

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES
AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Intent to Adopt an Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT LOCATION: Lake Valley State Recreation Area (SRA) and Washoe Meadows State Park (SP), Eldorado County California. The 520-acre study area is just north of Meyers and south of the City of South Lake Tahoe, within El Dorado County, California. It includes Lake Valley SRA, the southern portion of Washoe Meadows SP, and small portions of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) lands, as well as a 2 mile reach of the Upper Truckee River.

PROJECT: Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project (State Clearinghouse #2006082150)

DATE: September 14, 2011

AGENCIES: California Department of Parks and Recreation and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the final environmental impact report/environmental impact statement/environmental impact statement (final EIR/EIS/EIS) and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) in cooperation with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) have prepared a final EIR/EIS/EIS for the proposed Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. State Parks is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is the lead on the TRPA EIS. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is the lead agency under NEPA and will provide a separate Notice of Availability (NOA).

The purpose of the project is to improve geomorphic processes, ecological functions, and habitat values of the Upper Truckee River within the study area, helping to reduce the river's discharge of nutrients and sediment that diminish Lake Tahoe's clarity while providing access to public recreation opportunities in Lake Valley SRA and Washoe Meadows SP (which includes both golf and dispersed recreation).

After evaluating comments, staff recommended approval of a slightly modified version of Alternative 2: River Ecosystem Restoration with Reconfigured 18-hole golf course as the Proposed Preferred Alternative. The draft EIR/EIS/EIS provided comparable detail in the analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives, including a no action alternative. These five alternatives were identified after other alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed study in the manner directed by NEPA and TRPA Criteria developed from the project purpose and need and project goals and objectives, as described in Chapter 1, "Introduction and Purpose and Need," were used to screen alternatives and to recommend a Proposed Preferred Alternative. This Alternative includes river ecosystem restoration with reconfiguration of the existing 18-hole regulation golf course to allow for restoration of the river, reduce the area of Stream Environment Zone occupied by the golf course, and allow for establishment of a buffer

area between the golf course and the river while continuing to offer a similar level of golf and dispersed recreation. The Proposed Preferred Alternative includes adjustment of the boundaries between Lake Valley SRA and Washoe Meadows SP to allow room for river restoration and relocation of golf facilities onto less sensitive lands.

PUBLIC MEETINGS and DATES;

Noticing of the final EIR/EIS/EIS is being distributed to interested agencies, stakeholder organizations and individuals who commented during the process (PRC 15088(bB)).

The State Parks and Recreation Commission will conduct a public meeting on Friday, October 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the clubhouse of the Lake Tahoe Golf Course at Lake Valley State Recreation Area, 2500 Emerald Bay Rd, South Lake Tahoe, California to consider the general plan amendment proposed as part of the project action and to decide whether to certify the environmental document and approve the amendment to the Lake Valley General Plan. If a project is approved, a notice of determination documenting the decision will then be issued by State Parks. An onsite briefing for the Commission will occur at 1:30 p.m. on October 20 at the same location-no deliberations will take place at that time.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board is tentatively scheduled for December 14, 2011 to vote on certification of the EIR/EIS/EIS. The TRPA APC will also discuss this project at their December 7, 2011 meeting. Reclamation will complete a Record of Decision (ROD) at least 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their weekly list of EIS's and following certification by California

Dates, time, and location of all public meetings will be posted at: restoreuppertruckee.net.

ADDRESSES: The Final EIR/EIS is accessible at the following websites:

<http://www.restoreuppertruckee.net>

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=981 (click on El Dorado County)

www.trpa.org

The Final EIR/EIS/EIS is available for public review during normal business hours at the following locations:

- State Parks' Administrative office at Sugarpine Point State Park, 7360 West Lake Boulevard, Tahoma, CA 96142.
- State Parks' Northern Service Center, One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814
- TRPA front desk, 128 Market Street, Stateline, NV 89449.
- Mid-Pacific Regional Library, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825.
- South Lake Tahoe Library front desk, 1000 Rufus Allen Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Hard copies can be printed for purchase at Staples, 2061 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

CDs are also available upon request from State Parks. .

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: UTPROJECT@parks.ca.gov, Cyndie Walck, State Parks, at 530- 581-0925, or Brian Judge, TRPA, at 775-589-5262.