

Conservation Projects and Environmental Improvement Projects (EIPs) in the Kings Beach Community Watershed:

General Background

The Kings Beach Community Watershed is jointly located in the North Eastern portion of Placer County and in the Eastern portion of Washoe County. It contains the subwatersheds of East Stateline Point (875 acres), Kings Beach (726 acres), Griff Creek (2,910 acres), and Tahoe Vista (3,476 acres). The total drainage area of the watershed is 12.5 square miles, with the main hydrologic features of Griff Creek and Snow Creek. The watershed is bound by Mount Baldy to the east, Martis Peak to the North, and Brockway summit to the west.

Griff Creek is approximately 6.4 kilometers long with headwaters west of Martis Peak at 8,742 feet of elevation, and Snow Creek is approximately 5.4 kilometers long with headwaters near Brockway summit at 7,199 feet elevation.

Included within the watershed are the residential areas of Brockway, Kings Beach, and Tahoe Vista as well as the Kings Beach Community Watershed Planning Area. The southern portion of the watershed is dominated by privately owned residential and commercial properties, whereas the northern portion is primarily forested area owned and managed by the US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Washoe history in the Kings Beach Community Watershed is noted by the presence of nine separate prehistoric sites, as well as by the naming of a site on Griff Creek (gumIE'phEl wo'tha) and of Brockway Springs (lo om). The meadow at the terminus of Griff Creek, where the creek enters Lake Tahoe, was used as a temporary resting place and never as a primary camp.

Transportation routes along the north shore and through Kings Beach were established in the late 1800's. The Placer County Emigrant Road (Highway 28) was constructed in the years between 1852 and 1855 and the Truckee Hot Springs Road (Highway 267 connecting Kings Beach and Truckee) was constructed in 1869 to connect Truckee with the Brockway Hot Springs. The creation of these transportation roads fostered community and industrial development in the area as tourists and landowners were able to transport goods and materials more easily through the surrounding areas.

Logging and milling in the Kings Beach area began in 1864, and within the Tahoe Basin in the early 1860's, to supply lumber for the silver mines in Virginia City, Nevada and the surrounding areas. Mill sites were developed and utilized in Tahoe Vista and along Griff Creek to process harvested timber between the years of 1864 to 1927. Impacts include nine historic sites and several miles of transportation and logging roads.

Community development in the Kings Beach and Crystal Bay area can be closely linked to the development of the Brockway Hotel and Hot Springs. Established in 1969 by a stage owner from

Truckee, William Campbell, the hot springs would eventually develop outward to include a post office, a golf course, a water company, casinos, and subdivisions. It wasn't until 1925 when Joe King obtained property from owners associated with the Brockway Hot Springs, that homes, markets, motels, theaters, and cafes became established that are associated with the modern town of Kings Beach.

The Community Watershed Partnership focus area within the Kings Beach Community Watershed is located in the urban and residential core of Kings Beach. The selection of this area is result of a rigorous prioritization process through communication and collaboration with key agency stakeholders. A needs assessment was conducted within selected sub-watershed/neighborhoods of the Kings Beach Community Watershed to determine existing natural resource issues and to begin the collaborative process of engaging community members.

Locations of Interest

Urban Areas of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, and Crystal Bay

Residential areas of Brockway, Kings Beach, and Tahoe Vista

Kings Beach Community Watershed Planning Area

North Tahoe Regional Park and Old Brockway Golf Course

Recreational Opportunities

Hiking

Mountain Biking

OHV

Golfing

Cross Country Skiing

Snowmobiling

Frisbee Golf

Tennis

Soccer

Baseball

Physical and Natural Characteristics

Watershed Area: 12.5 square miles

Hydrologic Features: Griff Creek, Snow Creek

Topography

Soils: Majority of the watershed is composed of well drained gravelly to very stony sandy loams over andesite and latite conglomerates. The soils of the lower watershed consist of sandy loams with fine subsoils developed on alluvial fans.

