

Chapter 3 Comments and Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings, and interagency coordination meetings. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination

In an effort to share and gather information regarding the proposed lane closure strategies, Caltrans staff has met with several agencies in the Tahoe Basin. The agencies and dates of meetings are listed below:

- September 3, 2008, November 5, 2008 & February 4, 2009: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- October 3, 2008: South Shore Transportation Management Association
- October 10, 2008: Tahoe Transportation District/Commission
- November 5, 2008: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- November 6, 2008-: Truckee/North Tahoe Transportation Management Association
- November 7, 2008: South Shore Transportation Management Association and Nevada Department of Transportation
- January 24, 2009: South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce
- January 27, 2009: City of South Lake Tahoe City Council
- February 24, 2009: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Caltrans held an open house format meeting to give the public an opportunity to comment on the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment prepared for this project.

Caltrans has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer, as well as the US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, on the proposed project and the effect on a historic property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Availability of the Initial Study

The State Clearinghouse comment period for this Initial Study officially began on April 24, 2009 and ended on May 26, 2009. A public open house was held on May 11, 2009 to inform interested parties about the proposed project. The public was notified of the availability of the Initial Study and the public open house in the following ways:

- A press release describing the public meeting was issued
- A newspaper display advertisement was published in the *The Sacramento Bee*, *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, and *The Sierra Sun* newspapers (April 29 and May 6 2009). The advertisement included a brief description of the project, a map of the project limits, information on where the Initial Study could be reviewed, and details about the public open house

Copies of the Initial Study were made available for public review at the following locations:

Caltrans North Region Office of Environmental Management
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Caltrans District 3 Office
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

El Dorado County Public Library; South Lake Tahoe Branch
1000 Rufus Allen Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

El Dorado County Public Library; Main Branch
345 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

The IS was also available for review on the Caltrans website:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/departments/envinternet/envdoc.htm>.

The public open house to discuss the proposed project and solicit comments on the Initial Study was held on Monday, May 11, 2009, at Inn By The Lake, 3300 Lake

Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 from 4:30 pm to 7:30pm. Project staff members were available to answer questions, and displays provided information on the project. Comment Cards were available and participants were encouraged to provide written comments at the meeting or to provide comments to Caltrans by mail. Comments were accepted until Close of Business on Tuesday May 26, 2009.

Comments and Caltrans Response to Comments Received during Public Review Period.

Comments were received from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency; this letter is included below as well as Caltrans responses. Other comments were received from the South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce as well as a member of the public. These comments were general in nature and not related to the facts in this environmental document and while not included in this document will be included in the project file for consideration.



Mail
PO Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449-5310

Location
128 Market Street
Stateline, NV 89449

Contact
Phone: 775-588-4547
Fax: 775-588-4527
www.trpa.org

May 21, 2009

Reference No. EIP 2009-018

Ms. Jody Brown, Environmental Branch Chief
Attn: Brenda Powell-Jones
California Department of Transportation
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Brown:

**COMMENT LETTER FOR ECHO SUMMIT ROCK WALL PARAPET
REPLACEMENT/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON US 50 AT ECHO
SUMMIT**

Thank you for submitting the California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) initial environmental checklist to TRPA for review and comment. TRPA staff has completed review of the information and submits the following comments regarding the initial environmental checklist and proposed project:

1. In Section 2.1.4, Visual/Aesthetics under the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Section on page 26, both the 2001 and 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report are referenced. Please be advised that the 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report is the most recent report and is the report that should be referenced and used.
2. On page 28 the conclusion is made that "The replacement barrier will have no visual impact on the area because the proposed work for the barrier is in keeping with the original design of the rock wall". Additional information will be needed in order for TRPA to determine whether or not the proposed rock wall will have a visual impact. The new wall will be 3 feet high which is higher than the existing 18 inch high wall. This project lies within roadway travel route #37, Echo Summit, which has a threshold composite score of 24 which is considered in attainment. This composite score is made up of a number of factors: man-made features, roadway distractions, road structure, lake views, landscape views, and variety. An analysis of the proposed barrier as it relates to those factors will need to be completed to ensure that the proposed project will not cause the threshold composite rating to decrease.
3. Caltrans should continue to work with local jurisdictions and groups in Tahoe regarding the potential land closure options.
4. Caltrans should identify any areas where scaling of the rock slope might occur.

Please be advised for reference that the TRPA Code of Ordinances and the 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report are available for viewing online at www.trpa.org. Also, please note that the comments outlined above are preliminary and more questions and issues may be identified throughout further development of the project. Please continue to work with TRPA staff as the project is designed to allow any issues and concerns to be worked out well in advance.

