

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

DATE: June 16, 2016

TO: Interested Persons

SUBJECT: **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity to Comment on the Taylor Tallac Restoration Project Joint Environmental Document**

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), U.S. Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (Forest Service), and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) prepared a joint environmental document for the Taylor Tallac Restoration Project (Project). The Environmental Assessment/Initial Study/Initial Environmental Checklist (EA/IS/IEC) for the Project was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Californian Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the TRPA Compact. The Water Board is the lead agency pursuant to CEQA for this Project. The partnering agencies are seeking comments on the EA/IS/IEC.

PROJECT LOCATION: Taylor Creek and Tallac Creek Watersheds in the southwest portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, near South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would restore the Taylor and Tallac creek ecosystems, and maintain and improve visitor services. The Forest Service proposes to restore the hydrologic connection between the two creeks by removing culverts that are impeding water flow and replacing them with crossing structures, recontouring and revegetating swales, and directing Tallac Creek flows into its historic channel. The project would include stream restoration in Taylor and Tallac creeks, renovating the fish ladder at the Fallen Leaf Lake Dam, and removing portions of the Lucky Baldwin Dam to restore connectivity between Fallen Leaf Lake and Taylor Creek. The project also proposes to improve wildlife habitat by eradicating or controlling aquatic invasive species, protecting Tahoe yellow cress through physical barriers, installing nest and perch structures for waterfowl and sensitive raptors, and installing bat boxes. At Baldwin Beach, the Forest Service proposes to construct a multi-use path from Highway 89 to the east and west parking lots, construct pedestrian pathways, formalize and upgrade the picnic area, provide foot-washing stations at restrooms and install best management practices throughout the site. Restoration efforts at Taylor Creek Visitor Center would include upgrading the stream profile chamber to meet contemporary building codes and provide a more natural aquatic habitat, and reconfiguring the Rainbow Trail by elevating trail sections or replacing them with boardwalks to reduce impacts to the stream environment zone.

REGULATORY PROCESS: The Water Board will regulate waste discharges associated with the LTBMU's implementation of the Taylor Tallac Restoration Project by: (1) the Water Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements and National

AMY L. HORNE, PhD, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYOUMDJIAN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity in the Lake Tahoe Basin; (2) issuing Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) granting exemptions to prohibitions contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region. The Forest Service will implement the Project in the future as funding becomes available. This notice serves as a notice of intent to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for this project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines section 15072.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND HOW TO COMMENT: The public review period for the Taylor Tallac Restoration Project EA/IS/IEC is from **June 17, 2016 to July 16, 2016**. All comments should be directed to the Forest Service as described below.

The EA/IS/IEC is available for review at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Office, 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 and can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/docs/ttjointdoc>

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lbmu/TaylorTallac>

To obtain copies of the document, or for questions, please contact Laurie Scribe at (530) 542-5465 (laurie.scribe@waterboards.ca.gov).

The partnering agencies request that all comments be submitted directly to the Forest Service; duplicate comments do not need to be sent to the Water Board or TRPA. Comments will be accepted on this EA/IS/IEC for 30 days following publication of this notice in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenters' responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36CFR 218.25).

Written comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official: Jeff Marsolais, Forest Supervisor, Re: Taylor and Tallac Restoration Project, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. The office business hours for those submitting hand delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone 530.543.2600 or in person.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as email, plain text file (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), or Word file (.doc) to: comments-pacific-southwest-lbmu@fs.fed.us, using Subject Taylor and Tallac Restoration Project. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a written verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is a way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of the person providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Names of commenters will be part of the public record subject to the Freedom of Information Act.