



STAFF REPORT

April 9, 2021

TITLE:

Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project (Coyote Crossing) 30% Design

RECOMMENDATION:

No Action

Staff to provide an update to the Board on the 30% design development of the Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project.

BACKGROUND:

Tahoe Donner's Euer Valley property is located within the Prosser Creek Basin, the third-largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee River Watershed. South Fork Prosser Creek runs through the Project area (Figure 1) at an elevation of just over 6,500 feet (ft) and drains an approximate 5.5-square-mile watershed before joining Prosser Creek and ultimately draining into the Truckee River. The Project was first identified in the TDA Trails Master Plan due to desired improvements to the Coyote Crossing Trail, which transects the site. TDA will be required by our permitting agencies to restore and enhance or close the recreational use at the Coyote Crossing area in the near future.

On October 23, 2020, the Board of Directors authorized the expenditure of budgeted 2020 Replacement Reserve Funds for Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project (Coyote Crossing) soft costs in the amount of \$150,000. In addition, the Board approved moving forward with the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) as a partner and co-lead for the purposes of applying for, accepting and facilitating the \$589,835.80 State Water Resources Control Board 2020 Clean Water Act grant awarded to TRWC and Tahoe Donner Association (TDA) for the Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project.

The TRWC presented the draft 30% Project plans to the Board on February 26, 2021. The design is intended to improve trail access through the 30-acre Project area, including replacement of non-optimal trails through the stream, meadow and upland habitat with elevated boardwalks and a permanent bridge feature that will provide year-round access for pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and winter grooming equipment. Part of the grant requirement was that the design team provide multiple design alternatives for the bridge and trail alignments during the 30% design phase. Selection of a single trail and bridge alignment to move forward into 65% design development is needed at this time.

ANALYSIS:

The topographic survey, cultural survey, biological resources report, plant resource survey, subsurface geotechnical investigation and hydraulics analysis have been completed for the Project.

Thirty percent design development includes three trail and bridge alignment options. The Option 1 trail and bridge alignment closely follows the existing trail alignment through the valley. The Option 2 trail and bridge alignment traverses the south side of Prosser Creek, allowing the bridge to cross a straighter reach of the creek while still staying at the western end of the valley. The Option 3 trail and bridge alignment is the shortest path





along the wet meadow before crossing the creek but is located much further east within the Project area. As a result of stakeholder input, the Option 3 trail alignment was discarded in large part due to its elimination of a substantial portion of the meadow for access and enjoyment; Options 1 and 2 were carried forward to 30% designs as shown in the attached 30% plans.

Based on the 30% design review, staff and the project team have decided to move forward with the Option 1 trail and bridge alignment and progress the Project into 65% design development. Although this option is not the optimal bridge crossing location, it minimizes new wetland disturbance, eliminates tree removal, does not disrupt winter trail alignment, does not disrupt the location of the Coyote Hut and provides the best continued experience for the membership. Option 2 is discussed below in the Alternatives Analysis. Further discussion on the trail alignment options can be found in the attached Euer Valley 30% Design Memo.

OUTREACH:

A 30% design update on Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project was presented by the Truckee River Watershed Council to the Board and membership at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 26, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The current Project budget for the Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project is \$1,139,836. This budget is comprised of:

- \$589,836 TRWC grant funding
- \$150,000 TDA Replacement Reserve Fund soft costs
- \$400,000 TDA Replacement Reserve Fund bridge crossing and trail components

The preliminary 30% engineer estimate for the Project including the Option 1 bridge and trail alignment is approximately \$1.5 million, leaving a budget shortfall of approximately \$400,000. The team will continue to explore additional grant-funding opportunities as the Project progresses. The Replacement Reserve Fund will also be updated to reflect a more appropriate bridge replacement cost in the circumstance that additional grant funding is not available. The Project will be brought to the Board after final design is complete for final design approval as well as construction budget approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

Staff considered the following alternatives:

1. Select the Option 2 trail and bridge alignment. This alternative crosses Prosser Creek east of the existing alignment, requires additional disturbance in undisturbed wetland area, requires an additional bridge over secondary drainage and disrupts the winter trail alignment as well as current location of Coyote Hut. Current cost analysis show this alternative to be approximately \$300,000-\$400,000 more than Option 1.
2. Do not move forward with Project at this time, and sever our contract with the Truckee River Watershed Council. Staff has no reason to consider this at this time; not continuing this grant partnership and Project would most likely have higher Project costs to the association in the future.

ATTACHMENTS:





1. Euer Valley Restoration Phase 1 Project 30% Design Plans
2. Euer Valley 30% Design Memo

Prepared By: Jon Mitchell, Director of Capital Projects

Board Meeting Date: April 23, 2021

General Manager Approval to Place on the Agenda: _____