I look forward to working with you on this project. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions regarding this letter or other projects.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McNamara
Assistant Branch Chief
Environmental Improvement Branch

/jmc

Caltrans Responses to comments from TRPA

Comment #1: Section 2.1.4 has been revised to reflect the correct reference to the 2006 Threshold Evaluation Report.

Comment #2: Section 2.1.4 Environmental Consequences has been revised to state that the replacement barrier will have no “additional” visual impact on the area. This statement reflects Caltrans determinations made pursuant to CEQA and NEPA. Caltrans will continue to work with the TRPA regarding scenic findings through the permit process.

Comment #3: Caltrans will continue to work with local jurisdictions and groups in Tahoe regarding the proposed lane closure options.

Comment #4: TRPA comment regarding rock scaling shall be forwarded to the appropriate functional unit for review.

Chapter 4 List of Preparers

The following Caltrans North Region staff contributed to the preparation of this document:

- Brenda Powell-Jones: Associate Environmental Planner
Contribution: Project Environmental Coordinator, Preparer of IS/MND/EA, and Section 4(f) Evaluation
- Jody Brown: Senior Environmental Planner
Contribution: Environmental Oversight
- Charles Wooten: Transportation Engineer
Contribution: Design Engineer
- Ken Menkveld: Transportation Engineer
Contribution: Project Engineer, Project Report
- Rajive Chadha: Transportation Engineer
Contribution: Initial Site Assessment, Oversight of Asbestos Testing
- Kathleen Grady: Landscape Associate
Contribution: Visual Impact Assessment
- Gail St John: Associate Environmental Planner, Architectural History
Contribution: Finding of Effect, Historic Resource Evaluation Report, Memorandum of Agreement, Coordination with SHPO and Forest Service
- Julia Green: Associate Environmental Planner, Archaeology
Contribution: Archaeological Survey Report
- Michele Lukkarila: Associate Environmental Planner, Natural Sciences
Contribution: Natural Environment Study Report
- Anand Maganti: Transportation Engineer
Contribution: Water Quality Assessment
- Andrew Agustinovich: Transportation Planner
Contribution: Community Impact Assessment
- Roger Trott: Economist for ICF Jones and Stokes
Contribution: Supplement to Community Impact Assessment

Chapter 5 Distribution List

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals received copies of the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration or were notified of its availability.

Federal Agencies and Tribal Representatives

U.S. Department of Interior
Office of Environmental Policy
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20585

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development
600 Harrison Street, 3rd floor
San Francisco, CA 94107-6400

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation
Service
430 G Street, #4164
Davis, CA 95616-4164

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

USDA Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Washoe Tribe of CA & NV
919 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, NV 89410

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory
Commission (LRFAC)
Ms. A. Rochelle Nason:
Environmental
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

State Agencies

Executive Director
Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of
Conservation*
801 K Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Fish and
Game*
District 2: North Central Region
1707 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

California Department of Forestry and
Fire Protection*
Sacramento Headquarters
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244

Office of Historic Preservation
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1442
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Parks and
Recreation
Resources Management Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

California Department of Water
Resources*
Reclamation Board
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1601
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Water
Resources*
Environmental Services Office
3251 S Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95816

California Highway Patrol*
Office of Special Projects
2555 1st Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

California Office of Emergency
Services*
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, CA 95655

California Resources Agency*
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Environmental Services Section
1325 J Street, Suite 1910
Sacramento, CA 95814
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento Ca 95814

California Air Resources Board*
Transportation Projects
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

California State Water Resources
Control Board*
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812

California Department of Toxic
Substances Control*
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814

Native American Heritage
Commission*
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814

Public Utilities Commission*
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

California State Lands Commission*
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Regional Agencies

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
P.O. Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board*
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Local Agencies and Organizations

City of South Lake Tahoe
Administrative Center
1901 Airport Rd. Suite 206
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

South Lake Tahoe Public Library
1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

California-Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission
3000 Fairlane Court, Ste 1
Placerville, CA 95667

Lake Tahoe Unified School District
Superintendent
1021 Al Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

Lake Tahoe Community College Board
One College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

League to Save Lake Tahoe
Rochelle Nason, Exec. Director
955 Emerald Bay Rd
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Tahoe Area Sierra Club
P.O. Box 16936
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Tahoe Chapter California Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 580
Tahoma, CA 96142

Tahoe Rim Trail Association
948 Incline Way
Incline Village, NV 89451

El Dorado County Library
345 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Placerville Mountain Democrat
1360 Broadway, PO Box 1088
Placerville, CA 95667

Tahoe Daily Tribune
3079 Harrison Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Tahoe Mountain News
PO Box 8974
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158