Land Use Characteristics

Historic:

1852 -1855: Placer County Emigrant Road (Highway 28) created along north shore

1869: Brockway Hot Springs Resort Established

1869: Truckee-Hot Springs Road (Highway 267) constructed

1880s -1960s: logging in and around Tahoe vista and Kings Beach areas

1860s -1930: dairy business operates in large scale in upper reaches of Griff Creek

1914: first subdivision established in Tahoe Vista

1925: beginning of era of subdivision development in Kings Beach

1927: casino development at Stateline

1992:USFS Brockway Timber Sale

Kings Beach Water Quality and SEZ Improvement Project (Placer)

The purpose of the Project is to reduce fine sediment and nutrients in stormwater reaching Lake Tahoe throughout the entire Kings Beach grid, decrease stream velocities and channel erosion in the Griff Creek and Coon Street stream environment zones (SEZs), and improve fish passage and habitat in Griff Creek.

Most development in the Project area occurred during the first half of the 20th century, when drainage infrastructure was designed to convey stormwater with little regard for impacts to Lake Tahoe; stormwater quality was seldom considered during design and construction. As a result, the existing drainage infrastructure within the Project area does not provide adequate treatment of runoff, increasing the potential for degradation of water quality in Lake Tahoe. The potential for high sediment loads in runoff is presented by the presence of areas of exposed soils throughout the Project area as well as eroded and degraded drainage channels.

Past development of the Kings Beach community also impacted the natural function of Griff Creek by using culverts underneath local roadways that are too small to convey high flows. These undersized culverts do not meet applicable Caltrans and Placer County design standards and create high stream velocities that lead to channel erosion. The culverts also present barriers to migrating fish. The Project proposes to replace two of the culverts with structures to improve stream flow conveyance and fish passage. Additionally, the Project would improve stream process functions through realignment of portions of the channel and modifications of the floodplain.

EIP # 00716: Tahoe Vista – Tamarack (Placer)

CTC CALLS TAHOE VISTA ECP. This project involves treatment of stormwater and slope stabilization through revegetation, rock slope protection, retaining walls, curb and gutter, and sediment basins. Catchment and treatment of sediment is needed.

EIP # 00624: CTC Tahoe Vista Beach Improvements (CTC)

CTC will construct additional site improvements at Tahoe Vista Beach - improve parking and access to beaches, construct restrooms

EIP # 10038: Class One: National Avenue Trail from Regional Park to S.R. 28 (NTPUD)

Construct class one trail along National Ave. from SR 28 to the Regional Park. This trail will create lake access from the Regional Park.

EIP # 00748: Class Two: S.R. Highway 276 to Summit (Caltrans)

A class two bicycle trail along SR 267 from the intersection of SR 28 to the top of Brockway summit will be constructed. There appears to be sufficient room on the highway with the existing pavement situation.

EIP # 00093: Scenic Road Unit # 20 Tahoe Vista Improvement (Placer)

Multi-phase project involving landscape frontage improvement access controls, walkways, architectural upgrades. Screen or relocate satellite dishes, sign conformance w/cp standard utility undergrounding is also contained in EIP #0149.

EIP # 00998: SR 28 Tahoe City to SR 276 Intersection (CALTRANS)

The project area is along 9 miles of SR 28 in Placer County from Tahoe City to the intersection of SR 267 at Kings Beach. Road runoff treatment and erosion control facilities need to be installed.

EIP # 00149: Tahoe Vista Highway 28 Utility Undergrounding (Placer)

Placer Co. will form undergrounding district, SPP and other utilities will underground overhead utilities along SR 28 in Tahoe Vista in 2 phases: phase I from Secline St. to National Ave. (2004), phase 2 from National Ave. to Estates Drive.

EIP # 1004: Roadway Unit # 20 D; Tahoe Vista, North Casino Core: Cal Neva tower (Private)

Paint Cal-Neva Tower dark green (like what Harrah's did in the South Shore), improve signage, upgrade hotel/casino facades along roadway unit.

EIP #00762: SR 28: Tahoe State Park to SR 276 (TRPA)

A class two bicycle trail will be installed along SR 28 from the end of the class one trail in Dollar Hill to the north Stateline area. Along the route, there are varying degrees of paved right-of-way available. Some areas may require additions of pavement to accommodate the class two lanes.

EIP #00788: SR 28: Tahoe State Park to SR 276 (CALTRANS)

The intersection of SR 28 and SR 267 will be improved with turn lanes to aid traffic flow.

