



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 5, 2021

To: Interested Parties

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity to Provide Comments on the Proposed Lacey Meadows Restoration Project, Sierra and Nevada Counties

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Lacey Meadows Restoration Project (Project). A mitigated negative declaration (MND), describing potential adverse environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures, has been prepared on behalf of the Water Board in connection with this Project. Interested individuals, organizations, and agencies can comment on the environmental effects of the Project as described in the MND. A copy of the MND can be downloaded at www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan. To request a compact disc of the MND, please call the Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office at 530-542-5400.

Project Location: The Project area is in the vicinity of Webber Lake, north of the Town of Truckee, on the west side of Highway 89 off Henness Pass Road. The Project is mainly within Sierra County, with a small portion in Nevada County. Upper and Lower Lacey meadows are south of Webber Lake, and Lacey Creek is a tributary to Webber Lake, which is tributary to the Little Truckee River and the Truckee River.

Project Description: The Project is designed and would be implemented to restore meadow habitat and stream channel hydraulic function. Within Upper and Lower Lacey meadows, past land use practices changed Lacey Creek flow patterns and resulted in a loss of about 40 acres of meadow habitat. In part to support grazing, gravel piles, large rocks, and logs were historically used to dam channels and divert flows resulting in channel downcutting or incision, meadow desiccation and lodgepole pine encroachment. Other impacts include stream capture by forest roads, and headcutting due to Webber Lake water level fluctuations associated with dam operations.

The Project would be constructed in two phases

1. The first phase would address restoration in Upper Lacey Meadow. Lacey Creek would be returned from its current alignment through the forest back to the meadow where moderate to high flows would be directed into multiple historic channels. Channel abandonment would be accomplished through placement of channel fill in select locations.

PETER C. PUMPHREY, CHAIR | MICHAEL R. PLAZIAK, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2. The second phase would address restoration in Lower Lacey Meadow and would include the placement of in-stream wood structures and buried grade control structures, and engineered riffles to address incision.

The Project would improve habitat for a range of mammals, raptors, and other important bird species, including willow flycatcher. The Project would also provide hydrologic benefits such as reduced sedimentation, improved late season base flow, elevated groundwater tables, and wetter, more verdant meadows. Specifically, the Project involves:

- 1) Excavation of new channel and filling of historic channel with a total volume of approximately 3,600 cubic yards;
- 2) Placement of approximately 80 instream wood structures;
- 3) Placement of approximately 650 cubic yards of fill for construction of engineered riffles;
- 4) Construction of water bars to hydraulically disconnect Webber Lake Road from Lacey Creek;
- 5) Preparation of work areas by installing appropriate mitigation measures and best management practices; and
- 6) Revegetation and stabilization of disturbed areas to ensure both short-term and long-term success.

The Project would be carried out by the Truckee River Watershed Council. Construction of each phase would last approximately six to eight weeks and would occur in the late summer/early fall to take advantage of low stream flows and dry meadow conditions. Only one phase would be constructed per year, with Phase 1 tentatively scheduled for summer 2022.

Regulatory Process: Project implementation will require the Water Board to take regulatory actions such as issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System storm water construction permit; Water Quality Certification pursuant to Clean Water Act section 401; and Lahontan Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions. This notice serves as a notice of intent to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for this project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines section 15072.

Comment Deadline and How to Submit Comments: Please submit your comments on the MND via email to Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Lacey Meadows - Attention Tom Gavigan" no later than close of business on **February 4, 2021.**

For questions or additional information, please contact Tom Gavigan, Lahontan Water Board staff, at 530-721-0305 or tom.gavigan@waterboards.ca.gov.

cc: Lyris List: Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions – Truckee only
Lyris List: TMDLs – Truckee River Sediment
Gene Whitehouse, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria

cc list: Continued Next Page

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