective Site Management Plans would reduce this impact; however, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable because no other best management practices (BMPs) are available and implementation of site management plans cannot feasibly eliminate potential violations of narrative or

numerical water quality objectives in the Basin Plan at least for short periods of time. This impact would not occur under the No-Project/No-Action Alternative; however, the No-Project/No-Action Alternative would not meet the project goals of improving geomorphic, ecosystem, and water quality targets. Implementation of this alternative would also result in continued erosion and water quality impacts to the Upper Truckee River from the existing golf course. Therefore, no feasible mitigation is available to fully reduce the short-term risk of water degradation during construction; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director agrees with the characterization of the draft EIR and final EIR with respect to Impact 3.4-7, "Short-Term Risk of Surface Water or Groundwater Degradation Following Construction," that is identified as significant and unavoidable. Implementation Mitigation Measures 3.4-7A: Minimize Fine Sediment and Organic Material Available for Mobilization and 3.4-7B: Adaptively Manage Potential Flood Damage in the Interim Period after Construction would reduce this impact; however, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable because no other BMPs are available and implementation of these measures cannot feasibly eliminate potential violations of narrative or numerical water quality objectives in the Basin Plan at least for short periods of time. This impact would not occur under the No-Project/No-Action Alternative; however, the No-Project/No-Action Alternative would not meet the project goals of improving geomorphic, ecosystem, and water quality targets. Implementation of this alternative would also result in continued erosion and water quality impacts to the Upper Truckee River from the existing golf course. Therefore, no feasible mitigation is available to fully reduce the short-term risk of water degradation following construction; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director agrees with the characterization of the draft EIR and final EIR with respect to Impact 3.16-9, "Short-Term Risk of Surface Water or Groundwater Degradation during Construction," that is identified as significant and unavoidable. All feasible mitigation measures as described above in Mitigation Measures 3.4-6 have been incorporated into the individual restoration project plans and construction BMPs; however, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable because no other BMPs are available and implementation of adaptive management plans cannot feasibly eliminate potential violations of narrative or numerical water quality objectives in the Basin Plan at least for short periods of time. Therefore, no feasible mitigation is available to fully reduce the short-term risk of a cumulative contribution to water degradation during construction; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director agrees with the characterization of the draft EIR and final EIR with respect to Impact 3.16-10, "Cumulative Geomorphology and Water Quality – Short-Term Risk of Surface Water or Groundwater Degradation Following Construction," that is identified as significant and unavoidable. Implementation Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measure 3.16-10A: Cumulative Geomorphology and Water Quality – Implement Alternative-Specific Measures to Minimize or Correct Temporary Water Quality Effects Following Construction and Mitigation

Measure 3.16-10B: Cumulative Geomorphology and Water Quality – Implement an Interim Adaptive Management Plan on the Upper Truckee River would reduce this impact; however, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable because no other BMPs are available and implementation of these measures, including adaptive management, cannot feasibly eliminate potential violations of narrative or numerical water quality objectives in the Basin Plan at least for short periods of time. Therefore, no feasible mitigation is available to fully reduce the short-term risk of water degradation following construction; and be it

RESOLVED: all mitigation measures proposed in the draft EIR and final EIR are adopted and incorporated into the Project, which substantially reduce all significant and potentially significant effects on the environment to the extent feasible; and be it

RESOLVED: that the location and custodian of the EIR and other materials which constitute the record of proceeding on which the Commission's decision is based is: California State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Telephone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Director, after having reviewed and considered the EIR, approves the proposed Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project, consisting of CSP's preferred alternative, which is a modified version of Alternative 2 presented in the EIR; and be it

RESOLVED: that, as a condition of the Director's approval of the Project, the Commission must approve the proposed WMSP and LVSRA land classification adjustments and LVSRA GPA; and be it

RESOLVED: that in conjunction with the approval of the Project, the Director adopts the attached Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations, which reflect the disposition of every significant and potentially significant effect on the environment caused by the Project, including the proposed land classification adjustments and general plan amendment; and be it

RESOLVED: that in conjunction with the approval of the Project, the Director adopts the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which includes all the feasible mitigation measures presented in the EIR to substantially reduce the significant and potentially significant effects on the environment caused by the Project, including the proposed land classification adjustments and general plan amendment; and be it

RESOLVED: that CSP will file a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research within five (5) days of the Director's approval of the Project; and be it

RESOLVED: that the Commission will also file a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research within five (5) days of the Commission's approval of the land classification adjustments and general plan amendment.

Approved January 23, 2012

By: 

Director, California State Parks