

This section describes the consultation and coordination conducted during the environmental review of the Program.

4.1 EARLY COORDINATION

An initial planning review and development phase for the Program was completed in 2003, resulting in approval of the Project Study Reports for US 50 and SR 89 (Caltrans 2003c, 2003d). The steps in that phase included the following coordination with the TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB.

Field Reviews

In 2005 and 2006, following initial scoping, field reviews of the stormwater collection and treatment elements of the Program were performed with TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB representatives. Input from these agencies was considered, and potential basins were added, eliminated, or relocated to better fit the existing field conditions. The results of the field reviews are summarized in Appendix B.

Other Coordination

The 2003 Project Study Reports were circulated to the TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB for review and comment. The Caltrans *Lake Tahoe Basin Environmental Improvement Program Delivery Plan* (Caltrans 2005b) was provided to stakeholders in the Tahoe Basin including TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB. In addition, the Caltrans Tahoe Basin Team, which includes Caltrans, TRPA, and Lahontan RWQCB representatives, meets on issues that are common to the planning, design, construction, and maintenance activities related to the Caltrans projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Caltrans regularly attends monthly meetings with TRPA to provide input and answer questions on the EIP projects. Further, Caltrans conducts field reviews with TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB staff as needed on specific segments to illustrate and discuss proposed treatment options.

4.2 NOTICES

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was filed with the State Clearinghouse to announce the preparation of an EIR for the proposed Program. The NOP included a summary description of the Program and the types of studies planned. The State Clearinghouse issued the NOP for review on October 5, 2006, for a 30-day period ending on November 3, 2006. Comment letters were received from the NAHC and the CDFG. The NOP and letters are included in Appendix E.

4.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION

The public participation and coordination for the Program included the following activities.

Draft Program EIR

The Draft Program EIR was filed with the State Clearinghouse on June 7, 2007.

Mailing List

A comprehensive mailing list was developed consisting of the names and addresses of homes and businesses adjoining the segments of US 50 and SR 89 within the project boundaries. In addition, the mailing list included federal, State of California, State of Nevada, and local agencies; elected and appointed officials or staff; and potentially interested interest groups and organizations. This list was used for notification of the availability of the Draft Program EIR and public hearing.

Availability of the Draft Program EIR

Copies of the Draft Program EIR were made available for review and comment 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

Nevada Department of Transportation
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, NV 89712

El Dorado County Public Library
South Lake Tahoe Branch
1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

The Draft Program EIR was also available for review at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/departments/envinternet/ed50-89/ed50&89.htm>

Public Hearing and Presentations

Caltrans District 3 hosted a public meeting on July 12, 2007, to inform the public of the proposed Program. The public received notice of the meeting in the following ways:

- Direct mail to property owners of parcels along and within 300 feet of the Program route
- Legal notice in the *Mountain Democrat*
- Display ads (two) in the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*
- Circulation of notices at the El Dorado County Library, City of South Lake Tahoe planning offices, and El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and Parks and Recreation Commission offices

- Direct mailing to approximately 80 government and elected officials, businesses, organizations, interested individuals, and environmental groups.

The meeting was originally scheduled for June 28 but postponed due to the Angora wildfire. The change of date and location was advertised in the *Tahoe Daily News* and the Caltrans project Web site. In addition, press releases were sent to local newspapers, and meeting notices were sent to city and county offices.

Public Comment Period

The public comment period for the proposed Program was June 8 through July 23, 2007. Written comments were received from 22 individuals and organization representatives at the July 12, 2007, public meeting and from five federal, state, regional, and local agencies during the public comment period. After the comment period ended, comments were incorporated into the EIR and this Final EIR was prepared. Those comments and Caltrans' responses are presented in Appendix F.

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The EIR and its supporting studies were prepared by a multidisciplinary team of environmental and engineering specialists.

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