

Chapter 3 Comments and Coordination

Coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is essential for determining the scope of environmental documentation, level of analysis, required permits, and potential impacts and mitigation measures. Agency consultation and public participation for the Project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including interagency coordination meetings and public meetings. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve issues through early and continuing coordination.

3.1 Early Coordination

Because the Project is one of a program of eight water quality improvement projects proposed by Caltrans in El Dorado County, early coordination occurred at a program level. An initial planning review and development phase for the program was completed in 2003, resulting in the approval of project study reports (PSRs) for U.S. 50 and SR 89 (California Department of Transportation 2003c, 2003d). The steps in that phase included the following coordination with TRPA and the Lahontan RWQCB.

3.1.1 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.

3.1.2 Other Coordination

The 2003 PSRs were circulated to TRPA and the Lahontan RWQCB for review and comment. The Caltrans *Lake Tahoe Basin Environmental Improvement Program Delivery Plan* (2005) was provided to stakeholders in the Lake Tahoe Basin, including TRPA and the Lahontan RWQCB. In addition, the Caltrans Tahoe Basin Team, which includes Caltrans, TRPA, and Lahontan RWQCB representatives, meets regularly 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. Additionally, Caltrans conducts field reviews with TRPA and Lahontan RWQCB staff as needed on specific segments to illustrate and discuss proposed treatment options. Caltrans may also establish a focused working group, including key agency staff from TRPA and the Lahontan RWQCB, to address Project-specific issues as the projects progress in the development process and to foster effective communication among stakeholders.

3.2 Public Participation and Coordination

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

3.2.1 Mailing List

A comprehensive mailing list was developed that included the names and addresses of property owners whose property adjoins 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 and staff; and potentially interested interest groups and organizations. This list was used for notification of the intent to adopt a negative declaration.

3.2.2 Availability of the Initial Study

The availability of the IS and proposed negative declaration and notification of the public review period were advertised (see the contact information page following the cover, titled “General Information About This Document”). Comments on the IS may be submitted via email or in writing. Following completion of the public review period, all comments received during the review period will be considered and responded to before a decision is made to finalize this environmental document. Copies of the IS and proposed negative declaration 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

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

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

Chapter 4 List of Preparers

This IS and its supporting studies were prepared by a multidisciplinary team of environmental and engineering specialists.

4.1 California Department of Transportation

The following individuals were involved in management, oversight, and review of the IS and technical reports, and were also responsible for preparation of the specific technical reports listed below:

- Jody Brown—Project Management
- Christopher Carlton—Project Management
- Ryan Kohagura—Project Engineering
- Gail St. John—Architectural History
- Julia Green—Archaeology
- Michele Lukkarila—Natural Environment and Wetlands
- Rajive Chadha—Initial Site Assessment for Hazardous Waste
- James Williamson—Visual Impact Assessment

4.2 Consultant Team: Jones & Stokes

The following consultant team members were involved in compiling this IS and were responsible for preparation of the specific technical reports listed below:

- Chris Brungardt—Project Management
- Claire Bromund—Project Management
- Beth Eggerts—Project Coordination
- Bill Kasson—Community Impact Assessment
- Sandra DeVoto—Community Impact Assessment
- Marina Pelosi—Air Quality Technical Memorandum, Noise Technical Memorandum
- Gabriel Roark—Archaeological Study Report, Historic Property Survey Report
- Kathryn Haley—Historic Resources Evaluation Report, Historic Property Survey Report
- Nate Martin—Water Quality Study
- Jennifer Haire—Natural Environment Study

- Joy Nishida—Natural Environment Study, Wetland Delineation
- Kristin Teddy—Microstation/Impact Calculations
- Lily Douglas—Geographic Information Systems
- John Durnan—Graphic Arts
- Tim Messick—Graphic Arts
- Chris Small—Technical Editing
- Sarah Sol—Technical Editing
- Veronica Olaizola—Word Processing

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5.2 Personal Communications

Gaytan, Steve. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency coordinator, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA. September 10, 2007—telephone conversation. October 1, 2007—telephone call with Joy Nishida, Jones & Stokes, Sacramento, CA. November 6, 2007—email with Claire Bromund, Jones & Stokes, regarding September 24, 2007, TRPA approval of a land capability study with SEZs identified.

Green, Julia K. Associate environmental planner (archaeology), California Department of Transportation, District 3, Sacramento, CA. August 16, 2007—email to Gabriel Roark, Jones & Stokes, Sacramento, CA.

Lehr, Stafford. District fishery biologist, California Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova, CA. August 1, 2007—telephone conversation with Jeff Kozlowski, Jones & Stokes, regarding potential sensitive fish species found in the study area.

Lyon, Victor. Wildlife biologist, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, USDA Forest Service, South Lake Tahoe, CA. August 17, 2007—email with Jennifer Haire, Jones & Stokes, regarding sensitive wildlife species found in the study area.

Muskopf, Sarah. Aquatic biologist, USDA Forest Service. May 12, 2006—personal communication to Justin Whitfield, URS. As cited in URS, 2007, *Natural Environment Study: El Dorado 50 and 89 Environmental Improvement Program/Stormwater Treatment Projects* (EA 03-1A730, EA 03-1A845), May, Oakland, CA, Prepared for California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA.

Shemai, Barak. Fish biologist, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, USDA Forest Service. August 10, 2007—telephone conversation with Jeff Kozlowski, Jones & Stokes, regarding fish population and habitat survey data for Taylor and Tallac Creeks and the potential for Lahontan cutthroat trout to be present within the study area.

Thayer, Ted. Fisheries and wildlife program manager, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Stateline, NV. August 17, 2007—email with Jennifer Haire, Jones & Stokes, regarding sensitive wildlife species in the study area; a sensitive species table was attached for Mr. Thayer's review, and comments and additional information were provided by Mr. Thayer.