EIP # 00410: Griff Creek Stream Restoration (CTC)

The goal of Griff Stream Environment Zone (SEZ) Restoration project is to improve water quality, control stream bed and bank erosion, enhance riparian vegetation and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Functional SEZ's protect the clarity of Lake Tahoe by providing natural storm water treatment and stable conveyance of runoff. The project is associated with the larger Kings Beach Water Quality Improvement and Commercial Core Improvement projects. Approximately 1.75 acres of SEZ will be restored within the confines of the existing residential development and infrastructure. Specific Use for Requested Funds--Funds will be used for implementation/construction of the restoration project, including replacement of two undersized culverts at two road crossings.

EIP # 00032: Mt. Watson (C-Parks)

Develop a Coordinated Management Plan for CA State Parks and CTC properties in the Mt. Watson area, for management of natural resources utilizing an ecosystem/adaptive management approach.

EIP # 00658: Snow Creek – Stream Habitat Restoration (CTC)

Fish habitat restoration and enhancement includes vegetation manipulation at mouth, creation of below grade pools to provide cooler water temps, and replace existing culvert under SR 28 with a bottomless arch culvert to improve passage.

EIP #00391: Upper National SEZ (Placer)

Private owner will restore 1 acre of Snow Creek near the concrete plant on National Ave.

EIP # 00787: Kings Beach Roadway Curb/Gutter Sidewalk Bicycle Trail and WQ Improvements (Placer)

In the downtown commercial core of Kings Beach, concurrent with water quality improvements in EIP project #10060, class two bicycle trails and sidewalks will be added. A variety of participants will be involved from CalTrans to Placer County and others.

EIP # 00015: Kings Beach Residential Area Treatment – Phase II (Placer)

Placer Co. will construct drainage improvements for remainder of residential area above SR 28.

EIP #00212: Tahoe Estates and National Ave (Placer)

CTC has identified the need for revegetation, rock-lined ditches, curbs, gutters, storm drain pipes, retaining walls, rock slope protection and pavement adjacent to Lake Tahoe in Tahoe Vista area.

EIP #00732: Brockway Residential (Placer)

This project involves treatment of stormwater and slope stabilization through revegetation, rock slope protection, retaining walls, curb and gutter, and sediment basins. Catchment and treatment of sediment is needed.

EIP # 00733: Kings Beach Industrial (Placer)

Drainage conveyance stabilization, revegetation, road runoff treatment, and pavement are needed in this project area.

EIP #10060: Kings Beach CCIP: Beaver Street (Placer)

Erosion source controls and stormwater treatment facilities associated with the county roadway. Improvements will include revegetation of disturbed soils, drainage stabilization and infiltration and sediment ponds.

EIP # 00436: Habitat Restoration: Wood Vista (Wildlife) (CTC)

Habitat restoration of highly disturbed meadow and forest complex which has the potential to provide wildlife habitat. Project objective is to restore 200 acres of wildlife habitat which includes road decommissioning revegetation and forest habitat improvements.

EIP # 00618: North Tahoe Lake Access Improvements (CTC)

CTC will improve lake access, install day-use amenities, restrooms, picnic and interpretive amenities, and parking at the foot of Brockway Summit in Kings Beach. Project formerly known as North Tahoe Beach Center, which is its own project. See project #10093 also.

EIP # 10093: North Tahoe Beach Center Improvements (NTPUD)

NTPUD will demolish and rebuild the North Lake Tahoe Beach Center. Center to include spa facility and support facilities. See also project #618.

EIP # 00912: Scenic Resource #41.2 Brockway Improvement (SPPC)

USFS and Sierra Pacific Power shall re-vegetate clear area previously burned and shall reduce linear color contrast of power line and access road above Kings Beach.

Research and Monitoring Data

Brockway Salvage timber Sale Water Quality Monitoring Report 11-2000

The purpose of water quality monitoring in the Griff Creek between 1991 and 1998 was to evaluate the impacts of harvest activity associated with the Brockway Timber Sale

Snow Creek Restoration Project Water Quality Monitoring Report 1996-2004

The Snow Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration Project was monitored from 1996 to 2004 to assess the project's effect on downstream water quality. The Forest Service began monitoring at this site in October of 1995 and continued monitoring until September of 2004. The data compiled from water years 1996 to 2004 was used to make project and post-project comparisons.