
State Water Resources Control Board

Public Notice of Water Quality Certification Application for Truckee Donner Land Trust Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Project

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program
Date Posted: May 1, 2025

Affected County: Placer

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of section 3858, title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first full date of issuance of this notice (May 2, 2025) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (May 22, 2025).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

Project Name: Truckee Donner Land Trust Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Project (SWRCB ID: SB25027GN)

Background: On April 17, 2025, the Truckee Donner Land Trust submitted an application for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for the Truckee Donner Land Trust Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Project (Project) by requesting authorization under the Statewide Restoration General Order (Order WQ 2022-0048-DWQ).

Project Description: The purpose of the Project is to improve connectivity along Donner Summit as well as provide additional north to south trail alternatives to the Pacific Crest Trail. The Project is located on lands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and privately owned.

The Project includes approximately 21 miles of trail divided into three segments: Shallenberger Ridge Trail, Roller Pass Trail, and Forest Service Ridge Trail. Construction will happen in three phases. The Shallenberger Ridge Trail would be constructed as Phase 1 starting at a Donner Memorial State Park trailhead and continuing west to the Sugar Bowl Resort. The Roller Pass Trail would be Phase 2, which continues down through the Sugar Bowl Resort property and includes the addition of a new trailhead. The Forest Service Ridge Trail would be Phase 3, extending west from the Roller Pass Trail and ultimately ending at Soda Springs Road connecting to the existing Soda Springs Trail.

Areas where streams cross the proposed trail segments would be impacted during construction but restored. Each of the three proposed trail segments have been designed to minimize environmental impacts while optimizing trail usability for multiple non-motorized user types. Construction methods, including equipment choice along the proposed trail segments, will be determined upon terrain, habitat sensitivity, and soils present.

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the Truckee Donner Land Trust Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail Project in response to this application.

Applicant: Truckee Donner Land Trust
Applicant Contact: Kevin Starr
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Email: kevin@tdlandtrust.org

Date of Application Submittal: April 17, 2025

Pursuant to federal law (title 33, United States Code, section 1341; Clean Water Act section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek water quality certification (Certification) from the state or Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In

California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the Submit button after entering a valid email address under the Subscribe to the 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List banner on the 401 Program webpage at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current Certification applications, including the Project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email notification service, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.